

# It's about community



## Affordable housing enhances richly layered communities for all lifestyles

Developing and building affordable housing is an opportunity to create a richly layered community that is responsive to the social and physical needs of its residents. Community is a value we all seek: a place to belong, a place to be supported, a place to feel safe, and a place to contribute our own strengths and values. The strongest communities are those that allow everyone to participate. They are diverse and are comprised of all ages and incomes.

Communities planned with pedestrians and bicyclists in mind create a more secure environment and cut down on transportation costs, while simultaneously bringing people together. These communities focus on the quality of design, bring attractiveness, and feature energy-efficiency. They may include a common gathering space, where neighbors can get to know one another better, children can play, and residents can attend special events. When linked to an accessible transit route residents have access to greater opportunities for employment and entertainment.

Communities with affordable housing strive to leave no one behind. Homelessness is a problem that cannot be ignored any longer. Too many people are struggling to keep up with rent or mortgage payments, and too many have lost that struggle and their housing altogether. The July 2006 RealtyTrac Inc. report shows that since April, 3,706 homes in Colorado were in foreclosure. That translates to a ratio of one of every 494 households in foreclosure. The national average is one of every 1,268 households.



Colorado Housing  
Investment Fund Coalition

The strength of a community is diminished when its residents are unable to afford to live there. That is why it is so important to maintain housing units and neighborhoods where we all have a chance to live.