



**Press Release**  
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Alexis Whitham  
Director of Communications, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
303-312-9642, [alexis.whitham@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:alexis.whitham@coloradocoalition.org)

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

**Fort Lyon Infrastructure and Resiliency Project receives \$500,000 from the Southeast Colorado Opioid Region (SECOR) to support longstanding Bent County Program**

PUEBLO, CO: At a Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> press conference, Southeast Colorado Opioid Region 19 (SECOR) announced \$5 million in Infrastructure Share funding to 12 Awardees across Colorado, including \$500,000.00 for the *Fort Lyon Infrastructure and Resiliency Project*. [SECOR Region 19](#) is responsible for the allocation of Opioid Settlement Funds from a national lawsuit related to the opioid epidemic. Region 19 represents nine (9) counties in Southeast Colorado: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers and Pueblo Counties.

“It is important to our Board that the opioid settlement funds that have come to our region be used to help educate and prevent future opioid abuse,” said Meagan Hillman (Prowers County), SECOR Chair. “We are proud of the millions of dollars that have been invested in community programs benefiting all of our counties within Region 19.”

Since 2013, the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community has provided recovery-oriented transitional housing on an expansive campus in Bent County, Colorado by combining housing with peer support, and educational, vocational, and employment services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Fort Lyon provides two years of recovery-oriented housing for people experiencing homelessness and struggling with persistent substance use including Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Fort Lyon's highly innovative peer-led recovery model of care drives programming and supports residents with OUD. Peer Specialists offer Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) support and linkages to MAT services through the Fort Lyon Health Center or local community partners such as ValleyWide's LaJunta Clinic. For more than 10 years, Fort Lyon has supported nearly 3,000 individuals on their substance recovery journeys.

As Fort Lyon and its enrollment have grown, critical infrastructure gaps have threatened the program's ability to fully support residents on their path to recovery and reintegration, including safety and essential services. SECOR funding supports improvements in these areas and ensures that Fort Lyon can continue to provide high-quality recovery services and expand access to those in need.

“For over a decade, Fort Lyon has helped thousands of Coloradans find stability and recover from substance use. This funding allows us to fill long-identified gaps such as overnight safety staffing and

expanded recovery services, ensuring we can continue providing the infrastructure and support our residents need to thrive, both here in Bent County and across the state.” added Deanne Witzke, Vice President of Community Services for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

The Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community is a statewide collaboration between Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition), the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and Bent County.

[Learn more about Fort Lyon here.](#)

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**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. Since its founding, the organization has earned state and national recognition for its integrated healthcare, housing and service programs. The Coalition’s comprehensive approach addresses the causes of homelessness, as well as the consequences, offering critical assistance to over 22,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at [www.coloradocoalition.org](http://www.coloradocoalition.org).