

**Press Release  
Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

Cathy Alderman

Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
303-319-9155, [calderman@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:calderman@coloradocoalition.org)

Alexis Whitham

Director of Communications, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
970-541-9048, [awhitham@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:awhitham@coloradocoalition.org)

**Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Celebrates 40 Years of Homes, Health, and Hope with Staff and Board Events and the Launch of Anniversary Video**

This month, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless celebrates forty years of working collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado.

A staff celebration was held at the Denver Center for Performing Arts (DCPA) Seawell Ballroom on Wednesday, May 1, honoring the anniversary of the establishment of the Coalition. Along with remarks from new CEO, Britta Fisher who just celebrated one year of service in that role, key staff were honored through Philosophy of Service awards and length of service awards, including for some who have been at the Coalition for over 30 years. A day later, on May 2, an intimate celebration at the Stout Street Health Center was held for current and past board members, including those who served when the Coalition was a one-room health center with a staff of three. [Photos from both events, and the Coalition archive are located here.](#) An [anniversary video](#) was also created, which details the history of CCH through interviews with long-standing staff and Consumer Advisory Board Members.

The Coalition was established as a 501(c)(3) on May 1, 1984. Soon after, the Stout Street Clinic opened, offering healthcare services to members of the unhoused community. By 1988, Ruth Goebel House opened, marking the beginning of the organization's integration of healthcare and housing, based on the belief that healthcare is housing, and housing is a human right. Other milestones include the 1996 opening of the Forum Apartments, the first permanent supportive housing program in Denver, the 2014 opening of the 50,000 square foot Stout Street Health Center, the Coalition's flagship health center location, and the 2018 opening of the Renaissance Downtown Lofts open, funded through the [Social Impact Bond](#).

[A timeline of noteworthy Coalition events is located here.](#)

Over the past four decades, the Coalition has expanded to 23 affordable, supportive, and/or transitional housing properties. On any given night, more than 4,400 individuals and families are housed thanks to the Coalition through these properties and voucher programs. In addition, last year the Stout Street Health Center and its satellite locations provided fully integrated, patient-centered, trauma-informed medical and mental healthcare, substance treatment services, dental and vision care, social services and supportive housing to over 17,000 adults and children.

Through housing, healthcare, support services, and advocacy, the organization of over 850 employees serves more than 21,000 people a year.

The [Coalition's history](#) reflects an organization that has grown to meet the needs of a population experiencing a crisis that was practically nonexistent before the 1980s. [The latest estimate of people experiencing homelessness in Colorado](#) is 14,439 based on the standard point-in-time (PIT) count, but over 75,000 individuals utilized homelessness services in 2023 according to available data. This much higher number is likely closer to the true number of those experiencing homelessness than the PIT count. The Coalition continues to advocate for [legislation and policies that increase the stock of affordable housing](#), Medicare-for-all, and other transformative policies to counter the structural causes of homelessness.

[Learn more at ColoradoCoalition.org](#)

---

#### **About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:**

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves