About the discussion: State and local housing finance agencies play a critical role in the availability of affordable and workforce housing. The speakers today all work at agencies that finance low- and moderate-income housing. With an understanding of the needs of local housing markets, housing finance agencies are uniquely positioned to responsibly underwrite mortgages—often with down payment assistance—for low-income, first-time homebuyers and to finance the development of multifamily affordable rental housing.

Featured Panelists:

Irv Halter, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA); Halter was appointed as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in May 2015 where he is a member of Gov. John Hickenlooper’s cabinet. DOLA supports communities throughout Colorado by partnering with local governments and community service organizations. Among other duties, Irv is responsible for a statewide team annually distributes over $250 million through State and Federal Grants, as well as other programs that support community development and affordable housing.

Allison George, Director of the DOLA Division of Housing; George was selected to serve as the director of the Division of Housing (DOH) in June 2015. George was previously the DOH deputy director for four years, and more than 20 years of experience in affordable housing development. Before joining DOH, Alison served Mercy Housing Colorado as its regional vice president of Multifamily Housing where she provided overall direction for rental housing developments in Colorado, from initial project conception through project completion.

Cris White, Executive Director and CEO of the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA); White is the executive director and CEO for the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA), a Denver based organization that provides financing for affordable single-family and multifamily housing and small businesses. In addition to having various positions at CHFA for the past 27 years, White has served on the Executive Committee of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, Mayor Hickenlooper’s and Mayor Hancock’s Denver Housing Plan Task Forces, and the Colorado Legislature’s Long-term Fiscal Stability Commission.

DeAnne McCann, Executive Director for the El Paso County Housing Authority; McCann works in El Paso County’s Economic Development Department. Their office is uniquely tasked with a holistic approach to economic development, through diverse incentives for businesses and leveraging federal and state resources for housing and
community development.

Mike Burks, Deputy Director for City of Colorado Springs Housing Authority; The Colorado Springs Housing Authority is dedicated to providing and sustaining quality affordable housing by being innovative, performance-oriented, and results driven. They work to establish effective partnerships and sound fiscal practices to benefit the quality of life in the Pikes Peak Region.

Steve Posey, HUD Program Administrator for the City of Colorado Springs; Posey works in the Community Development Division which provides funding opportunities for non-profit and for-profit housing developers to assist with the development of affordable rental projects that serve both families and individuals. High priority is placed on projects that serve people with incomes at or below 60% of area median income and special needs populations. Affordable housing development includes new construction, acquisition and rehabilitation.

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