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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Providing Housing Assistance and Relief to Coloradans Affected by COVID-19

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order providing housing assistance and relief to Coloradans due to the presence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb, and we have evidence of community spread throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, and D 2020 076. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 are significant, and threaten to undermine the economic stability of many Coloradans and local businesses. The risk of contamination posed by COVID-19 necessitated closure of multiple businesses. Employers and employees in virtually all sectors of the economy have been hard hit. We must take action to shore up economic security, employment, community cohesion, and community recovery.

While we have seen indications that our efforts to "flatten the curve" are working, transmission of the virus continues to threaten Coloradans' way of life and livelihoods. Many Coloradans experienced substantial loss of income as a result of business closures and layoffs, hindering their ability to keep up with their rent or mortgage payments. This Executive Order provides housing assistance and relief to Coloradans impacted by COVID-19.

II. Directives

A. I order that the three million dollars ($3,000,000) from the Disaster Emergency Fund allocated to DOLA in Executive Order D 2020 012 continue to be available to provide short-term rental and mortgage assistance to low- and moderate-income households facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. These funds shall remain available for six (6) months from the date of Executive Order D 2020 070 and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund. Funds reimbursed by the Federal Government will be returned to the Disaster Emergency Fund. I further direct DOLA to work with Statewide partners, including non-profit and local government partners, to implement the distribution of temporary rental and mortgage assistance. In carrying out this directive, DOLA shall ensure that individuals do not receive a duplication of benefits.

B. For purposes of this Executive Order, "moderate-income households" means households at or below 80% of area median income.

C. I strongly encourage all municipalities and other local jurisdictions that place limits on the number of unrelated persons who can live in a single household or that prohibit group or boarding houses to suspend or eliminate those restrictions to enable homeowners to rent or give a room or rooms to those in need of housing.

D. I strongly encourage all municipalities and other local jurisdictions that place limits on the number of days hotel rooms may be occupied to suspend or eliminate those restrictions.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from June 13, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this
thirteenth day of June, 2020

Jared Polis
Governor