



**COLORADO**  
**Governor Jared Polis**

Governor Polis knows that reliable, affordable housing is an essential piece of powering the Colorado comeback and helping our economy recover faster and stronger. When the pandemic hit, Coloradans were suddenly forced to contend with unforeseen challenges, including how to pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills. That's why Governor Polis took immediate action, with one of his earliest executive orders providing protections for tenants from evictions, foreclosures, and public utility disconnection. But beyond executive action, Governor Polis worked with Colorado legislators to implement more sustainable solutions, making historic investments to increase access to affordable housing and provide support services across our state.

### **Legislative Accomplishments**

- HB21-1271: Department Of Local Affairs Innovative Affordable Housing Strategies. This legislation creates three different programs in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA): the Housing Development Incentives Grant, Planning Grant Program, and the Affordable Housing Guided Toolkit and Local Officials Guide. Each of these programs promotes innovative solutions to the development of affordable and mixed-income housing across the state. Together, the programs provide a total of \$48 million in funds to jump start development and incentivize the right kind of development to eliminate barriers to developing more housing across our State. Of this total, a \$13 million portion is from our Colorado Recovery Plan state stimulus, with an \$35 million of additional investment from the American Rescue Plan.
- SB21-252: Community Revitalization Grant Program, allocates \$65 million for a new program which would provide gap funding for creative construction projects across the state that are aimed at creating or revitalizing mixed-use commercial centers. Preference will be given to projects that incorporate a number of different criteria, including a sustainable housing component.
- SB21-242: Housing Development Grants Hotels Tenancy Support Program. This legislation provides funding to local governments, agencies, or non profit partners to help provide non-congregate sheltering or affordable housing to persons experiencing homelessness through underutilized hotels, motels or other available properties. Funding from this legislation will also be directed to provide support services, particularly those helping individuals experiencing homelessness.
- HB21-1329: American Rescue Plan Act Money To Invest Affordable Housing. This legislation allocates \$98.5 million to the Division of Housing for expanded gap financing, \$1.5 million for the Eviction Legal Defense Fund, and creates the Affordable Housing and Homeownership Cash Fund. The Affordable Housing and Homeownership Cash

Fund will set up a task force and interim committee process, which will make recommendations to the General Assembly for the 2022 session to utilize \$400 million from the American Rescue Plan to further expand affordable and workforce housing, while also making key investments to increase housing stability for vulnerable Coloradans.

- HB21-1274, Unused State-owned Real Property Beneficial Use, Directs the Department of Personnel and Administration to identify all unused state property for potential use for affordable housing, child care, public schools, residential mental and behavioral health care, and renewable energy development.
- HB21-1117, Local Government Authority Promote Affordable Housing Units, this bill would include authority to regulate the development or redevelopment of land to promote construction of new affordable units using mandatory inclusionary zoning requirements, meaning that local governments have to provide options to the developer to satisfy this requirement. It also requires local governments to take additional actions to increase density when adopting this measure.
- SB20B-002, Housing And Direct COVID Emergency Assistance, passed during the 2020 special session, this bill allocates nearly \$45 million to the Housing Development Grant Fund including \$1M Eviction Legal Defense Fund to provide emergency housing assistance to individuals and households who have experienced financial need due to the COVID-19 pandemic.