



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

LIVING UNITED

COLLABORATES

Coordinated Assessment And Housing Placement System

OPPORTUNITIES

Nick is a young veteran who returned home from the military with a traumatic brain injury. Struggling to adjust to civilian life, he soon became homeless. From time to time, service providers in both Weld and Larimer counties would see Nick and try to help him, but he had difficulty remembering things and following through. Without a phone number or address, providers would fall out of contact with him, and then later he would resurface. After CAHPS was initiated, service providers in both counties worked together to locate Nick, help him quickly move into housing, and offer him a variety of supportive services. Nick is now stably housed and working through the issues that caused his homelessness.

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF WELD COUNTY

United Way has the vision, experience, relationships, and ability to take on and solve some of Weld County’s biggest challenges. Through United Way, together we are building a better Weld County, one where children are reading to learn by the start of fourth grade, youth are working at good jobs by age 25, families have stable housing, older adults are aging well, and people are connecting to the help they need. **Will you join us?**

Weld’s Way Home-involved programs help Households attain and maintain stable housing.



CHALLENGES

The challenge of housing instability and homelessness is growing in northern Colorado, and will likely continue to worsen as the population grows. Historically, each northern Colorado homeless-serving agency has implemented its admission criteria and processes individually, which were usually focused on identifying the people it perceived to be most likely to succeed in their agency’s program. This approach meant that people in a housing crisis often had to find help on their own, without

knowing which programs they were eligible for or which projects were appropriate for their situation. Once people were on a project’s waiting list, they were usually served on a first-come, first-served basis without regard to their level of vulnerability. As a result, some program participants received assistance that was more extensive than they needed, some participants received less assistance than they needed, and many people, often those with the highest needs, received no assistance at all because they were screened out by exclusionary admission criteria set by the homeless serving agency.

Weld County was recently ranked as **the U.S. region most likely to be on the verge of a housing crisis.**

Another study found Weld County as the **4th most unaffordable housing market in the nation –**

Larimer County was the 10th.





“By combining coordinated system entry with a single process for accessing housing, people experiencing homelessness are served by the best agency and service in the most efficient manner. This saves time and money for participating organizations; it also houses people more quickly and better helps them keep housing. More people housed saves local governments money through fewer law enforcement contacts, a better business environment, and more. With CAHPS we all win.”

– Melanie Woolman, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Weld County

INVESTMENTS

The Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement System (CAHPS) acknowledges that very few agencies are able to identify, assess, and assist people experiencing homelessness as well as to find permanent housing, help people move in, and support them to remain housed. The Northern Colorado CAHPS is a collaborative effort amongst homeless serving providers with three components:

- Assess – Through street outreach, discharge planning with hospitals and corrections, and the provisions of overnight shelter and housing services, providers discover and assess people who are experiencing homelessness. Each household is assessed using a standardized assessment which generates a personal vulnerability score.
- Assist – After the assessment is completed, households are included in a by-name list of those experiencing homelessness. Those with the greatest vulnerability are prioritized for housing as they are the most likely to die from living as homeless. Case managers continue working with those on the by-name list to meet their ongoing needs so that they will more likely survive homelessness. Through case conferencing between agencies, resources are identified and, as quickly as possible, housing is offered to those at the top of the by-name list.
- Assign – As housing matches are made, case managers and other agency employees and volunteers assist CAHPS participants to move into and maintain housing.

As of January 2022, CAHPS had assessed 2,697 veterans, families, single adults, and youth and permanently housed 1,425 households. That’s a 53% housing rate for Northern Colorado. This includes over 530 homeless veterans, 460 single adults, and almost 410 families!

GIVE

Make a donation to support CAHPS today!

ADVOCATE

Visit www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/weldswayhome to learn more about the challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness and how you can get involved in speaking up on their behalf.

VOLUNTEER

Many volunteers are needed at the Weld’s Way Home Housing Navigation Center, where CAHPS is housed, to build relationships with guests and to help with daily operations.

Please contact the UWWC Community Impact team at Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org or 970-353-4300 for more information or to get involved.