

**From:** Petersen, Jana <jpetersen@bouldercounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Invitation to regional homelessness meetings

**External Email:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear city/town managers and administrators,

As a follow-up to the May convening of regional local elected officials regarding homelessness, the county is inviting each city and town to designate **one elected official** to represent the council/board perspective on a working group with meetings hosted by Boulder County Commissioner Marta Loachamin. The meetings are scheduled for 5:30-7:30PM on Aug. 14, Sept. 18 and Oct. 9 at the Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, which allows us to accommodate technology for a hybrid option for virtual participation. For in-person attendance, free parking is available in the lot north of the Courthouse or at any city of Boulder downtown parking garage.

From the county's perspective, it would be helpful to advance the discussion if your representative attended the May 8, 2024, meeting in Lafayette, where cities, towns and the county shared information on current programming related to homelessness. This is not a requirement but a suggestion. If needed, each community may designate an alternate who can attend if the assigned elected official is unavailable on the scheduled date/time.

To prepare for the first meeting, I'm including information below that may be helpful for your rep to review.

Please respond by noon on Friday, Aug. 2, with contact information for your city/town representative to receive the hybrid meeting invitation or let us know by then if you'd prefer to decline the invitation. Please also let us know if any key city/town staff will attend the meetings in support roles.

Jana

Jana Petersen (she/her/hers)  
County Administrator  
Boulder County  
303-441-4549  
[www.BoulderCounty.gov](http://www.BoulderCounty.gov)

**Current regional consensus from May 8, 2024, meeting:**

- Regional approach is essential.

- Housing First is the agreed-upon guiding framework.

**Discussion Themes Identified by City/Town Officials:**

Cities and towns identified the following themes (with the number of times mentioned) during the discussion on May 8, 2024, as potential topics for the working group discussions:

- Concern about federal funds going away/funding gaps and how to sustain successful programs - 5
- Expanding units available for people experiencing homelessness - both permanent and transitional units - 5
- Mental/behavioral health struggles and intersection with homelessness - 4
- Public safety related concerns (jail impact/repeat offenses/wildfire risks) - 4
- Prevention/keeping individuals and families from entering homelessness - 3
- Hidden homelessness/people working but can't find housing so are couch-surfing - 3
- Preserving existing mobile home communities - 1
- Workforce pillar/workforce housing - 1
- Aging out of foster care creating a high risk of future homelessness - 1

[Federal All-In Plan to End Homelessness](#)

[Metro Area County Commissioners homelessness meeting series](#) from 2023 – you are welcome to view the whole series and particularly the April meeting on collaborative governance

**Sample discussion questions:**

What does a regional approach to collaboration on homelessness look like?

What does a collaborative approach mean for your jurisdiction?

What opportunities in collaboration are not being optimized and where is there space for improvement?

If we were working together at the regional level, what solutions currently under way could be optimized? Where are new solutions needed?