

**Coalition of Homeless Advocates and Providers (CHAP 2.0)**  
**Official public response to proposed amendments to the Community Development Division's**  
**2015- 2020 Consolidated Plan and 2018 Annual Action Plan**

The Coalition of Homeless Advocates and Providers (CHAP 2.0) would like to recognize the work the City leadership of Colorado Springs has done to address the issues of homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. Further, the Coalition supports the City's 2018 Annual Action Plan as a viable starting point for beginning to address these very important issues. With regard to the proposed significant amendments to the Community Development Division's 2015- 2020 Consolidated Plan and 2018 Annual Action Plan, the Coalition of Homeless Advocates and Providers would like to make the following public statement:

The Coalition would like to thank the City of Colorado Springs and the Community Development Division for recognizing that prevention of involuntary home loss represents a key element in the preservation of affordable housing . With an estimated twenty-five thousand households in El Paso County living under conditions HUD describes as "heavily rent burdened", the importance of developing a system of supporting these households through major life events beyond their control cannot be overstated. This being stated, the Coalition believes that the use of TBRA funds does not represent the best choice for funding such a program, as there is already substantially more demand for these funds than can be met. The addition of a new pool of potential beneficiaries to the TBRA only threatens to make less funding available for those already on wait lists that are too long as it is. The Coalition encourages the City government to dip into its emergency funds and to create a separate pool of money for funding this very worthy program. The Coalition further calls on the City leadership to create a line-item on the regular budget creating a regular funding source to keep this program funded in perpetuity.

Additionally, the Coalition would like to comment on the proposed scope of this amendment. Given the large number of rent-burdened households and the anticipated demand for the assistance described in the amendment, the coalition believes that it would be reasonable to consider doubling the number of households served annually from ten to twenty, and to increase that number annually, at least until the demand for such services begins to drop. The current goal to serve ten families each year over the next two years seems to be much too conservative given the many thousands of households at risk in our community. The Coalition would like to encourage our City leadership to set higher goals that challenge us to improve and have a greater impact on all those suffering due to the lack of affordable housing. Lastly, the Coalition expresses its gratitude to the City leadership for recognizing this need and working to find a solution, however we also feel that to adequately address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in our community, it is time for our community to stop relying on HUD and Federal funding so exclusively, and to take the much needed step of including such services in the regular City budget.

**Signed,**

**Members of the Coalition for Homeless Providers & Advocates – CHAP 2.0**

*CHAP is a Coalition that is an open and flexible forum for service providers and citizens working together to identify needs and priorities related to coordination of services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in El Paso County.*