



Jewish Family Service of Colorado (JFS) enthusiastically endorses the proposed changes to Ordinance 302 for Healthy Food for Denver's Kids. JFS provide food to Denver youth through its Weinberg Food Pantry located in Southeast Denver and our Lunchbox Express, a mobile food delivery system that distributes free breakfast and lunch to kids during the summer when they don't have access to free or reduced-fee lunches in their schools. There is no proof of income required and all children 18 and under qualify for free meals. We served over 1,000 youth with 120,000 meals during the summer of 2020.

The Weinberg Food Pantry at JFS experienced a 400% increase in demand for food and supplies during the pandemic with over 85% of our clients residing in Denver. Since March 2020, we have served 92,000 individuals from 24,000 households including 35,000 kids with 2 million pounds of food and supplies.

JFS has been ineligible from applying for grant funding from Healthy Food for Denver's Kids since a "majority of activities" that JFS does is not solely directed to solving food insecurity among Denver youth. As you see from our impact numbers, we feed a significant number of Denver youth and pride ourselves on the impact we have through these programs on children in our community.

JFS supports and welcomes the proposed changes so that we can strengthen our collective goals providing vital food security to Denver youths.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda P. Foster".

Linda P. Foster
President & CEO
Jewish Family Service of Colorado