



caring
for Denver
FOUNDATION

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Timeline

SEPT-OCT 2019

After our contract with the City and County of Denver was completed, the Caring for Denver Board met to identify our mission, vision and values. We finalized staffing and began working with the Denver community to determine our funding priorities as required in the Ordinance.

LISTENING & LEARNING



JAN-FEB 2020

We checked our work with community experts and our board to refine both our strategic plan and finalize and announce four funding areas.

FUNDING



SEPT-DEC 2020

Our board approved our strategic plan, and we're refining it based on what we're learning. We will share it with DDPHE and the community in December.

ADAPTING



LAUNCHING

OCT-DEC 2019

After reviewing existing research, we gathered 1,600 community perspectives to draft our funding priorities and strategic plan. We then submitted our draft funding priorities to the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE).



SHARING

APRIL-AUG 2020

We launched three funding opportunities, reviewing over 275 applications, and totaling \$23 million* of funding in 2019/2020. Denver's response to each funding area further shaped our strategic plan.

* This does not include our \$10 million Youth funding opportunity, launched in early November.



REPORTING

JANUARY 2021+

In alignment with best practices and our organizational values, we will refine our strategic plan through community feedback and in response to our funding opportunities to adapt to community needs.

Board of Directors

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

Leslie Herod

*State Representative, Board Chair
DA appointment*

Carl Clark

*Mental Health Center of Denver
Board Treasurer
Mayor Appointment*

Kristin Bronson

*City Attorney, Board Secretary
Mayor Appointment*

Beth McCann

*Denver District Attorney
Mayor Appointment*

Don Mares

*Department of Human Services
Mayor Appointment*

Gabrielle Rodriguez

*La Conexion
City Council Appointment*

Kate Stigberg

*Healthier Colorado
City Council Appointment*

Christina Carlson

*Urban Peak, Board Vice Chair
City Council Appointment*

Dellena Aguilar

*Mental Health Therapist
City Council Appointment*

Frank Locantore

*Colfax Ave Business Improvement
District
City Council Appointment*

Jeff Holliday

*Department of Public Health & Environment
Mayor Appointment*

Regina Huerter

*Policy Research Associates
DA Appointment*

Robin Wittenstein

*Denver Health
Mayor Appointment*

Our Charge

Mission

To address Denver's mental health and substance misuse needs by growing community-informed solutions, dismantling stigma, and turning the community's desire to help into action.

Vision

A vibrant Denver where all communities are strengthened by the mental health and substance misuse support they need.





Strategic Funding Areas

- **Alternatives to Jail** – Greater supports, connections, practices, and opportunities to redirect people experiencing mental health and substance misuse crisis away from and out of the criminal justice system.
- **Community-Centered Solutions** – Use community knowledge, strengths, and resources to foster connectedness and support
- **Youth** – Increase wellbeing and resiliency in youth (0-26)
- **Care Provision** – Better support access to quality mental health and substance misuse care at the right time



download the report at
caring4denver.org/about

Our Grantmaking

To Date:

94 grants **\$23** million

- 3-4 funding cycles in a year
- Board sets grant making allocations in Feb/March after we receive reconciled numbers from the City's budget office
- Multi-year grants are encumbered in the year awarded
- Charitable organizations and City agencies/entities are eligible



COVID-19 SUPPORT FUND

The COVID-19 Support Fund encompasses grants and support in several areas -- **44 grants totaling \$985,000:**

- 1 An emergency childcare program for children of those providers in Denver supporting critically at-risk populations.
- 2 Funding to support self-care including crisis intervention for support and access to behavioral health for those on the frontlines.
- 3 Flexible and responsive funds to those addressing mental health, substance misuse, and trauma so they can continue serving communities in need.
- 4 Funding to address mental health, substance misuse and trauma needs in the Black community

→ Find more information including the organizations funded at caring4denver.org/covid-19-support-fund

Alternatives to Jail

- 5280 High School
- Brain Injury Association of Colorado
- Colorado Circles for Change (Formerly Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of Denver)
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- Denver Alliance for Street Health Response (DASHR)
- Harm Reduction Action Center
- La Raza Services, Inc.
- Life-Line Colorado
- Make a Chess Move (MACM)
- Mile-High Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Second Chance Center
- Sobriety House, Inc.
- The Center for Trauma & Resilience
- The Delores Project
- The Empowerment Program
- Tribe Recovery Homes

\$3.7 million will fund the offices within the City and County of Denver and as stipulated by the founding ordinance for the Foundation:

- City & County of Denver, County Court
- City & County of Denver, Denver Sheriff
- City & County of Denver, Fire Department
- City & County of Denver, Police Department (2 grants)
- City & County of Denver, Department of Public Safety
- City & County of Denver, District Attorney's Office

23 grants **\$9.2** million

Community Centered Solutions

Benefits in Action
 The Center for African American Health
 Centro Humanitario
 CHARG Resource Center
 Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
 Colorado Artists in Recovery
 Colorado Gerontological Society
 Colorado Village Collaborative
 D3 Arts
 Denver Children’s Advocacy Center
 Denver Public Library Friends
 The Don’t Look Back Center
 Envision: You

The Gathering Place
 La Cocina
 Mirror Image Arts
 Montbello Organizing Committee
 Platteforum
 Project Helping
 Sisters of Color United for Education
 Sober AF Entertainment
 Soul 2 Soul Sisters
 The Storytellers Project
 Think 360 Arts for Learning
 ViVe
 Youth Seen

26 grants **\$5.6** million

Strategic Plan

2020-2023

Connections and Supports
Liên đới và Trợ giúp

Suicide Prevention
Phòng ngừa

Prevention
Phòng Ngừa

Many sizes
Ai cũng

Seeking Care
Tìm Sự Chăm Sóc



Strategic Plan Components:



Organizational Strategy



Funding Strategy



Learning & Evaluation Strategy

Overview



A young boy in a wheelchair is laughing joyfully, his eyes closed and mouth wide open. He is wearing a light-colored polo shirt. Behind him, a woman in a light-colored shirt and dark pants is standing and smiling, her hands on the wheelchair's backrest. The background shows a park-like setting with trees and a fence. The entire image has a purple overlay.

Organizational Strategy

How we work



Organizational Goals



Promote Community-Authored and Community-Driven Solutions



Establish Organizational Integrity and Stewardship



Promote Equity



Demonstrate Meaningful Action & Learning



Promote Community- Authored & Community- Driven Solutions

Establish community connection, build partnerships, and trust and elevate community voice

How we will get there (objectives):

1. Create linkages and leverage connections with and among communities, organizations, and systems to help mobilize community ideas, information, and resources
2. Ensure community members involved in and impacted by our funding areas play a meaningful role in directing the use of Caring for Denver funds
3. Explore, and invest in, what organizations need to be successful in carrying out community authored and driven work
4. Support grantees in being the leaders and drivers of their grant implementation



Establish Organizational Integrity and Stewardship

Develop and implement practices and structures that promote consistency, reliability and thought leadership

How we will get there (Objectives):

1. Prioritize reliability and consistency in our operational process and procedures (grant application, grant management) for applicants, grantees, and staff
2. Monitor and meet contractual agreements, audit findings, and conflict of interest requirements
3. Build relationships and connections with key stakeholders to strengthen reputation and credibility
4. Strategically communicate the Foundation's mission and progress to increase community awareness
5. Retain and leverage board and staff expertise
6. Train and engage staff in emergent learning practices
7. Provide opportunities to understand, implement, and improve roles through learning



Promote Equity

Ensure funding and support moves Denver towards equitable outcomes where race, ethnicity, ability, immigration status, and identity can no longer be used to predict outcomes

How we will get there (Objectives):

1. Work to identify, with community partner input, internal equity concepts and opportunities to promote equitable practice and progress within the Foundation.
2. Connect, build rapport, fund, & steward partnerships with organizations that are addressing mental health/ substance misuse with an equity lens
3. Develop, utilize, and evaluate equity-based practices for grant review and grant management
4. Invest in capacity building/ technical assistance to further support organizations doing the work in community



Demonstrate Meaningful Action & Learning

Become a leading voice and influencer in addressing Denver's mental health and substance misuse needs

How we will get there (Objectives):

1. Communicate to Denver audiences who and what is being funded, and its intended and actual impact on substance misuse and/or mental health issues in Denver
2. Track internal Foundation progress, learning, and adaptation with respect to the strategic plan. Share key insights to support learning and transparency
3. Contribute to and/or lead community conversations around learning and impact to influence future funding, programs, operations, and policy
4. Partner with the Denver Department of Public Health to share key learning and best practices that can inform and improve work related to the Road to Wellness Framework

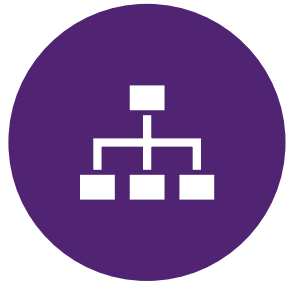


Organizational Evaluation & Learning

How we learn and adjust

Emergent Approach

The organizational impact statement and goals and objectives of the strategic plan are used by staff as the framework for emergent learning cycles. This creates dedicated space and the tools necessary to:



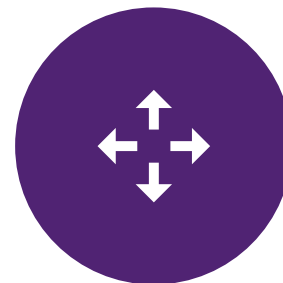
Coordinate and synchronize work at the organizational level



Routinely identify goals and targets for the work



Document progress and barriers to progress for the organization



Support decision-making and future action taking that is evidence-informed

Impact Goal

Agencies and organizations are funded to implement programs and interventions that increase Denver residents' ability to seek support, to find quality care that "fits" their needs, and to stay connected to resources over time that match their changing needs in order to reduce substance misuse, and its negative effects, and promote better mental health for all members of the Denver community.



Grantmaking Evaluation & Learning

How we learn and adjust

Grantmaking Principles

We are Community Focused.

For each funding area, we use insights from the Denver community to identify the outcomes and impacts desired by community members. These funding frames drive the overall evaluative processes for the Foundation and its funding areas.

We are Equity Driven.

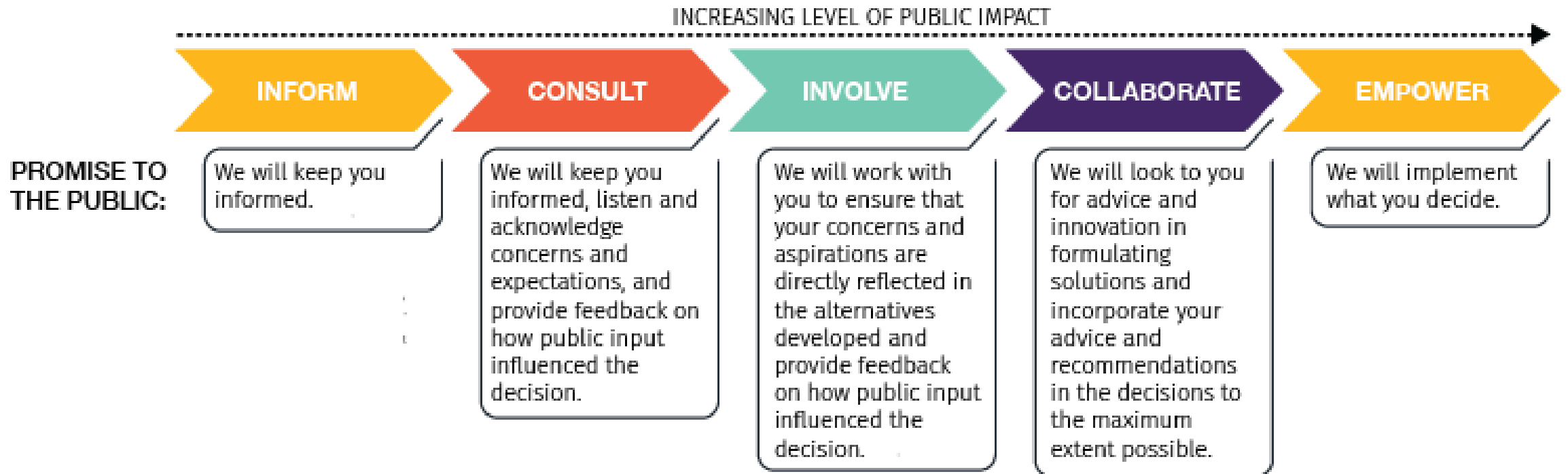
We work with grantees to develop an individualized evaluation frame that considers their funding objectives, hypotheses of change, their interests and needs for monitoring and assessing their own work, and their capacity for evaluation.

We Foster Meaningful Impact.

Grantees are asked to address, measure, and report on one or more impacts identified by community members and included in the funding area call for proposals. Additionally, grantees are asked to participate in learning activities with the Foundation to support understanding and improvements for grantees and for future grantmaking efforts.

Our Funding Approach: Participatory Philanthropy

The International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation defines the varying roles of the public in participatory processes.



Community-Defined Impact

Increase Denver residents' ability to seek and use supports, to find quality care that "fits" their needs, and to stay connected to resources over time that match their changing needs to reduce substance misuse and promote better mental health

Alternatives to Jail	Community Centered Solutions	Youth	Care Provision
<p>Reduced System Entry by addressing mental health/substance misuse for those at risk of incarceration</p> <p>Reduced Recidivism for those released from incarceration impacted by mental health/substance misuse issues</p> <p>Increased Community Supports for those released from incarceration that promote recovery and wellbeing</p>	<p>Increased public visibility around mental health and substance misuse that reduces stigma and/or increases understanding and supportive actions by community</p> <p>Increased connections to and use of social networks and relationships that reduce isolation connected to stress, trauma, mental health, and substance misuse</p> <p>Increased use of supports that meet people where they are to address mental health and/or substance misuse needs</p>	<p>Reduced harm to self and others through addressing trauma, mental health, and substance misuse</p> <p>Increased ability to demonstrate healthy resilience for coping with challenges and stresses in life</p> <p>Increased awareness and involvement by family and allies in ways that help youth address trauma, mental health and substance misuse</p> <p>Improved mental health and/or reduced substance misuse by youth</p>	<p>(TBD early 2021)</p>

Among the foundations we have partnered with Caring For Denver has by far been the most relationally-driven, even reflected in this post-funding questionnaire. We appreciate the thoughtful oversight of funding allocation, flexibility, and engagement to truly transform the mental health landscape in Denver for the better.



People typically recover in community – rarely do they recover in isolation

COVID has affected people very differently and folks who are having the hardest time are unfortunately those that are often in the worst positions—lowest wage paying jobs, dangerous situations, and unwelcome homes. They are experiencing the pandemic very differently. You making the investment into the organizations in community that are helping those in the hardest situations—this support, in this moment, will be important for a long time.

Communities know what solutions work and what the barriers are

Caring For Denver is really trying to engage community and meet community where they are at. It's a powerful thing and really, great to see.

As a Denver taxpayer for the past 48 years, this is the first time I've been able to see my tax dollars directly impacting our community with kindness and love and in serving everyone in Denver who needs support with mental health/substance misuse issues. You're doing great things and hopefully other funders, in the philanthropic space and also government funders, will take notice of the work you do—how you are connecting to community, your accessibility and responsiveness to the community is amazing. And we thank you for it.

Thank you from me and all our staff. You took a group of people with lived experience and gave them a chance to have an impact. Its beyond words... We are committed to making a difference and you are helping us make a difference for this community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



It is important that youth themselves are part of the strategies and how services are delivered

Empowerment happens when youth participate in their healing