



caring for Denver

FOUNDATION

Lorez Meinhold, Executive Director

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About Us



Founded by and for Denver
in 2019



Independent, non-profit
foundation funded by sales
tax dollars



Addresses Denver's
mental health &
substance misuse needs

13 Board members appointed by the Mayor, District Attorney, and City Council

Leslie Herod
State Representative
Board Chair
*Appointed by the District
Attorney*

Christina Carlson
Urban Peak
Board Vice Chair
Appointed by City Council

Dawn Davenport, PhD
WellPower
Appointed by the Mayor

Katie McLoughlin
City Attorney
Appointed by the Mayor

John Walsh
Denver District Attorney
Appointed by the Mayor

Anne-Marie Braga
Denver Department of Human
Services
Appointed by the Mayor

Keith Hayes
5280 High School
Appointed by City Council

Jesse Ogas
9News
Appointed by City Council

Dellena Aguilar
Mental Health Therapist
Board Secretary
Appointed by City Council

Frank Locantore
Colfax Ave Business
Improvement
District
Appointed by City Council

Tristan Sanders
Department of Public Health
& Environment
Appointed by the Mayor

Regina Huerter
Policy Research Associates
*Appointed by the District
Attorney*

Donna Lynne
Denver Health
Board Treasurer
Appointed by the Mayor

2024 Annual Report

95,015

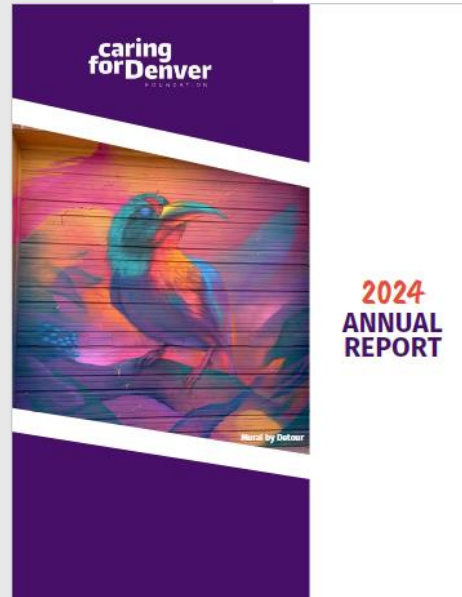
Denverites impacted

\$43+ million

approved grants

103 grantees

serving Denver



[Link forthcoming](#)

Our Impact



INCLUSIVE ACCESS
Care that resonates,
in places that feel
comfortable, at times
that work.



ATTENTION TO FIT
Being understood,
connected, and respected by
those providing care.



CARE OVER TIME
Consistent, flexible care
options throughout the
healing journey.

Grant Award Overview



**2024 AVAILABLE
GRANT DOLLARS**

\$45,617,148

**2024 AWARDED
GRANT DOLLARS**

\$43,677,157

Five-Year Grant Summary

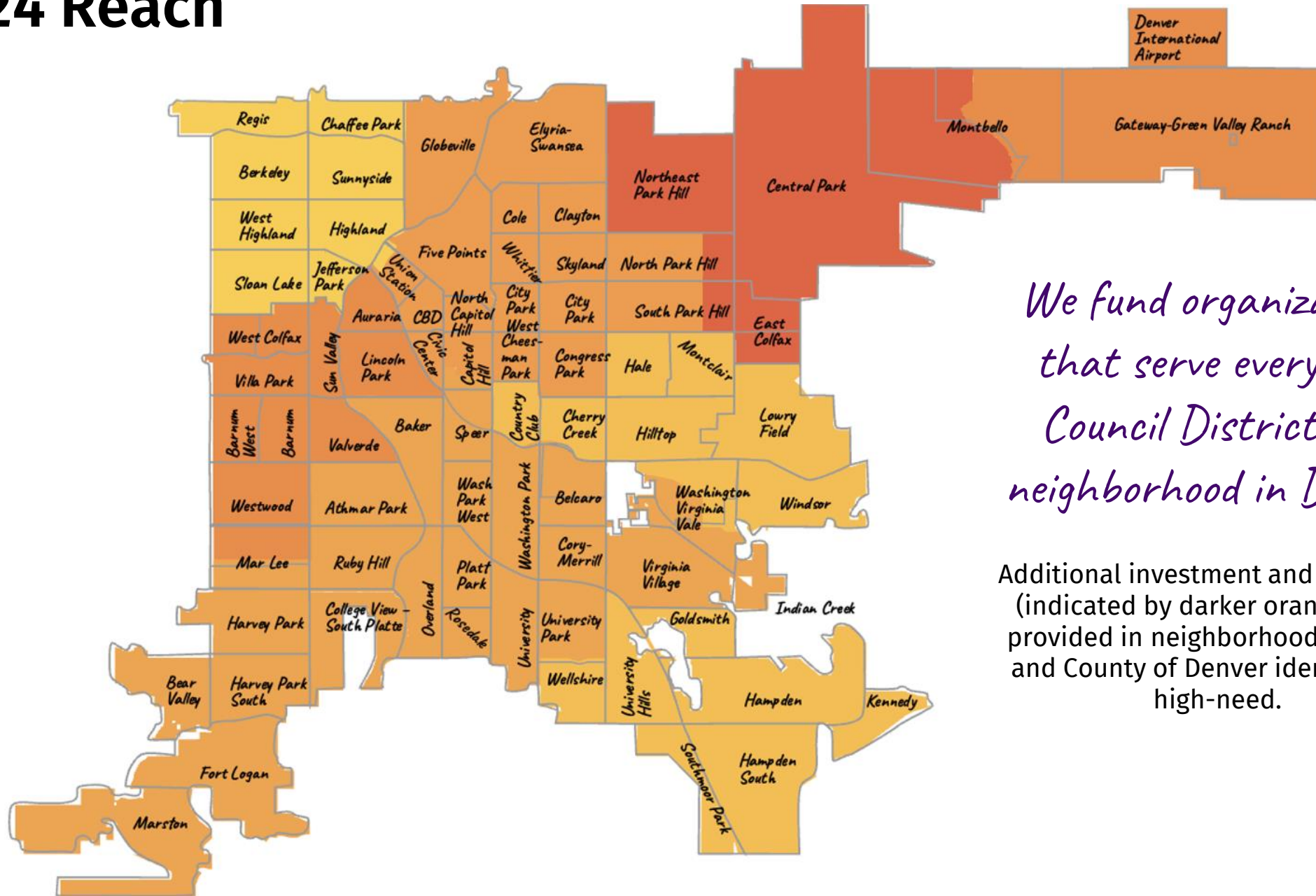
Alternatives to Jail	\$ 57,088,004
Community Centered Solutions & Care Provision	\$ 60,043,028
Youth	\$ 45,361,715
Innovative and Responsive	\$ 16,133,706
Facilities	\$ 7,146,414
Admin	\$ 10,442,018
Total	\$ 196,214,884

Goal: 85-97% Awarded

Sales Tax 2019	\$36,822,629
Sales Tax 2020	\$34,641,511
Sales Tax 2021	\$42,380,085
Sales Tax 2022	\$46,978,088
Sales Tax 2023	\$48,018,051
Total Sales Tax Received	\$208,840,364
Total Awarded+ 2024 Allocated*	\$196,314,884
Total Unallocated	\$12,625,880

Percent Awarded: 94%

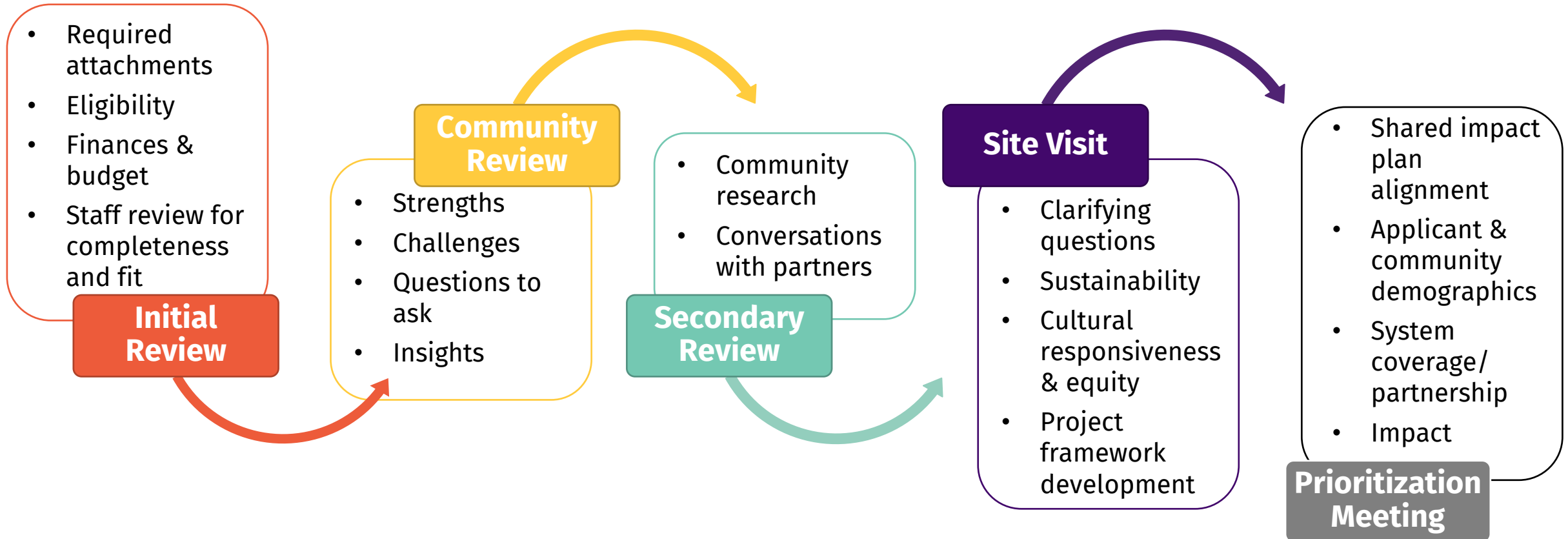
2024 Reach



*We fund organizations
that serve every City
Council District and
neighborhood in Denver.*

Additional investment and resources
(indicated by darker orange) were
provided in neighborhoods the City
and County of Denver identified as
high-need.

Due Diligence



Factors for Grant Selection

Prioritize applications that:

- Align with Caring for Denver's mission and founding Ordinance
- Are driven by entities that are the "right" fit given the community context, shown through partnership
- Engage the people being served to help inform program design and outcomes
- Increase access to mental health and substance misuse supports
- Reach communities who have been impacted by trauma and inequitable access to resources and supports



Evaluation & Learning



Months 1-3: Connect on intended outcomes and reporting plan



Months 5-7: Mid-year check in to review progress and goals



Months 11-12: Learning call for quantitative and qualitative data reporting

LEARNING-DRIVEN *Evaluation*

More valid and reliable data...

- Grantees use measures that make sense for their community and context

...guided by community expertise...

- Grantees tell us what is meaningful, possible, and relevant in real-time

...to address our shared goals...

- We work together to ensure alignment and progress toward our Shared Impact Plan

... and strengthen Denver's care system.

- Grantees can make a bigger impact, get additional funding from others, and advocate for what works



INCLUSIVE ACCESS

Care that resonates,
in places that feel
comfortable, at
times that work.

- **11,856 Denverites** increased engagement or retention in supports
- **6,660 Denverites** increased connections for help and support
- **6,981 Denverites** increased skills or awareness for addressing mental health and substance misuse issues
- **3,934 Denverites** increased resilience and ability to cope with challenges

Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver provides a team of professionals who implement preventive interventions and weave social-emotional learning into all activities, building a foundation for mental well-being in a trusted space.

1,126

Youth received one-on-one case management from embedded mental health professionals

Cozy carts are designated areas where youth can self-regulate or seek support during emotional distress. Staff saw a notable uptick in kids utilizing the cozy carts once they learned about them, and some Clubs reported daily use. This initiative contributes to fostering a trauma-informed and self-aware community. Moreover, it equips staff with visible coping tools to support youth throughout the day.



ATTENTION TO FIT
Being understood,
respected, and
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providing care.

- **2,900 Denverites** experienced reduced disparities in engagement, use of service by those who are not typically seen or served
- **1,618 Denverites** reported increased trust, satisfaction, comfort with care
- **1,185 Denverites** experienced reduced stigma
- **398 Caregivers and providers** are able to stay engaged in their role and/or feel valued and supported

Commún provides community-led mental health programming for teens, adults, and elders designed and implemented by the community members receiving mental health care.

55%

of clients have never previously received mental health supports prior to engaging with Commún.

Because of the trust, representation, and rapport built with Commún, stigma around mental health has decreased and people are healing together in community. People who identify as BIPOC, immigrants and refugees, and who do not typically see themselves represented in mental health spaces are accessing and staying engaged in mental health services.



CARE OVER TIME

Consistent, flexible
care options
throughout the
healing journey

- **2,354 Denverites** experienced increased options for crisis care and acute care needs
- **2,177 Denverites** experienced improved coordination, particularly across types and levels of care
- **702 Denverites** saw increased retention through transitions
- **2,614 Denverites** engaged in services and supports experienced increased stability over time

The Denver District Attorney's Office

prioritizes care transitions
to divert individuals with
mental health or
substance misuse
challenges away from
formal prosecution,
reducing further justice
system involvement while
supporting rehabilitation.

51%

of active clients
participated in
mental health and
or substance
misuse services

"In other programs, you'd expect maybe 30% engagement – we are successful because our team works so closely with partners they refer to and make sure there is clear alignment in goals and approaches to working with these clients."

Systems Change

Metropolitan State University:

- Developing a behavioral health workforce pipeline and strengthening community partner connections providing mental health and substance misuse care to their constituents.

Denver Health:

- Transforming Health by Reducing Inequities for the Vulnerable (THRIVE) expands behavioral health care coordination services at Denver Health to improve treatment accessibility—particularly for high-risk youth, patients experiencing homelessness, and justice-involved individuals.
- Therapeutic Response and Urgent Stabilization Team (TRUST) supports care transitions for students at risk of suicide and to address traumatic events at schools within Denver Public Schools

Capacity Building:

\$2.5+ million invested since 2021 to strengthen grantees capacity and sustainability



Community Engagement

98

*Community Engagements
in 2024*



*Audience at Caring for Denver's
5-year Anniversary Celebration*

Year-round, we engage with stakeholders through interviews and conversations, participating in and convening local events, and conducting community reviewer sessions to guide our work.

2024 Key Takeaways

- **Integrated Approach Needed:** Co-locate mental health, trauma, and substance misuse supports with organizations that provide education, employment, and social supports.
- **Increased Accessibility:** Increase accessible mental health and substance misuse services with a focus on care that reflects the community being served.
- **Community-Based Solutions:** Strengthening local community-based mental health and substance misuse care systems and resources is key to addressing these complex issues.

Questions?



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