



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local affordable housing nonprofit, focused on building equitable ownership opportunities in Mobile Home Communities, awarded \$280,000 from The Colorado Health Foundation, to further their community organizing efforts in the Roaring Fork Valley.

The Roaring Fork Community Development Corporation (RF CDC) was awarded \$280,000 over two years by The Colorado Health Foundation to support their pilot project, co-creating a Bridge-to-Ownership model in mobile home communities. RF CDC's mission is to preserve and create vibrant, diverse and livable communities in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys.

Sydney Schalit, Executive Director of the Roaring Fork CDC says "We deeply appreciate that The Colorado Health Foundation recognizes the uniqueness of this pilot project and believes in our commitment to advancing health and health equity as it pertains to equitable opportunities for affordable housing in the Roaring Fork Valley. The small but mighty RF CDC team looks forward to utilizing these funds to collaborate with bilingual experts and experienced resident-owners from across the state to enhance and empower the highly engaged 3-Mile Mobile Home Park residents on this groundbreaking endeavor. This infusion of transformative funding for our community organizing efforts will dramatically enhance our capacity and fits perfectly into the 3-Mile Residents' goal to purchase the park from the RF CDC in early 2026."

The RF CDC's project aims to create a resident-owned mobile home community (MHC) in partnership with local residents through a multi-phased approach. This Bridge-to-Ownership model is the first of its kind and Brianda Cervantes, the RF CDC's bilingual community organizer and park manager, will continue to work with experts to support residents in building trust, social capital and cooperative leadership skills as they work to form a resident-owned MHC that is self-governing, self-sufficient and sustainable over the long-term.

This grant funding from The Colorado Health Foundation will provide the residents with in-person and virtual opportunities to connect with other resident-owned mobile home park residents and their advocates, including financial institutions friendly to resident ownership models, real estate experts interested in preservation of mobile home parks as well as board

governance experts who will engage the resident leadership in developing a sustainable model of neighborhood self-governance.

“I love this job and am so grateful for the financial support from The Colorado Health Foundation. The trickle down of this type of support is huge because if they see me as a leader capable of this effort, then it means they see the residents as landowners; it’s a thrill to empower the residents to see themselves as landowners and collaborators and trailblazers, too. Working with the 3-Mile residents for the past year has been such a great opportunity; we are seeing firsthand the urgent need to provide equitable bilingual access to information regarding their rights as residents and to provide equitable learning opportunities for the residents of 3-Mile Mobile Home Park, so that they will thrive. Co-designing a realistic plan with the residents towards owning the land on which they’ve lived for nearly three decades is the greatest challenge and the greatest role I’ve had the opportunity to play.” - Brianda Cervantes, Roaring Fork Community Development Corporation Community Organizer and Park Manager.

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