



Open Up is a non-profit housing matchmaker opening up affordable rooms and rentals in Metro Denver.

Our mission is to engage willing hearts and utilize existing space for mutually beneficial transitional housing solutions. To put it simply, we find people with extra space and connect them to people who need an affordable place to live.

“Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

— MLK Jr.

The problem, although complex, is twofold: the **affordability gap** between the need and availability of affordable housing, and the **wage gap** which increases the cost burden for renters/homeowners. Too often, the momentum of our neighbors toward long-term success is halted by inadequate housing or inadequate pay. As of 2016, there is a deficit of 86,640 available and affordable units in Denver, Aurora, and Lakewood.¹ A minimum wage worker would have to pay 90% of their income to afford a market-rate apartment.²

There are 442,000 unused livable spaces in Denver homes³ while less than 87,000 hardworking adults struggle to afford stable housing.⁴

Our solution addresses both the affordability gap and the wage gap by matching low-income adults pursuing self-sufficiency through career development with homeowners, renters, and property owners who rent out their space at an affordable rate. These matches are vetted, empowering, relational, and mutually beneficial; neighbors have access to a safe, stable, and affordable foundation while homeowners earn extra income and make a difference in the community.



Join us to become a part of the solution:
subscribe to our newsletter, become a **financial partner**,
refer a friend, and **apply** for our programs online.

¹ nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report_2018.pdf

² fresc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Unaffordable-Denver.pdf

³ John Burns Real Estate Consulting, LLC

⁴ National Low Income Housing Coalition



Matchmaking Process

Part One	Part Two
1. Referral or Interest Form	6. Match Search
2. Application	7. Home Visit
3. Interview	8. Living Together Agreement
4. Reference and Background Check	9. Trial Period
5. Acceptance	10. Match Period + Ongoing Support

Home-Seeker Requirements

- Adult (age 18+)
- Legal guardian of children they're seeking housing with
- Looking to live in the Denver metro area
- Low-income and/or qualify for government assistance
- Actively pursuing self-sufficiency
 - Involved in a career development program or other job enhancement equivalent (e.g. going to school, in a career development program, apprenticeship program)
 - Currently working full-time or goal is to work full-time job

Our program is felon-friendly, but placement depends on home-provider preference. Almost all of our home-providers have “no drugs” listed as non-negotiable.

Primary Factors Influencing the Match

- Timing of Application and Availability
- Location
- Kids
- Pets
- Gender
- Affordability (home-providers may charge rent up to 70% of market rate)
- Match Duration