



## Regional Homelessness Strategy Across Larimer County

### About the project

In collaboration with various partners including Larimer County and its communities, City of Loveland, City of Fort Collins, Town of Estes Park, and the Northern Colorado Continuum of Care (NoCO CoC), Homeward Alliance seeks to develop a strategic plan for the geographic region of Larimer County focused on expanding and enhancing the countywide homeless response system. Through the process of developing the regional strategy, Homeward Alliance aims to generate a shared vision and approach to responding to homelessness throughout the county and to create an actionable roadmap for local government, service providers, funders, non-profit agencies, and communities to meaningfully support and enhance the local homeless response system. Homeward Alliance has contracted with two applied social science consulting firms— JG Research and Evaluation and OMNI Institute— to facilitate the two-phase project, including 1) an assessment of the current homeless response system, and 2) a strategic planning process.

### Project goals

- 1) **Create a unified, collaborative vision and strategy:** Develop a shared vision and cohesive strategy among Larimer County, constituent communities, NoCO CoC, service providers, and community stakeholders for a coordinated, countywide response to homelessness.
- 2) **Expand systemwide capacity and enhance service delivery:** Expand and enhance the homeless response system to improve capacity, coordination, efficiency, and equity by identifying and addressing key gaps, streamlining services, and maximizing resource allocation across the region.
- 3) **Generate broad community buy-in:** Foster community-wide involvement and support by engaging local governments, organizations, individuals with lived experience of homelessness, funders, and residents in understanding and contributing to sustainable homelessness solutions.
- 4) **Establish a framework for data-driven accountability:** Develop processes for ongoing data collection, evaluation, and reporting to monitor progress, adapt strategies, and ensure continuous improvement toward reducing homelessness in Larimer County.

### Project approach and estimated timeline



## Scope

This project is...

- A **collaborative effort** to unify and align diverse partners within Larimer County around a shared strategy for homelessness.
- A **strategic planning process** that identifies key gaps and establishes actionable steps to expand and enhance the countywide homeless response system.
- An **inclusive framework** that brings together diverse stakeholders to foster a shared approach to addressing homelessness.
- A **roadmap for system improvement** that outlines specific, measurable goals and objectives to increase the effectiveness, equity, and efficiency of homeless services.
- A **foundation for accountability**, incorporating data collection, monitoring, and evaluation to track progress and support ongoing improvements.

This project is not...

- A **quick-fix solution** to homelessness or a replacement for immediate response services.
- A **standalone initiative** by any one entity; it is a collaborative effort across multiple organizations and will seek to complement existing initiatives.
- A **direct service provision project**; it will not directly provide housing, financial assistance, or supportive services but aims to support and improve the system for these services.
- A **rigid plan** that cannot evolve; it is not intended to be a one-size-fits-all solution and will adapt based on stakeholder feedback, data, and shifting circumstances.
- A **substitute for local government policies**; the project will provide guidance and recommendations to local communities and seek to align with local policy whenever possible, but implementation will require ongoing commitment from local stakeholders.

## Partners

Homeward Alliance is leading the development of the regional homelessness strategy across Larimer County, with funding support from a grant awarded by the State of Colorado's Division of Housing. While Homeward Alliance oversees and coordinates the project, partners such as Larimer County, the City of Loveland, the City of Fort Collins, the Town of Estes Park, and the NoCO CoC, including the CoC's Lived Experience Advisory Council and are essential to its success.

### *Strategic Plan Advisory Committee*

Composed of representatives from the county, its municipalities, and the NoCO CoC, the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee was developed to ensure meaningful community buy-in and broad engagement with the project. The project team will provide regular updates to the Committee and seek their input on project objectives, activities, and outputs. Members of the Committee are expected to support the project team in providing feedback, sharing project updates to their respective networks, assisting with stakeholder recruitment, and engaging in strategic planning sessions.

### *County and municipalities*

In addition to county and city representatives engaging in the advisory committee, relevant county and city staff (i.e. those engaged in the homeless response system in some capacity) will be invited to participate in interviews during the assessment phase and collaborative sessions during strategic planning phase.

Elected officials will also be invited to participate in interviews during the assessment phase. Once the strategic plan is finalized, a presentation will be provided to the board of county commissioners and city councils.