



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Administration Building
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120
303-795-4630
arapahoe.gov

April 8, 2022

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District 2

JEFF BAKER
District 3

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District 4

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District 5

RE: Support for the Ready to Work Bridge House

To Whom It May Concern,

Arapahoe County has been an active participant in the Tri-Cities Homeless Policy Committee, a group aimed at developing a coordinated strategy to help address homelessness in Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan, Colorado.

One of the strategies to address this crisis is to develop a Tri-Cities Ready to Work program in Englewood, Colorado. The program would provide paid employment opportunities with housing and support services to provide independence to adults experiencing homelessness.

The Arapahoe County Commissioners understand that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the regional homelessness crisis and would like to express our support of the Ready to Work program. To affirm this support, we have allocated \$1,000,000 of our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the project.

We know that this project will require additional funds to meet the total project cost but hope that this allocation will help secure the additional resources necessary to make this critical project a reality.

Sincerely,

ARAPAHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Nancy Jackson
Chair of the Board



5345 Arapahoe Avenue Suite 5 Boulder CO 80303
303.442.8300 info@boulderbridgehouse.org boulderbridgehouse.org

April 6, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Bridge House fully supports the City of Englewood in their efforts to bring our Ready to Work Program to their city.

Our Ready to Work program combines paid employment in one of our two social enterprises (landscaping and commercial catering) with housing and support services for one year, as means to independence for adults experiencing homelessness. Ready to Work currently operates in Boulder and Aurora, and has capacity for 94 "trainees" at one time. Expansion into Englewood will increase our capacity to approximately 144.

Bridge House believes that our work-first model is a key component of ending homelessness. Work. Our solution breaks the cycle of homelessness for a segment of the homeless population that has been largely ignored to the detriment of the individual and community. Our solution taps into human potential, saves community resources, grows the economy, solves multiple problems for cities and, most importantly, empowers people experiencing homelessness while giving the community hope that homelessness solvable.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Melissa Green
CEO



community
table
kitchen



ready
to
work



basic
needs



April 19, 2022

Honorable Jason Crow
3300 S. Parker Road, #100
Aurora, Colorado 80014

RE: Letter of Support for 2022 Congressional Directed Funding
For the Tri-Cities Bridge House Ready to Work Project

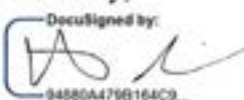
Dear Senator Crow's Review Committee:

The Tri-Cities Mayors from the Cities of Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan support the Tri-Cities Bridge House Ready to Work Project. The Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Group was formed in 2018 through a comprehensive regional coordination to address the rising incidence of homelessness with the intention of developing a workforce strategy to provide options to the growing homeless population in the region. In 2021, the Tri-Cities Homeless Action Plan was adopted unanimously by all three cities which identified the needs, resources, and assistance necessary to combat the current homelessness crisis and outlined a partnership with Arapahoe County.

The Tri-Cities Homeless Action Plan recognizes the importance of preventing homelessness by investing in a local workforce system that benefits the residents of our communities as well as the surrounding region. Our strategic approach will yield a program that is self-sustaining after the Bridge House Ready to Work Project becomes operational and illustrates a successful model for other communities to follow. We are ready to implement and securing these available funds will kick start the program. Congressional Directed Funding will seed this long-term commitment of all three cities to serve the homeless population through ongoing funding and policy commitments.

Please accept this Letter of Support from the mayors of all three cities united in our efforts to prevent homelessness and provide a workforce program that will aid the homeless population.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

94880A479B164C9

Othoniel Sierra, Mayor
City of Englewood
Englewood Civic Center
1000 Englewood Pkwy.
Englewood, CO 80110

DocuSigned by:

523C318589A149B

Kyle Schlachter, Mayor
City of Littleton
2255 W. Berry Ave.
Littleton, CO 80120

DocuSigned by:

4B425164C6134CE

Tara Beiter-Fluhr, Mayor
City of Sheridan
4101 S. Sheridan Blvd.
Sheridan, CO 80110



Member-Sponsored Project Support Letter – Bridge House

To Whom it may Concern,

As a community leader and pastor, I could not be prouder of the work our region has done to foster a community characterized by care and support for our vulnerable citizens. The cities of Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan (the Tri-Cities), in partnership with Arapahoe County, have made great strides to support constituents working to provide for the needs of those experiencing poverty and homelessness. These efforts have resulted in not just a vibrant service provider community, but a culture that has begun to attract new organizations to the area. The initiative to establish the Bridge House/Ready to Work program in Englewood exemplifies this encouraging trend.

The Tri-Cities has seen success in building collaboration around addressing homelessness at both the grassroots and governance levels. In 2017, community leaders from the faith, nonprofit, city government, and police sectors joined together to establish the Change the Trend Network, an independent nonprofit organization focused on building social capital around addressing homelessness at the grassroots level. Today, Change the Trend hosts over thirty network agencies from across the region and meets weekly to engage collaborative work.

Concurrently, the mayors, city managers, and chiefs of police within the Tri-Cities banded together to form the Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Group (TCHPG) in order to build greater regional cohesion in our approach to addressing homelessness. Since the inception of Change the Trend and TCHPG, these efforts have enjoyed a strong working relationship, with Change the Trend leadership sitting on TCHPG and regional leaders regularly contributing to Change the Trend.

These dual efforts have resulted in a stakeholder community characterized by trust, collaboration, and collective action. The Tri-Cities region is truly a place where service providers thrive, shared projects are undertaken with a spirit of partnership and enthusiasm, and our vulnerable neighbors are cared for. The next steps in our journey to address homelessness are to

formalize the coordination of services through resource navigation and build pathways out of homelessness through housing services and a robust array of wrap-around support.

When the Bridge House/Ready to Work program was awarded a grant to conduct a study of possible areas to replicate their program, they chose the Tri-Cities in large part because of the vibrant service provider culture present in the area. Bridge House's program is proven to be a successful service to individuals seeking to move beyond homelessness through vocational empowerment. Their current locations in Boulder and Aurora boast a 73% success rate, measured by job and housing retention amongst their graduates.

From my vantage point, I am deeply impressed with the support Bridge House leadership has received from the Tri-Cities leadership as they enter the process of launching this new location. Bridge House leadership have been given access to senior level city staff, who have made themselves available to help identify possible locations for their program. Additionally, the broader stakeholder community has already begun building partnerships of support to help the program launch successfully. This process constitutes yet another example of health and vitality amongst the Tri-Cities region, and renders this project deeply worthy of continued support.

Best,

Mike Sandgren

Mission Pastor - Wellspring Church

Network Leader - Change the Trend

mike@wellspringinglewood.com



April 20, 2022

RE: Support for the Ready to Work Bridge House in Englewood, Colorado

To Whom It May Concern:

The South Metro Community Foundation (SMCF) is a community-supported nonprofit dedicated to reducing the number of people who are homeless in the Tri-Cities of Littleton, Englewood and Sheridan, Colorado.

SMCF has committed to being a fiscal sponsor for the state-of-the-art Tri-Cities Homeless Navigation Center, which will assess the unique needs of people experiencing homelessness, and guide and mentor them to services, including job-training services such as those to be provided by Ready to Work Bridge House.

SMCF has been partnering with the Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Committee, a group aimed at developing a coordinated strategy to help address homelessness in the Tri-Cities, and serves on its Homeless Policy Group. Establishment of a Navigation Center was a key strategy recommended by the Committee.

One other key strategy to address the growing number of people who are homeless in our area is to develop a Tri-Cities Ready to Work program in Englewood, Colorado. The program would provide paid employment opportunities with housing and support services to provide independence to adults experiencing homelessness.

SMCF saw clearly that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the regional homelessness crisis in our area as people lost their jobs and then could not pay their rent. We wish to express our strong support of the Bridge House Ready to Work program.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, and please express my personal thanks to Congressman Crow for his service to the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Thornton, Chair
South Metro Community Foundation
P.O. Box 401
Littleton, CO 80160

Office 303-798-0844
Email susan@thinkstrategicallyfirst.com



Allhealthnetwork.org
Administration
116 Inverness Drive East, Suite 105
Englewood, CO 80112
Information & Appointments - 303-730-8858
Emergency & Crisis Intervention - 303-730-3303

April 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

AllHealth Network is writing this letter in support of the ask for \$1.5m to build out and renovate the Bridge House Ready to Work facility in Englewood as well as for the purchase of furniture and related capital items. If funded, the program will launch in the spring of 2023 and will provide temporary housing and job training for 40-50 people experiencing homelessness in the Tri-Cities. This project is a critical component of the workforce development theme in the Tri-Cities Homeless Plan of Action: Recommendation 3.1: Create partnerships with existing workforce programs Action Step 1. Continue to pursue partnerships with Bridge Home (Bridge House).

AllHealth Network is a non-profit Community Behavioral Health Center serving the South Metro Denver Region of the state since 1955. We have been a member of the Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Committee, along with the Change the Trend Grass roots organization for several years. Both groups are aimed at developing a coordinated strategy to help address homelessness in Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan, Colorado.

One of the strategies to address this crisis is to develop a Tri-Cities Ready to Work program in Englewood, Colorado. The program would provide paid employment opportunities with housing and support services to provide independence to adults experiencing homelessness.

AllHealth Network understands that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the regional homelessness crisis and would like to express our support of the Ready to Work program. Helping individuals find and maintain work is a key component of addressing homelessness and helping support recovery for individuals who also struggle with Behavioral Health. We are in full support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bock, LPC
Chief Clinical Officer
AllHealth Network

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Psychiatry
Pharmacy
Substance Use Treatment
School-Based Services

Acute Care Services
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Community Wellness Services
Care Navigation
Case Management
PsychoSocial Rehabilitation
Employment Support