



## ***Tell your state legislator to support housing opportunities for all!***

### ***THE NEED***

- Recent studies show that over 378,000 households in Colorado – nearly half of all renter households in the state – are paying far more than 30% of their income on housing costs.
- While there have been great improvements in funding for affordable housing in Colorado in recent years, the need far outstrips supply. At current production rates (average 977 homes per year), it would take over 100 years to eliminate the housing affordability gap.
- The affordability crisis is not restricted to only the lowest income households. With soaring housing costs, housing affordability impacts moderate income families. Recent reports show renters need to make \$24 per hour to afford the median metro Denver rental.
- The housing squeeze on working families will only increase in the future. Recent estimates from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment show that over 70% of jobs estimated for Colorado over the next 10 years will have starting salaries of less than \$36,000 per year, well below the median income necessary to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent in the majority of our state.
- Colorado is among a small minority of states who do not have a **dedicated** and **permanent** revenue source to fund affordable housing development and preservation. This puts greater strain on the state budget and increased reliance on unpredictable federal funds.

### ***THE SOLUTION***

In the 2017 Legislative Session, there will be proposals to increase supply of affordable housing that can meet the needs of working families looking to own or rent a home. Your state legislator needs to know that you care about this issue – and how our escalating housing market impacts you, your family, friends and community. Contact them TODAY ask them to support proposals in the 2017 session that will create more resources for affordable housing in our state.

You can call your state legislator directly at their office at the State Capitol, and you can also email them. To find out who your legislators are and access their contact information, visit [www.openstates.org](http://www.openstates.org) and remember to contact both your State Representative AND State Senator.

Together, we can make a difference and make meaningful progress in our state legislature for affordable housing.

*Housing Colorado is a statewide, multi-sector membership association for affordable housing professionals. We are recognized throughout Colorado as a valuable resource, providing important information, education, advocacy, and networking services.*