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## **Partnership between Aurora Housing Authority and Children's Hospital Colorado to Provide Housing and Supportive Services to Low-Income Families**

**AURORA, CO** - The Housing Authority of the City of Aurora (AHA), in partnership with Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado), was awarded 20 State Housing Vouchers and tenant support service funds by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) through its Division of Housing (DOH) Office of Homeless Initiatives (OHI) for a new housing project, Supportive Housing for Olmstead Advancement.

We know that children need safe, stable housing to thrive. Every year, AHA and Children's Colorado work together to find housing for patients receiving medical care – often for serious, complex medical needs. The goal is that a patient and their family can return to a secure environment where they can grow and heal. This program will address housing insecurity for patients and their families who need a little extra help by allocating a certain number of vouchers to help provide housing navigation, case management, and supportive services to low-income families who are experiencing housing instability, at risk of homelessness, or facing a housing situation that cannot accommodate the needs of their child. 20 families will benefit from the collective expertise of AHA and Children's Colorado to build a firm housing foundation where barriers to self-sufficiency can be addressed and overcome, positive health outcomes can be sought for children, and a renewed connection to community.

Children's Colorado is one of the top children's hospitals in the nation and is trusted by parents across the Rocky Mountain region. Its mission is to improve the health of children through the provision of high-quality coordinated programs of patient care, education, research and advocacy. In addition to providing the best care for children who need it, Children's Colorado also works hard to keep children healthy and out of the hospital. Through medical research and advocacy efforts, teams at Children's Colorado pursue program, services and policies where children are safer and healthier and will one day have less need for a hospital. Children's Colorado attends to the needs of children and their families across the socioeconomic spectrum and, as such, has experience working with families whose children have long-term illnesses and have no stable home in which to care for them. The hospital coordinates services for these families including referrals to community housing resources when available.

“We’re truly grateful and deeply humbled to be awarded this funding,” said Jena Hausmann, president and CEO of Children’s Colorado. “We depend on the Aurora Housing Authority to help us find stable, secure housing for so many of our patients each and every year knowing that it’s essential for a child’s health and recovery. Accessibility to these vital community resources will help ensure that when our patients and families leave our hospital, they are going somewhere safe and sound for healing.”

AHA’s Department of Family Services provides both resident services at AHA-owned properties and housing case management to an array of homeless programs (e.g., transitional housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing). In addition, AHA has served as the lead fiscal agent and plan administrator of Aurora@Home (A@H), the City of Aurora’s strategic plan to address homelessness through a collaboration with 18-20 government agencies and community service providers. On behalf of A@H, AHA has administered HOME funds from Arapahoe County, City of Aurora and Division of Housing. In addition, AHA has administered General funds, Community Development Block Grants, Emergency Solutions Grants – CARES Act, and marijuana tax funds from the City. AHA is currently utilizing Colorado State Marijuana Tax funds from the Division of Housing for the Next Step-2 Gen Rapid Re-Housing program which is a partnership with Aurora Public Schools and Cherry Creek School District.

AHA housing case managers work to ensure that households have access to all the community resources necessary to better guarantee safe and stable homes. AHA works to connect participants to employment possibilities, build budgeting and money management skills and connect families to child care. Case managers leverage relationships with collaborative partners such as county human services programs, mental health providers and the workforce center to help create community connections that families can access beyond their time in this program. Engagement is customized to each family’s need to allow participants to be connected to the right resources at the right time and to help to keep families moving towards their goals of increasing income and maintaining housing stability. Once a family is housed, regular assessment of a participant’s needs and housing stability allows the case manager to scaffold the support.

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## **ABOUT CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL COLORADO**

Children’s Hospital Colorado is one of the nation’s leading and most expansive nonprofit pediatric healthcare systems with a mission to improve the health of children through patient care, education, research and advocacy. Founded in 1908 and recognized as a top 10 children’s hospital by U.S. News & World Report, Children’s Colorado has established itself as a pioneer in the discovery of innovative and groundbreaking treatments that are shaping the future of pediatric healthcare worldwide. Children’s Colorado offers a full spectrum of family-centered care at its urgent, emergency and specialty care locations throughout Colorado, including an academic medical center on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, hospitals in Colorado Springs, Highlands Ranch and Broomfield, and outreach clinics across the region. For more information, visit [www.childrenscolorado.org](http://www.childrenscolorado.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

Children's Hospital Colorado complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

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