



February 7, 2024

Nevada Legislature  
Interim Finance Committee  
401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

**RE: Support of Kenny C. Guinn Center for Policy Priorities Request for ARPA Fiscal Recover Funds to Study Affordable Housing in Nevada**

Dear Chair Monroe-Moreno and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Nevada Housing Coalition (NHC), I would like to express my support of the Kenny C. Guinn Center for Policy Priorities (Guinn Center) and their request for \$150,000 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Fiscal Recover Funds to study affordable housing in Nevada.

NHC is a statewide, member-based nonprofit working to promote and advance affordable housing for all Nevadans through education, advocacy, and collaboration. NHC is the go-to resource across Nevada for affordable housing education and information, including our annual housing conference drawing over 300 attendees from across Nevada and the country.

We partnered with the Guinn Center during the COVID-19 pandemic for an in-depth study on the impact of recession on the economy and housing in Nevada. The Guinn Center is known for their independent research, best practices, and data-driven solutions. Their study resulted in a report released in 2020 that provided a look at historical data from Nevada including median household income, percentage of Nevadans in poverty, median gross rent, rent burden, and unemployment and eviction rates. The report also gave a snapshot of how the COVID-19 shutdowns impacted workers in food service, retail, gaming, and accommodations. The report was an important and informational resource that we shared with our affordable housing stakeholders.

As you may already know, Nevada is ranked as the worst state in the country for available and affordable rental housing for extremely low-income households. According to the 2023 GAP report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Nevada has just 17 homes for every 100 extremely low-income households seeking rentals. The state is also short almost 84,000 rental homes for extremely low-income renters. Having a safe, affordable home is directly related to health, educational outcomes, safety, and economic prosperity.

To end Nevada's affordable housing crisis, we must work together to identify barriers to affordable housing and create evidence-based, actionable policies. This is specifically what the Guinn Center's study will discover, and we urge you to consider their request.

Sincerely,

Maurice Page  
Executive Director  
Nevada Housing Coalition