



## Press Release

### ***For Immediate Release***

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Ashley Dunn  
Executive Director  
303-659-6199  
ashley@almosthomeonline.org

### **Almost Home, Inc. Opens First Housing Navigation Center in Adams County**

**BRIGHTON, CO** – Almost Home, Inc. is pleased to announce that we are moving our office to Historic City Hall in Brighton, Colorado, after more than a decade in our current location. In the past year and a half, Almost Home, Inc. has expanded our programs and services to meet the community's needs, and we need to expand the footprint of our offices to effectively meet our mission. On February 11, 2021, we will close our doors at 231 N. Main Street Brighton, Colorado, forever. On February 16, 2021, we will open our new Housing Navigation Center at 22 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 102 Brighton, Colorado. This move will allow Almost Home, Inc. to serve even more people in the community facing homelessness or are homeless and in need of assistance to obtain resources and connections to permanent housing. Housing Navigation Centers are a critical resource to end and prevent homelessness in Adams and Southern Weld Counties. The Almost Home Housing Navigation Center will provide low-barrier access to on-site case management, supportive services, connection to services, and a permanent housing pathway through coordinated entry assessment. Clients accessing the Housing Navigation Center will receive personalized support to address housing barriers. Almost Home's Housing Navigation Center Housing Case Managers will communicate, encourage, facilitate, and support each client's progress and activities toward housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

### **The Almost Home Housing Navigation Center provides the following services:**

- On-site, individualized and client-centered case management services;
- Assistance enrolling into public benefits programs;
- Information and referrals to meet basic needs and address Social Determinants of Health affecting housing stability;
- Coordinated-Entry assessments for Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs;
- Access to technology such as computers and printing for housing and employment search;
- Connect households to the Severe Weather Activation Plan (SWAP) Program for hotel/motel vouchers as available and as needed;
- Workshops to support access to and maintenance of safe, healthy and affordable housing;

Our move could not come at a more pivotal time for the community. The total number of Emergency Assistance requests increased over 242% since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic and was rising even before the Pandemic hit our community. The COVID-19 Pandemic has spotlighted the challenges that our region faces regarding housing instability, and it is wreaking havoc on our community. We have over 2,500 applications pending for Emergency Assistance under our Homeless Prevention Program. In a typical year, we serve just under 1,000 households total in all our programs.

In response to the housing crisis many are experiencing, Almost Home, Inc. expanded our Homeless Prevention Program staffing to meet the increased demand; we have two (2) Bilingual Intake Assistants

231 N. Main St.  
Brighton, Colorado 80601  
Phone: 303-659-6199  
Fax: 303-659-8859  
Website: [www.AlmostHomeOnline.org](http://www.AlmostHomeOnline.org)  
E-Mail: [Info@AlmostHomeOnline.org](mailto:Info@AlmostHomeOnline.org)





and three (3) Housing Case Managers with bilingual capacity. Our increased staffing allows us to get our Homeless Prevention Program funds out the door as quickly as possible to those most in need. In addition to expanding our Homeless Prevention Program, Almost Home, Inc. experienced considerable growth in 2020 in our other programs. We expanded our Emergency Shelter and Outreach programs and launched our Supportive Housing Programs in 2020. We grew from four (4) full-time and one (1) part-time employee to now twelve (12) full-time employees and growing as we bring on new resources for the community. The Housing Navigation Center will provide Almost Home, Inc. with adequate and safe space for our staff and clients to meet and overcome housing barriers.

Building the first Housing Navigation Center in Adams County will become a part of the solution to make homelessness rare, brief, and one time. We thank the City of Brighton and the City Council for seeing the value of Almost Home, Inc. and welcoming us to Historic City Hall, a location that will allow us to continue to further our mission and better serve our community. We thank them for their unwavering support of our programs and services. Our move to Historic City Hall will be such a great fit for not only Almost Home, Inc. but the clients we serve and our community.

We look forward to sharing our new space with the community as soon as it is safe to do so. Please check our social media and webpage for up-to-date information regarding our move, pictures of our space, and ways to get involved and support our Housing Navigation Center's opening.

#### **About Almost Home Inc.**

Almost Home, Inc. is located in Brighton, Colorado, and serves all of Adams and Southern Weld Counties. Almost Home, Inc.'s mission is to promote self-sufficiency and provide assistance to those experiencing housing instability. Almost Home, Inc. provides Emergency Assistance under our three (3) Emergency Assistance programs: our Homeless Prevention Program, Emergency Shelter and Outreach Programs, and our Supportive Housing Programs. Our programs are designed to respond to and prevent households from becoming homeless by providing direct financial assistance, short-term case management support and emergency shelter and case management to homeless households. For more information on how to help or contribute, contact Ashley Dunn, Executive Director, or visit [www.almosthomeonline.org/](http://www.almosthomeonline.org/) or [www.facebook.com/AlmostHomeColorado](https://www.facebook.com/AlmostHomeColorado)