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DRCOG HONORS URBAN LAND CONSERVANCY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

May 7, 2019 (DENVER) – The Urban Land Conservancy received a 2019 Metro Vision Award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) at its annual awards celebration May 3 at the Hyatt Regency at Colorado Convention Center.

It's no secret our region is challenged to provide access to affordable housing. Our healthy economy and growing population create the similar conditions affecting availability of affordable commercial space. Urban Land Conservancy, working with local communities and stakeholders throughout the region was recognized for their innovative approach to addressing these issues.

Metro Denver Impact Facility relies on low-interest sources of capital to preserve real estate to meet community needs, with an emphasis on commercial space in high poverty, underserved areas of the region. In partnership with First Bank and numerous nonprofit and governmental organizations, they have deployed \$10 million of the \$50 million fund, including three acquisitions: the Harlan Nonprofit Center in Lakewood, South Platte Crossing in Commerce City, and Inca Commons in Denver. These investments allow people and businesses to live and work in their community of choice, spurring economic development and vitality.

"We're fortunate in this region to have visionary collaborators addressing these issues," said Douglas Rex, executive director for DRCOG. "This approach shows how the public-private partnerships can come together to make life better."

The region's plan for growth and development, Metro Vision, encourages a vibrant regional economy and sees a future with healthy, livable communities for people of all ages, incomes and abilities.

DRCOG's Metro Vision Award program recognizes exemplary projects, plans and initiatives that significantly improve the quality of life in the Denver region and its communities. The regional council has been honoring outstanding achievements for more than 30 years.

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The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding in the areas of transportation and personal mobility; growth and development; and aging and disability resources.