

March 24, 2025

Abe Laydon, Commissioner District I

The Honorable Scott Turner
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Turner:

On behalf of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to meet with your staff to discuss some of the critical housing and homelessness issues facing our county. Their time and attention to these matters were deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for your continued leadership in working to improve housing opportunities across our nation.

As we discussed, Douglas County is fully committed to ending homelessness in our community. However, we believe that a more flexible and holistic approach is necessary to effectively address this complex issue. While we recognize the importance of supportive housing, we strongly believe that "housing first" should not be a prerequisite for federal funding and support. Many individuals and families in our county face unique challenges, and by removing this requirement, we can better tailor our services to meet their specific needs. We are hopeful that you will consider this perspective and work to create more adaptable pathways to federal support for local homelessness initiatives.

Furthermore, we are excited about the possibility of a new Domestic Violence Support Center in Douglas County that would specifically focus on providing safe housing for individuals who might otherwise become homeless due to fleeing domestic violence. This initiative is particularly urgent, as survivors of domestic violence often find themselves without a safe place to turn. A dedicated center that provides both housing and supportive services would be a critical resource for those in our community who are experiencing this traumatic situation. We discussed the potential for HUD to provide funding for this center, and we are eager to move forward with this vital project, which will help protect some of our most vulnerable residents.

We believe that with your continued support, we can make great strides in addressing homelessness and providing essential resources to survivors of domestic violence in Douglas County. We look forward to working closely with you and your team to ensure that these efforts are successful and that our community has the resources it needs to thrive.

Once again, thank you for your time and dedication to these critical issues. We remain committed to collaborating with you to create a brighter, safer future for all residents of Douglas County.

Sincerely,



Abe Laydon, Chairman
Douglas County Board of Commissioners