



***United Way of Weld County mission statement: To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.***

Greeley Urban Renewal Authority  
1100 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 402  
Greeley, CO 80631  
Attn: Carol Larsen

RE: Proposed 2023 CDBG and HOME budgets

To the Greeley Urban Renewal Authority Board:

We are writing to express our concern and disappointment regarding GURA's recommendation to not invest in organizations providing direct services to people experiencing homelessness in Greeley. Specifically, the decision to not fund Catholic Charities, Greeley Family House, and United Way of Weld County's overnight cold weather shelter. These services represent three of four overnight shelter operations in Greeley and provide lifesaving services, while also connecting people to permanent housing solutions.

Furthermore, this recommendation by the GURA Board is in direct conflict with the City Council's commitment to, and investment in solving the housing and homelessness challenges here in Greeley. Without safety net supports the visible homelessness challenge will only worsen. We know GURA understands the complex nature of ending and preventing homelessness and we respect the difficult decisions that have to be made in this regard. However, not providing support for the services that help those most vulnerable will have a negative impact not only on these individuals but on our community. Rising housing costs, dwindling COVID-19 emergency shelter and rent assistance funding, and a rapidly growing population will continue to strain Greeley's housing and homelessness response system and threaten to overwhelm the local nonprofits dedicated to solving this challenge. A diverse source of stable funding and coordinated partnerships is required to end homelessness in our community.

We strongly encourage the GURA Board to reconsider their funding strategy and look towards continuing to support direct homelessness services that play a vital role in the City of Greeley's homelessness response. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeannine Truswell  
President & CEO

  
Melanie Woolman  
VP of Community Impact