



March 10, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am sending this letter of support for the Community Economic Defense Project (CEDP) in their application for congressionally directed spending (CDS) to support housing justice efforts for Coloradans. A [statewide poll](#) conducted by The Colorado Health Foundation last year found that the rising cost of living and cost of housing were the most pressing concerns for Coloradans, across party lines and in both urban and rural communities.

Purchasing a mobile justice center will allow CEDP to provide clients with eviction diversion services in their neighborhoods, at the courthouse, and where they worship. By bringing anti-displacement services directly to community, CEDP can work to stem the high number of evictions and first-time homelessness currently faced by our neighbors across the state.

Over the past three years, The Community Economic Defense Project has established itself as an indispensable partner in statewide efforts to distribute rental assistance, prevent homelessness, connect Coloradans with local services and resources, and advocate for systemic policy change at the local and state levels. Their efforts have gained local and national attention, including [recognition from the White House](#), HUD, and the Urban Institute as a best practice in eviction diversion and homelessness prevention.

Throughout Denver, and in the district I represent on the city's Westside, CEDP has consistently partnered with our low-income and underserved communities with a variety of services including legal representation, rental assistance, and resource connection. Their efforts have led directly to increased housing stability for my constituents, and I am excited to continue to support their work as they seek to expand their services.

I offer my highest recommendation for CEDP's application for federal funds to support their vital work. This appropriation will have a tangible impact on our communities as we continue to collaborate to address housing insecurity and displacement in Colorado.

Sincerely,

**Hon. Jamie Torres, Councilwoman
City and County of Denver, District 3**

1437 Bannock St, Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

District3@denvergov.org | 720-337-3333



4130 Tejon St Suite A
Denver, CO 80211
303.628.0925
www.9to5.org

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9to5 Colorado is an economic justice organization that works to create change through issue based advocacy, grassroots organizing, and community education by engaging women and their families for better work and living conditions. We have partnered directly with CEDP over the last few years, and they have been an important ally in the distribution of emergency rental assistance, connecting clients with services and community resources, and advocating for policies that promote equity for low-income and vulnerable populations.

In summary, I offer my highest recommendation for CEDP's application for federal funds to support their vital work. This appropriation will have a tangible impact on our communities as we continue to work together to address Coloradans' housing needs.

Sincerely,

Cesiah Guadarrama Trejo
Executive State Director, 9to5 Colorado



March 10, 2023

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The East Colfax Collective (EC3) is a community-driven, multicultural, socio-economically diverse advocacy organization comprised of residents, local businesses and nonprofits, and allies. Our mission is to fight displacement and build collective power in our community to shape our own destiny. We are strongly in favor CEDP's proposal as they have been critical partners staffing EC3's East Colfax Legal Clinic that has provided the front line of defense against homelessness in our neighborhood. CEDP's mission driven approach both provides legal guidance and rental assistance intervention, with the necessary urgency, that has meant the difference to hundreds of our community members staying housed over the last two years.

In summary, I offer my highest recommendation for CEDP's application for federal funds to support their vital work. This appropriation will have a tangible impact on our communities as we continue to work together to address Coloradans' housing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Greene".

Brendan Greene, Executive Director
East Colfax Community Collective (EC3)



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United for a New Economy (UNE) partners with CEDP on a regular basis in their community organizing and alliance building work to ensure the voices of tenants and working people are elevated to the policymaking table. In addition, over the last three years CEDP has been an important asset in ensuring our communities have access to resources that promote stability and justice. They are proven innovators in distributing aid quickly and efficiently, while directing clients to the solutions required to resolve the problems they are facing.

In summary, I offer my highest recommendation for CEDP's application for federal funds to support their vital work. This appropriation will have a tangible impact on our communities as we continue to work together to address Coloradans' housing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmen Medrano".

Carmen Medrano
Executive Director, United for a New Economy

State Representative
STEPHANIE J. VIGIL
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue, Room 307
Denver, Colorado 80203
Home: 719-460-3613
Office: 303-866-2937
Email: stephanie.vigil.house@coleg.gov



COLORADO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Capitol
Denver
80203

Member:
Energy & Environment
Committee
Transportation, Housing & Local
Government Committee

March 10th, 2023

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Over the past three years, The Community Economic Defense Project has established itself as an indispensable partner in statewide efforts to distribute rental assistance, prevent homelessness, connect Coloradans with local services and resources, and advocate for systemic policy change at the local and state levels. Their efforts have gained local and national attention, including recognition from the White House, HUD, and the Urban Institute as a best practice in eviction diversion and homelessness prevention.

In both the Front Range Region, and in rural parts of our state, CEDP has partnered with communities to stop evictions and displacement by providing like services legal representation, rental assistance, and resource connection. Their efforts have led directly to increased housing stability for our neighbors. I am excited to continue to support their work as they seek to expand their services.

In summary, I offer my highest recommendation for CEDP's application for federal funds to support their vital work. This appropriation will have a tangible impact on our communities as we continue to work together to address Coloradans' housing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie J. Vigil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie J. Vigil
State Representative - House District 16

SERENA GONZALES-GUTIERREZ
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue, Room 307
Denver, Colorado 80203
Office: 303-866-2954
Cell: 720-663-8473
Email: serena.gonzales-gutierrez.house@state.co.us



State Representative
Member:
Public & Behavioral Health &
Human Services Committee

COLORADO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Capitol
Denver
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Across Colorado, CEDP has consistently partnered with low-income and underserved communities with a variety of services including legal representation, rental assistance, and resource connection. Their efforts have led directly to increased housing stability for renters facing unprecedented increases in the cost of housing. I am excited to continue to support their work as they seek to expand their services.

In summary, I offer my highest recommendation for CEDP's application for federal funds to support their vital work. This appropriation will have a tangible impact on our communities as we continue to work together to address Coloradans' housing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez
State Representative
House District 4

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Maiker Housing Partners, the Public Housing Authority of Adams County, disrupts generational poverty through the development and management of affordable housing and provision of community-building services. As a houser, we are acutely aware of the barriers homeless community members face in becoming re-housed, and the critical role rapid rehousing plays in the prevention of long-term homelessness in the first place. Maiker has been a partner with CEDP on our Eviction Diversion Program and together we have prevented hundreds of renters from experiencing homelessness. We can attest first-hand to their mission-driven commitment to preventing homelessness, the thoroughness of their approach and the compassion CEDP applies in their work every day.

In summary, I offer my highest recommendation for CEDP's application for federal funds to support their vital work. This appropriation will have a tangible impact on our communities as we continue to work together to address Coloradans' housing needs.

Sincerely,



Peter LiFari
Chief Executive Officer
Maiker Housing Partners