

Principles for upcoming housing/land use legislation

This Platform was developed by a coalition of nonprofits

Our priorities promote affordable, healthy, equitable, accessible, resilient, economically vital, and vibrant communities:

- Increase housing choice and attainability: Provide more homes of all shapes and sizes for all ages, incomes, lifestyles, and abilities. Create enough additional housing supply (rental and ownership) to meet demand at all income levels and build it in locations that provide convenient and affordable access to jobs, schools, and other services.
- Provide additional affordable housing: Expand and preserve affordable housing for households with lower incomes and those living with disabilities, particularly in high-opportunity communities.
- Prevent gentrification and displacement: Ensure existing residents and local small businesses are not pushed out of their neighborhoods by rising land value and rents.
- Engage communities that are most vulnerable to displacement through equitable processes: Prioritize the voices of the most-impacted community members in decision-making and partner with them to identify improvements that benefit their neighborhoods. Operate with cultural and trauma sensitivity, conduct outreach in multiple languages, make meetings fully accessible to people of all abilities, and provide information in plain language.
- Advance racial, disability, and economic justice: Address historic harms in disproportionately impacted communities and build community wealth. Promote attainable rental housing for housing stability and affordable homeownership to close the racial and disabled individuals wealth gap.
- Reduce dependence on cars: Encourage transportation-efficient land use patterns that improve connectivity and enable non-auto transportation options like transit, biking, rolling in a wheelchair, and walking, making them safe and accessible to all Coloradans, including people with limited mobility, hearing, or sight.
- Limit sprawl and foster climate-friendly land use: Protect our natural and agricultural lands, reduce wildfire risk, and promote energy and water efficiency through environmentally-sound building practices. Minimize new development on previously undeveloped land and optimize the use of existing infrastructure, particularly in climate-resilient areas.
- Incorporate water efficiency in all aspects of land use planning and promote additional municipal water conservation: Ensure water-efficient residential and commercial development and redevelopment, which will help reduce both indoor and outdoor water use, reduce water bills, provide for beneficial Colorado-appropriate landscapes, and ensure our communities are resilient in the face of population growth and climate change.
- Foster statewide collaboration: Develop a comprehensive set of practical solutions and guidelines to address statewide housing and climate issues while allowing local governments the flexibility to tailor strategies to the needs of their own communities.
- Develop clear and effective plans: Plan for future housing needs and climate-friendly land use in each community with clear timelines for implementation