



Executive Summary

**WELD'S
WAY HOME**

2.0



Strategic Plan To Prevent
And End Homelessness
In Weld County





Weld County is Looking for a Way Home

Purpose

To connect individuals and families with an array of needed and aligned resources in order to obtain greater household stability.

Vision

Every person in Weld County has the means to attain and maintain safe, adequate, and affordable housing for the sake of full participation in community life.

Weld County needs more housing opportunities for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Currently with 350,000+ residents, the Weld County population is estimated to reach 700,000 by 2050. This rapid growth is straining the Weld County housing market and making more families unstable. In 2022, the median home price in Weld County reached \$507,000, up from \$373,500 in 2020, representing a 35.7% increase in just two years. Cost of rent in Weld County increased 41% from 2010 to 2019, hitting an average of \$1,626 per month for a two-bedroom apartment in 2022. Now, 45.5% of households that rent in Weld County are cost burdened, spending more than 35% of their annual wages on rent. Plus we have over 200 households that are experiencing literal homelessness and 14,000+ that are living with other families out of economic necessity.

Following the implementation of an earlier community-wide plan, the new Weld's Way Home Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in Weld County, aka Weld's Way Home 2.0, is building on a foundation of success. For over two years, United Way hosted monthly meetings—including nonprofits, Weld County agencies, the cities of Evans and Greeley, community volunteers, funders and faith groups—to set new priority areas and work plans.

Exploring Causes of Household Instability and Working Towards Solutions

During the planning process, the Weld's Way Home work group identified nine household instability factors and their root causes through a consensus-building workshop and community survey. The factors identified include insufficient income, insufficient affordable housing inventory, mental and physical health challenges, internal and external trauma, inadequate education and training, under-developed life skills, chronic unsafe environment, discrimination, and legal barriers. Weld's Way Home 2.0 offers strategies to help Weld County households address these factors, improve household stability, and more. **Read the full plan at www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/WWH.**



Weld's Way Home 2.0 Priorities

Advocacy

Increase local government and broader community support for Weld's Way Home initiatives to increase household stability resources through policy change.

Coordinated Household Stabilization Assistance

Establish and implement a shared coordinated entry system for homelessness prevention services.

Information Sharing

Improve community access and awareness of household stability resources.

Landlord Partnership

Facilitate landlord-tenant relationships to prevent evictions and to foster inclusive and affordable housing options.

Police Partnerships and Criminal Justice System

Engage with law enforcement entities to reduce legal barriers and explore new ways of policing housing vulnerable populations.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Ensure that historically underrepresented communities have equitable representation and access to information, resources, and opportunities.

Transportation

Improve community-wide access to affordable and reliable transportation.

Community Education

Increase community awareness of the realities of homelessness, root causes of household instability, and where to find resources.

Housing Navigation Center with Cold Weather Shelter

Find a long-term location for the Housing Navigation Center and cold weather shelter to ensure stability of services.

Expanded Case Management Services

Close gaps in case management services and improve current practices for better housing outcomes.

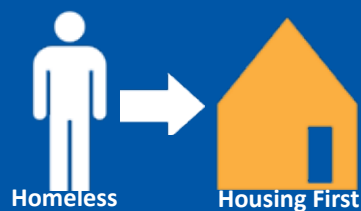
Affordable Housing, Housing Retention and Move-in Opportunities

Increase the amount of available housing resources to expand move-in opportunities and keep people housed.

Faith Engagement

Work with the Weld County faith community to coordinate resources, engage volunteers, and identify new ways to increase household stability.

Housing First is key to the Weld's Way Home 2.0 plan. Housing First is the common sense idea that people have greater success when they have the stability and support of housing. In practice, those experiencing homelessness are helped to move back into housing as quickly as possible and, as such, the harms that living out-of-doors brings are ended. Once a person is again used to living indoors, supportive services are more helpful.



INCREASED LIFE STABILITY

DECREASED RETURN TO HOMELESSNESS

COMMUNITY COST SAVINGS

Compared with traditional addressing homelessness programs, Housing First participants show increased success at gaining and maintaining employment, accessing physical and mental health services, achieving sobriety, and reaching other personal goals.

Now is the time to end homelessness and increase prevention strategies. Visit www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/WWH to do something today!



Weld's Way Home 2.0 Partners

Solving homelessness and housing instability requires community collaboration and partnerships. The work of Weld's Way Home is only accomplished with the dedicated support and hard work of service providers, funders, community members, elected officials, community leaders, businesses, and you.

Weld's Way Home 2.0 is a result of years of planning and the hard work of over 30 community partners. Every agency brings a level of knowledge, passion, and dedication to the plan that would not be possible through a single entity. Without the below-listed caring organizations, there would be no Weld's Way Home and no end in sight for this community challenge.

We acknowledge that we can accomplish much more as a united effort than any one of us can alone. As such, we humbly ask that you give Weld's Way Home 2.0 a look with a collaborative mind. And we invite you to join us on Weld's Way Home.

A Woman's Place
Almost Home
Carbon Valley Help Center
Catholic Charities
City of Greeley
Colorado Rural Collaborative
Connections for Independent Living
Envision
Greeley Family House
Greeley-Evans School District 6
Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity
Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley
High Plains Housing Development Corporation
High Plains Library District
Hope @ Miracle House
Immigrant and Refugee Center
of Northern Colorado
Jobs of Hope
Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains

Mosaic Church
North Colorado Health Alliance
North Range Behavioral Health
Northern Colorado Continuum of Care
Northern Colorado Veterans Resource Center
Saint Patrick Presbyterian Church
Stepping Stones of Windsor
Street Lights of Grace Ministry
The Rock Found
The Weld Trust
United Way of Weld County
Volunteers of America
Weld County Department of Human Services
Weld County Department of
Public Health and Environment
Weld Food Bank
WeldWerks Community Foundation
Women 2 Women

Visit www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/WWH to read Weld's Way Home 2.0

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