



The Campaign for Responsible Development

A project of FRESC, the Front Range Economic Strategy Center

Statement of Principles

Millions of tax dollars are committed by Denver and other Front Range cities to subsidize development projects. But tax-subsidized development is not doing enough to build strong and healthy local communities and create economic opportunity for working families. The Campaign for Responsible Development believes tax payers need a voice in how tax-funded subsidies are spent in their communities, and that tax-subsidized projects need to make verifiable commitments to local community benefits and creating economic opportunity for working families.

As a broad and growing coalition of unions, community organizations, and civic leaders, the Campaign for Responsible Development is dedicated to realizing the following principles of economic opportunity and community benefits from tax-funded development:

Quality Jobs that Support Families

Tax-funded projects should not contribute to a growing low-wage workforce that lacks health-care. Instead, they should help create quality, full-time jobs, at family-supporting wages, with health-care, training, and retirement benefits – jobs that allow working families to build healthy, productive, self-sufficient lives in our communities.

Affordable & Accessible Housing

Tax-funded projects should not exacerbate the crisis in affordable housing. Instead, they should offer substantial rental and for-purchase housing opportunities for our moderate- and low-income community members, and should be accessible to our elderly and disabled residents.

Safe, Sustainable, Local Construction

Tax-funded projects should not reward low-bid, poor quality, out-of-town contractors. Instead, they should be built using our well-trained, high quality, local workforce, should incorporate strong local apprenticeship programs to sustain a next generation of local construction workers, and should be built by contractors with strong safety, environmental, and on-time and on-budget completion records.

Neighborhood Safety & Community Investment

Tax-funded projects should not sacrifice safety or quality-of-life for current residents in nearby neighborhoods. Instead, they should employ the highest standards for environmental remediation, contribute positively to community schools and infrastructure, address traffic, parking, and other neighborhood concerns, and be integrated into surrounding communities so all residents enjoy the new amenities their tax-funded investments have made possible.

Economic opportunity and community benefits are the central principles of the Campaign for Responsible Development, but we recognize that shortcomings in these areas have fallen disproportionately on low-income immigrants, women, and people of color. The Campaign for Responsible Development makes a special commitment to realizing our principles to the benefit of these individuals and communities.

Updated April 19, 2005

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