



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

***For Immediate Release***

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### **CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION HOSTS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS REGARDING STRATEGIES FOR THE UNHOUSED**

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. October 20, 2023** – The City of Grand Junction is hosting “A Community Conversation About Houselessness” on Thursday, November 2, 2023, from 4-6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium 250 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St. to gather additional input about the needs of the unhoused community as part of its overall strategy to address concerns about available services and resources.

In addition to gathering input from the community, the city will share the Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan as it was developed to reactivate the four historic parks in downtown Grand Junction. This meeting is being held for community members in addition to others scheduled to be held virtually in October with focus groups planned to include business leaders, faith organizations, service providers and first responders during the second week of November. [Registration for focus groups is available online.](#)

In June 2023, the City of Grand Junction began conducting an Unhoused Needs Assessment to understand the current and projected needs among people experiencing houselessness. In addition to having conducted a survey with a full report planned to be presented on November 13, the city is gathering input online using [EngageGJ.org](https://engagegj.org) and with the series of community meetings and focus groups. Community input from all of these meetings and from the EngageGJ.org project page will be used to further develop strategies to effectively meet current and future needs, fill key gaps, and overcome barriers within the community’s housing stock and services for people experiencing houselessness.

JG Research and Evaluation was contracted by Grand Junction to conduct the Unhoused Needs Assessment and Strategy Report. JG is an applied social science research firm based in Bozeman, MT that utilizes a diverse suite of quantitative and qualitative methodological skills to complete community-wide needs assessments. The OMNI institute, based in Denver, CO, is a collaborator on this project with JG and city staff and will guide the strategy sessions.

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