



July 7, 2023

Keith Perry, Chair
Blaine County Housing Authority

Re: Immediate Shelter Plan Action Items

Dear Keith and BCHA board members,

As you're aware, Blaine County Charitable Fund participated in collaboration with other local agencies in to address the alarming and growing rate of homelessness in Blaine County last fall. Due to lack of other funding sources and ability for the BCHA to expand their current transitional housing program, we were asked to expand our temporary hotel assistance program to give a longer term safe solution for the community's most vulnerable households. This put unplanned financial and workload stress on our organization. However we believed in the importance participating in the solution during a time that should've qualified as a state of emergency where other government agencies were not able or willing to step in. This was, and remains, a temporary shift of our mission to create stable and resilient communities in Blaine County through our financial assistance programs.

With the Lift Tower Lodge consistently full and local hotels that offer weekly and monthly rates often filled with households for months at a time, it is clearly evident that the need for additional transitional housing in Blaine County. In the presentation by the Jason Dietz, Housing Director of Summit County, he shared how a community similar to ours created a diverse inventory of housing solutions that included owning properties that were once hotels. There are properties in our community that could be captured now, saving multitudes of future costs to build or rent market rate hotel rooms. If the \$200,000+ that was spent on subsidizing hotel rooms this past winter was instead invested in a permanently held asset, our community would benefit for decades to come.

As leaders in Blaine County to provide holistic housing solutions, we employ the BCHA to take immediate action on your strategic plan item regarding addressign the needs of the unhoused and people at risk of displacement. Thank you for considering the recommended items in need of immediate implementation from the Draft Shelter Plan.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Fauth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Fauth, Executive Director

Blaine County Charitable Fund

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