



May 25, 2018

To the members of the State Human Services Board:

We the undersigned Colorado faith leaders express our unequivocal support for the proposed rule, “Basic Cash Assistance Increase.” This rule would bolster economic security for Colorado’s most vulnerable families and children, by adjusting the Basic Cash Assistance (“BCA”) grant amounts taking into account inflation and increased costs of housing and basic services.

Many residents who receive BCA rely on this program as their sole source of income. This resource enables greater food security, prevents homelessness, and allows families to meet their basic needs during the time when household members are acquiring the tools to gain employment in the workforce.

Families need assistance for many different reasons. As ministers we have heard many times the ways that lack of decent work that pays a living wage, lack of affordable housing, high costs of food & medical care, or an unexpected emergency or tragedy or change in relationship has left families unable to make it on their own.

Faith communities have for centuries responded to people’s most basic needs through acts of charity and mercy and service. We have food banks and rental assistance programs, we house the homeless in our congregations, we volunteer at soup kitchens and we collect donations of clothing and diapers and winter coats and mittens.

As the ones responsible for the effective functioning of the Colorado Works program, you have the opportunity to impact the thousands of families in our state who participate in the program every year. Increasing the basic cash assistance by 10% will mean that families are able to better care for themselves as they move toward economic and social stability.

As leaders in our faith communities, our various faith traditions call us to care for our neighbors. As members of an organization committed to putting human dignity at the center of public life in our state, we know that increasing the Basic Cash Assistance available to these families is a right step to take.

We commend the compassionate action of the Colorado Department of Human Services in offering this proposal, and we urge the members of the State Human Services Board to support the proposed Basic Cash Assistance increase.

Signed by ____ Colorado clergy and faith leaders (attached).

Unlocking the Power of People
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A MEMBER OF FAITH IN ACTION (formerly the PICO National Network)