Support HB 20-1335!  
Update the incentive for charitable giving to homeless service providers!


Over 31,000 Coloradans are currently experiencing homelessness. A growing number are being displaced by skyrocketing housing costs. Even though service providers have been effective at transitioning individuals into housing, many critical services still lack adequate resources.

Investing more in these services to meet basic needs, increase self-sufficiency, and support job readiness will result in significant cost savings compared to emergency services and reduces the need for public assistance for those re-entering the workforce.

For over 25 years, Colorado’s Enterprise Zone (EZ) contribution credit has given $1 back to taxpayers for every $4 they give to nonprofits and governments serving people experiencing homelessness.  

Unfortunately, the narrow focus of the EZ credit on specific geographical areas and on short-term job creation for people experiencing homelessness is shifting investments away from these essential services.

The current tax incentive for charitable giving to support services to people experiencing homelessness should be updated to more effectively support the full continuum of services needed over the long-term throughout the state.

The program should also be aligned with state housing priorities to make housing affordable and attainable for Colorado’s families.

This legislation will:
- Rebrand the EZ credit as the Homeless Contribution Tax Credit (HCTC), make it available statewide, and move it to the Division of Housing;
- Incentivize donations for:
  - Capital Campaigns - housing, shelters, & facilities for services & administration; and
  - Operations - homeless outreach, shelters, preventive services, supportive housing, employment support, case management, and implementation of best practices;
- Lower the min. gift to $100 ensuring income isn’t a barrier to giving;
- Enhance the credit to 30% for rural communities (under amendments requested);
- Maintain the core elements of the EZ Credit including the 25% credit, five-year carry-forward, $100,000 limit per taxpayer, and $750,000 limit per project;
- Require the Division of Housing to establish program guidelines with stakeholder input.

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SUPPORTERS:
Advocates Against Domestic Assault, Trinidad  
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, Colorado Springs  
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver  
Colorado Nonprofit Association, Denver  
Colorado Springs Rescue Mission  
Dream Centers of Colorado Springs  
Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, Durango  
Family Promise of Colorado Springs  
Family Promise of Greater Denver  
Homeward 2020, Fort Collins  
Homeward Bound, Grand Junction  
Homeward Pikes Peak, Colorado Springs  
Ithaka Land, Inc., Colorado Springs  
La Puente, Alamosa  
Loaves and Fishes, Canon City  
Murphy Center, Canon City  
One Community One Family, Loveland  
Open Doors Ministry, Denver  
St. Francis Center, Denver  
Tri-Lakes Cares, Monument  
Tu Casa, Alamosa  
Westside CARES, Colorado Springs
“Incentivizing donations also incentivizes involvement. This will help our community grow in sharing responsibility for our own problems. This is a truly rare tax credit program, as I see that the most common Colorado taxpayers can benefit from participating.” Amanda Pearson, Tu Casa, Alamosa

“In the news every night and public awareness has never been higher. If we could have this Homeless Tax Credit, it would speak volumes to the community that we are using every dollar they give to impact the lives of the most vulnerable. By modifying the existing tax credit, it gives us opportunities to do outreach and emergency services for those of whom feel the least amount of hope. This is the time to do this!”
Larry Yonker, Colorado Springs Rescue Mission

“Region 9 supports this effort because EZ Projects are limited to five years and to EZ areas only. The definition around housing support, etc. is much broader allowing more organizations to participate.”
- Laura Lewis Marchino, Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, Durango

“We are fortunate enough to be located in an Enterprise Zone, so we already benefit enormously from this tax credit—and would support any effort to expand it to other nonprofits. We have received tens-of-thousands of dollars in contributions from individuals who cited the Enterprise Zone credit as a factor in their decision to contribute to Homeward Alliance. The bottom line is that the credit helps us achieve our mission—but because it is based on our physical location—we (a) worry about the impact to our agency if we relocated or the zone changed and (b) want other nonprofits to have access to the same opportunity.”
Holly LeMasurier, Homeward 2020

“This evolution of funding alignment will strengthen statewide program delivery, as well as enhance administration efficiencies. Homeward 2020 supports bringing the Homeless Contribution Tax Credit to the state legislature. Bringing HTC under DOLA/DOH will allow DOH to more strongly braid and leverage various funding sources and strategic investments across the state.”
Holly LeMasurier, Homeward 2020

“This major cause of homelessness for women and their children continues to be domestic violence. Each year a vast number of persons are forced to leave their homes in order to ensure their safety and that of their children. For countless domestic violence survivors, emergency shelters are the difference between another violent episode and safety. Without these services many victims would be homeless, sleeping in their vehicles or returning to their abusive relationship, putting them even at a higher risk. The most dangerous stage in an abusive relationship is directly after the abused partner leaves the relationship.”
Charlene Tortorice, Advocates Against Domestic Assault

“As a nonprofit focused solely on housing those going through homelessness, One Community, One Family has not qualified for the current Enterprise Zone tax credit program. This new effort would assist us in securing more community funding and engagement to bring solutions to those experiencing homelessness in Loveland and the rest of Larimer and Weld counties.”
- Jessi Colehour, One Community One Family, Loveland

“We work with families at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Greater Denver region. We support the effort to explore a new tax credit that would cover a greater range of programs and services.”
Courtney Jensen, Family Promise of Greater Denver

“For St. Francis Center, the value of tax credits are vital. A tax credit to donors and potential donors highlights the importance of the work that we are engaged in. It speaks highly to the fact that the state and larger community are coming together to create solutions and incentivizes support for efforts to combat issues around homelessness and have made this work a priority for the state.

Donors and supporters have a myriad of choices when it comes to supporting the work of Colorado nonprofits. Our tax credit program gives us a chance to thank and connect with more donors who take advantage of this rare tax benefit. It differentiates St. Francis Center from other nonprofits. Raising funds for helping people experiencing homelessness is hard work. The tax credit gives donors a reward for joining in this difficult effort. The tax credit increases support which leads to improved outcomes in our community.”
Tom Luehrs, Saint Francis Center

“We support the effort to explore a new tax credit that would cover a greater range of programs and services.”
Courtney Jensen, Family Promise of Greater Denver

“For Tri-Lakes Cares, the value of tax credits are vital. A tax credit to donors and potential donors highlights the importance of the work that we are engaged in. It speaks highly to the fact that the state and larger community are coming together to create solutions and incentivizes support for efforts to combat issues around homelessness and have made this work a priority for the state.

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Tom Luehrs, Saint Francis Center

“Tri-Lakes Cares would be in favor of support, as we were just recently dropped from the EZ last year due to their narrow focus of types of homeless service that are eligible.”
Haley Chapin, Tri-Lakes Cares