
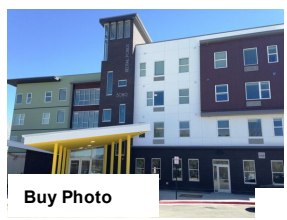


Redtail Ponds is saving you money. Here's how.

 [Sarah Jane Kyle, sarahkyle@coloradoan.com](#) 5:41 p.m. MDT June 30, 2016

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Redtail Ponds is a 51,000 square foot, four-story housing complex that offers 40 permanent supportive housing units for homeless individuals with a disability and 20 affordable housing units for low-income individuals in Fort Collins. Sarah Jane Kyle/The Coloradoan



(Photo: Coloradoan library)

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Redtail Ponds saved Fort Collins taxpayers more than \$200,000 in its first year by reducing emergency health, shelter and crisis care costs.

The savings, detailed on a recently released report from Fort Collins Housing Authority, are based on what FCHA spokeswoman Kim Iwanski said was a conservative estimate by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, which estimates a \$5,000 annual savings when a homeless person finds housing in the Denver region.

By that estimate, you can count on an annual savings of \$200,000 if Redtail remains at capacity, as 40 of Redtail Ponds' 60 apartments are designated for formerly homeless individuals.

FUNDING BOOST: [Fort Collins gets \\$70k to help homeless veterans](#)

But in its first year, 58 of Redtail Ponds residents were previously homeless, meaning the actual savings for the year were closer to \$290,000, according to the Alliance's estimated savings.

Here are some other highlights from Redtail Ponds first year, March 2015 to March 2016:

- No evictions
- No neighbor complaints
- 95 percent of clients are still stably housed
- 14 residents are enrolled in employment training
- 10 residents have rejoined the workforce

When Redtail Ponds opened last year at 5080 Fossil Boulevard in Fort Collins, it was touted as a revolutionary model to combat chronic homelessness and help those with

barriers to attaining permanent housing, including disabilities and substance abuse disorders.

HOMELESSNESS: [Six months of struggle: Fort Collins family seeks home](#)

In Redtail Ponds' first year, the majority of residents — 93 percent — had at least one disability, with 65 percent of residents having a physical disability and 87 percent having a mental health condition, according to FCHA. Forty percent had a substance abuse disorder.

Learn more about Redtail Ponds at fchousing.com or by calling 970-225-8210.

Follow Sarah Jane Kyle on Twitter [@sarahjanekyle](https://twitter.com/sarahjanekyle) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/reportersarahjane. Keep up with social issues in Northern Colorado by subscribing to the [Life Connected newsletter](#).

More information about the residents at Redtail Ponds

- Residents range from 19 to 80 years old
- 20 percent have experienced domestic violence
- 17 percent have a developmental disability
- 14 residents are women
- 22 residents are veterans