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**Denver-Based Affordable Housing Nonprofit Rocky Mountain Communities Wins Urban Land Institute of Colorado's First Ever 'Inclusive Award' at Impact Awards**

*Arroyo Village community was named the winner at the Sept. 23 awards ceremony*

**DENVER, Colo., Sept. 30, 2021** – Arroyo Village, a community owned and managed by Colorado-based, affordable housing nonprofit [Rocky Mountain Communities](#) (RMC), was named the winner of the Urban Land Institute of Colorado's (ULI Colorado) Impact Awards for the first-ever 'Inclusive Award'. Winners were announced at the ULI Colorado Impact Awards on Sept. 23. Arroyo Village is the first project of its kind in Colorado to encompass a continuum of care for people experiencing housing instability that includes a homeless shelter, permanent supportive housing and affordable housing under one roof.

"We are so proud to have earned this award from the Urban Land Institute of Colorado," said Dontae Latson, CEO of Rocky Mountain Communities. "Arroyo Village is truly a one-of-a-kind project that has earned national accolades and awards, and is being used as a model across the country for other communities. We are grateful for the acknowledgement and support of this project from Urban Land Institute of Colorado."

Per the ULI Colorado website, "ULI Colorado's Impact Awards are based on the ULI Awards for Excellence, the most highly respected international program of land use awards. As with the ULI Awards for Excellence, ULI Colorado recognizes projects that realize ULI best practices while also providing successful business and economic models."

Arroyo Village is a joint development between non-profits RMC and The Delores Project and contains a 60-bed homeless shelter for women and transgender individuals, 35 one-bedroom apartment units of permanent supportive housing (0-30% AMI) and 95 1, 2, and 3-bedroom affordable housing units (50% AMI). Counseling and support services are integrated into both housing components. The supportive housing apartments were conceived, designed, and built utilizing a Trauma Informed Design perspective. The community is a transit-oriented development located at a light rail stop and just blocks from a main thoroughfare leading into and out of downtown Denver.

Individuals and partners that helped make the Arroyo Village and the Delores Project joint venture possible include Terrell Curtis, Dick Taft, Shopworks Architecture, Blueline Development, I-KOTA Construction, City of Denver, CO Division of Housing, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Federal Home Loan Bank Topeka, Boston Capital, Sugar Creek Capital, MP Morgan Chase, Walker & Dunlop, and many others.

Projects submitted for the 'Inclusive Award' needed to be, "A public or private project that is inclusive of all people and works to provide equal opportunity to the diverse incomes, races, ethnicities, and cultural heritages that abound in Colorado. Projects submitted in this category are publicly supported through tax increment financing, Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), or other bridge financing from local or federal funds. These projects have a lasting impact on building community by providing equitable access to housing, transit, and/or services. They not only promote diversity within neighborhoods, but they celebrate and enhance the existing character of the neighborhoods and streets in which they are located, and they lift all voices."

Criteria for the award included:

1. Fulfills an existing need within the community and identifies in measurable terms the direct benefit to the community
2. Project promotes/ advances economic and cultural diversity and access to opportunity
3. Project has a multiplier effect on the surrounding community creating opportunity for further positive impact
4. Demonstrates a good use of taxpayer funds
5. Creates opportunity for programming available to the public

Arroyo Village is the first building in Colorado to encompass such a wide continuum of care from a homeless shelter to workforce housing. It is only the second development of this type that RMC came across in the entire country.

### **About Rocky Mountain Communities**

Rocky Mountain Communities (RMC) builds brighter futures by investing in resident-focused affordable housing and services in Colorado, empowering individuals and families to thrive. Currently, RMC owns 1,135 affordable housing units for underserved populations statewide and manages an additional 408 units. RMC provides programs for residents ranging from English language acquisition classes to exercise classes, after school activities for kids to food pantries and others. Since its founding in 1992, RMC has responded to the need for housing and program services for more than 11,000 families. RMC is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit [www.rockymountaincommunities.org](http://www.rockymountaincommunities.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) @RockyMountainCommunities.

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