Dear Governor Polis,

In light of the State of Colorado’s involvement in the displacement of our unhoused neighbors on July 29, 2020, we the undersigned call upon our state government to provide state owned land in order to advance our efforts to establish Temporary Safe Outdoor Spaces for unsheltered individuals throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Since the onset of the pandemic, significant efforts have advanced at the local level to provide access to indoor options for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. At the same time, however, we have seen an increase in the unsheltered homeless population, and both state and national trends indicate that number will continue to rise in the months ahead. Given the realities of this unprecedented crisis, our coalition has studied CDC guidelines for encampments, as well as national best practices for addressing unsheltered homelessness during the pandemic. That study has led to the development of a robust proposal that seeks to: 1) mitigate the spread of COVID-19 amongst our unsheltered neighbors, and 2) extend equitable access to services and resources including hotels, health care, testing, housing, and ongoing case management. We believe these aims will be met through a resource rich, service rich managed encampment model. After months of discussion with officials of Mayor Hancock’s administration, this effort has received the full support of Denver’s highest leaders. Now, we need your support, through the provision of state-owned land, in order to swiftly implement this temporary harm reduction measure across our city.

We understand that these are unprecedented times and your office faces unenviable challenges. Therefore, we write to you today in a spirit of partnership hoping to work closely together to advance a timely solution to a growing crisis. This week, your administration has shown a willingness to address the growing COVID-19 homelessness crisis through state government intervention. At this time, we the undersigned, call upon your administration to
respond to the needs of the citizens of your state, both housed and unhoused, through another means of state government intervention: **the provision of land to ensure the swift implementation of Temporary Safe Outdoor Spaces for unsheltered individuals.**

We look forward to working with your administration in the days ahead.

Signed,

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado  
Colorado Village Collaborative  
Radian  
The Denver Homeless Leadership Council  
  *Catholic Charities of Denver*  
  *Colorado Coalition of the Homeless*  
  *Colorado Village Collaborative*  
  *The Delores Project*  
  *Denver Rescue Mission*  
  *The Gathering Place*  
  *St. Francis Center*  
  *The Salvation Army*  
  *Urban Peak*  
  *Volunteers of America of Colorado*