



July 25, 2022

Dear Chaffee County Community, Partners & Stakeholders,

The need for housing in Chaffee County has reached a crisis level. Research indicates the home ownership market is out of reach for all but about 9% of county households and half of renters are cost burdened. Average home prices have increased by 41% since 2020, and the average price of a home for sale in Chaffee County is up to \$688,565

The housing crisis is posing a fundamental threat to the vitality of the community and the local economy. Businesses and nonprofit organizations are being placed into a state of crisis due to the lack of housing options. Businesses are being forced to reduce their hours, operate below capacity, and close their doors due to the inability for staff to afford to live in our community. Nonprofit organizations have unfilled positions, have reduced important services, and are operating below capacity due to lack of employee housing. These factors create a critical threat to the local economy. Loss of businesses, tax revenue from declines in sales, and reduction in community services will impact every person residing in Chaffee County.

We encourage the community to embrace innovative ideas and sustainable funding streams to address the housing crisis in Chaffee County. Guaranteed multi-year funding is a key element to implementing solutions that will generate long-term, attainable housing. Investing in housing solutions now across Chaffee County is a critical step our community must take today. During other crises, we have seen an amazing display of generosity, compassion and innovation to make sure all members of our community are supported. We are calling on our community to embrace the housing crisis with the same sense of compassion, generosity and innovation, and take critical steps today to set our community up for success in the future.

At CCCF, we are doing our part through an affordable housing area of interest fund that will allow community members to make tax deductible contributions to housing solutions. Yet we recognize that it will take a much broader community effort to enact widespread change and turn the tide of the housing crisis in our community.

Everyday we have opportunities to make Chaffee County an amazing place to live. Let's do this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betsy Dittenber", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Betsy Dittenber
Executive Director
betsy@chaffeecommunity.org