

NEWS FROM THE HOUSING COALITION



LAKE COUNTY BUILD A GENERATION
Building a movement for community health and well-being

What is the Lake County Housing Coalition?

The answer is we've evolved. So, I thought I'd share some things accomplished by this volunteer, community-driven group. In 2016 housing was identified as a community need in a Climax Community Partnership Panel meeting. Lake County Build a Generation championed starting the LCHC. They are masters of coalition building and facilitation through the sometimes daunting task of discovering the needs, where the resources are, and keeping those aligned with a lens on health equity. Housing is a health equity issue. Households spending more than the recommended 30% of their income on housing costs are more likely to experience economic instability and health issues. This is because people are forced to choose between having a home or paying for healthy food, preventative healthcare, prescriptions, etc. This causes undue stress that can also lead to mental and physical illnesses.

Want to stay up to date on Leadville and Lake County Housing events and initiatives?

****Sign up for our peer to peer text and email service!****

Scan the QR code below if you are interested in finding affordable housing (rental or ownership) or learning about resources available to you.



First, we hired a consultant to do a Housing Needs Assessment. We fundraised through grants and local employer contributions. In 2018, after many community meetings with a wide variety of stakeholders, it was published, and our real work began. Out of this came recommendations based on other communities' successful strategies that meet Lake County's needs. It is important to note that there is no one silver bullet to solve our housing needs. Rather, it gave us a toolbox to tackle barriers to rental and homebuyer issues.

In 2018-2019, we worked on a Housing Action Plan, the road map for implementing the toolbox strategies. We championed many other initiatives: Chaffee Housing Trust (an affordable housing developer) to expand Lake County, inclusionary zoning, Leadville Housing Authority to expand their scope, and housing amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan. LCBAG was awarded the Health Disparities Grant to fund our work. Among other things this grant enabled us to create the Policy Advisory Team, consisting of various stakeholders to ensure that policy work is driven by diverse opinions from groups that don't always see community development in the same way. This group consists of local industry experts and tenants who represent the citizens that Community Housing would serve.

In 2020 & 2021, we kept working, despite the pandemic. We made presentations to elected officials about deed restrictions, funding mechanisms, land-use code amendments, and the need to hire the Housing Director. In addition, we campaigned for the city ballot initiative 2A to increase the lodging tax in the City of Leadville, which created our first-ever housing fund!

There are many other milestones that we accomplished, and we will continue this work from the lens of equity and diverse community representation. Many state-wide professionals have commented on how lucky we are to have this Coalition that gathers information, provides capacity, has access to Subject Matter Experts, and creates a sense of accountability to decision-makers.

Thank you to those who have served on the Coalition in the past, and welcome anyone willing to join us. Please sign up for text and/or e-mail alerts to stay aware of housing efforts.



Amy Tait, Lake County Housing Coalition Board President