



As advocates for social and racial justice, the Education and Advocacy Team promotes Colorado Coalition for the Homeless' mission of preventing and resolving homelessness, increasing access to healthcare and housing, and creating pathways to greater stability by shaping public policy, building strategic community relationships, and influencing the public narrative about the causes of and solutions to homelessness.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Coalition will continue to prioritize investments in affordable housing development and preservation, property acquisition, and conversion for transitional and long-term housing, as well as supportive services funding. The organization will advocate for resources to be directed toward those most in need, including the lowest-income households, people experiencing homelessness, and communities of color that have historically faced barriers to housing stability, as well as those on fixed incomes. Additionally, the Coalition will focus on renters' protections for victim-survivors of gender-based violence, reducing housing costs for housing voucher recipients, and other policies that prevent people entering the cycle of homelessness.

HOMELESSNESS

Expanding programs and tools that help people experiencing homelessness secure and maintain stable housing remains a top priority for the Coalition. The organization will build on the excellent work being done across Colorado by formalizing strategy, planning, and decision-making related to homelessness prevention and resolution. Exploring innovative funding opportunities, improving data collection and sharing practices, and expanding efforts to pair supportive services with housing will be key focus areas. The Coalition is committed to strengthening the civic engagement of people experiencing homelessness and other marginalized groups, ensuring their voices are included in decision-making processes. It will also continue to advocate for criminal legal reforms that disproportionately impact people experiencing homelessness.

HEALTH

The Coalition believes that housing is healthcare, and that housing stability is intrinsically linked to meaningful access to affordable healthcare. The organization will advocate for expanding access to, coverage for, and adequate delivery of integrated physical and behavioral healthcare options for Coloradans with limited resources. In addition, the Coalition is committed to reducing administrative burdens for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), addressing uncompensated care needs due to Medicaid disenrollment, and responding to the healthcare needs of new arrivals. The Coalition will continue to support improved access to effective Medication Assisted Treatment, harm reduction measures, and overdose prevention, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive healthcare for all.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Improving individuals' and families' economic stability is essential to the Coalition's mission. The Coalition will support efforts to enhance access to and the value of essential public benefits, including the strengthening of the Colorado Necessary Documents Program, which provides access to no-cost identification documents needed for public benefits, securing employment, accessing financial services, and obtaining stable housing. Additionally, the Coalition will advocate for programs that increase food security, ensuring that no one must make impossible choices between meeting basic needs like food, healthcare, and housing. The organization will also support policies that address root causes of economic insecurity, alleviate poverty and help address economic inequality.

