

# MEDIA ALERT



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## Senior Housing Crisis: Guide and Forum

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Demand for affordable housing in the Denver region has outpaced supply, representing a crisis for some older Coloradans. While DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and other organizations continue to work to mitigate the shortage, the number of displaced seniors continues to escalate. The lack of affordable housing has stretched community services to their limits. Increasingly, the staff of referral services, nonprofits and community organizations must deliver bad news to the metropolitan area's seniors.

In partnership with other organizations, DRCOG has published a new guide: "**Talking About the Affordable Housing Crisis: Tools for Delivering Bad News**"

**WHO:** The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), Brothers Redevelopment Inc. and the Mile High United Way 2-1-1 Help Center will convene over 200 professionals from across the region to discuss best practices for providing difficult news to clients seeking affordable housing.

**WHAT:** The forum will incorporate information and tools from the newly published "**Talking About the Affordable Housing Crisis: Tools for Delivering Bad News**" guide, produced by the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging, Brothers Redevelopment Inc. and the Mile High United Way 2-1-1 Help Center, a community referral service. The discussion will equip community agency professionals to support each other as they confront the challenge of delivering bad news about nearly impossible-to-find affordable housing in the region.

After the forum, participants will be invited to experience "Searching for Home: Homelessness in Colorado History," a new exhibit at the History Colorado Center. The exhibit invites people "to reflect on life without the shelter, healthcare, safety and relationships provided by stable housing."

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1 - 3 p.m. (forum is free). 3 – 4 p.m. Tour exhibit (no charge for forum participants; a \$10 value)

**WHERE:** History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203

**NOTES: (1)** DRCOG-AAA Director Jayla Sanchez-Warren and other professionals will be available for media interviews.

**(2)** Public parking is not available in the History Colorado or DRCOG garages. Please plan to use public transportation or park at the Cultural Center Garage at 12<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, or use metered spaces or surface parking lots in the vicinity.

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***The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a nonprofit collaborative association governed by a Board of Directors representing county and municipal governments. Board members work together to make life better in the Denver region. Through Metro Vision, the plan to manage growth over the next 25 years, the region's local governments work cooperatively to address development, land use, transportation, environmental quality and older adult issues.***