



## HOUSING POLICY PRIORITIES

Working through partnerships to ensure more affordable and workforce housing is available to county residents is a top priority for the Board of County Commissioners. A lack of attainable housing has reached a crisis level in La Plata County and Colorado in general. Affordable housing is critical for maintaining a vibrant and diverse economy, providing for emergency, public safety and healthcare services and supporting educational excellence. Housing is also tied to specific health outcomes which is an important consideration as the new La Plata County Public Health Departments launches. This issue also impacts the County's ability to keep, retain and attract employees. Therefore, the Board has developed these policies that, if achieved, will allow more residents to live in and thrive in our La Plata County communities.

1. **Support the Regional Housing Alliance** as a key mechanism that brings resources, policy development, collaboration, resource acquisition, along with other tools, to catalyze the development of more housing. Included in this policy is implementation of a *3-Year Workforce Investment Strategy*.
2. **Make strategic investments in infrastructure to support housing that is close to where population centers are including in or near the three municipalities.**
3. **Provide funding and/or letters of support for nonprofit organizations who are working to implement affordable and workforce housing such as the Homes Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Housing Solutions for the Southwest, Elevation Land Trust and/or others.**
4. **Leverage and deploy creative County financial resources** via direct allocations or through securing grants to continue, for example, the Affordable Housing Revolving Loan Fund and the Catalyst Fund.
5. **Pursue opportunities for expanding employee housing through** partnerships, funding and offering a mortgage assistance program.
6. **Complete an affordable housing update to the La Plata County Land Use Code (LUC) by 2024.** The County will develop an affordable and workforce housing chapter to the LUC that will cover topics such as: building codes; fees; regulatory tools to incentivize infill; strategies for diversifying housing types and allowing more densities near services; and a review of processes to ensure timeliness of project review and approval.
7. **Advocate to the State and Federal levels** for housing resources and workable policies.