

# Denver Thrives Program

Safety, Homelessness, Education &  
Housing Committee

December 13, 2023

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# Today's Action Item

Request to accept funding from the Caring For Denver Foundation in the amount of \$1,533,685 to implement the Denver Thrives Program at the AID Center.

# The Assessment, Intake, and Diversion (AID) Center

The AID Center is a centralized service hub that connects people with community and systems-based service providers to:

- Fill service gaps for individuals 18 and over with current or risk of future justice involvement resulting from non-violent crimes.
- Address behavioral health challenges, or other underlying conditions that lead to crime, by connecting people with system- and community-based services as a more sustainable and comprehensive public safety approach.
- Provide a continuum of services with a singular access point to meet people's holistic needs.

The AID Center is staffed by two city employees, a security officer, and a network of volunteer community and system-based service providers.

# The Assessment, Intake, and Diversion (AID) Center

Service providers at the AID Center track their individual service outcomes. The AID Center tracks the number of people it connects to services, the number of connections it makes to service providers, and the type of connection(s) made.

During its first pilot year, the AID Center connected 1,217 individuals to a variety of services provided by its network of volunteer service providers.



# The Assessment, Intake, and Diversion (AID) Center

Services	Number of Connections
• Identification/DMV services.....	603 connections
• Basic needs services.....	513 connections
• Housing navigation services.....	375 connections
• Employment services.....	248 connections
• Food insecurity services.....	156 connections
• Transportation services.....	150 connections
• Substance misuse services.....	84 connections
• Medical services.....	58 connections
• Mental health services.....	55 connections
• Dental services.....	45 connections
• Veteran services.....	43 connections

# The Assessment, Intake, and Diversion (AID) Center

The AID Center partners with community and system-based service providers to host special events that serve the community.

## Fresh Start Events

Hosted two events in 2023 in partnership with criminal justice stakeholders, serving 57 people in July and 91 people in October.

## Terrific Thursdays

Hosted monthly on the fourth Thursday to connect people with vital health and social services, including:

- Free medical care
- Free dental care (for those with Medicare)
- Free vouchers for IDs
- Free vouchers for birth certificates

## Community Events

Partner with community members to host classes and events that benefit the community.

- Free grant writing classes for non-profit organizations
- Free employment training
- Clothing and toy drives

# Denver Thrives Program

*Resolution 23-1912 approves a \$1,533,685 grant from the Caring for Denver Foundation to fund the Denver Thrives program.*

Denver Thrives will connect BIPOC people who identify as female and have experienced childhood trauma, partner violence, or substance misuse with community service providers who have a demonstrated history of providing gender-specific mental health or substance misuse services.

Grant dollars will primarily fund community providers approved by the Caring for Denver Foundation who have a demonstrated history of providing gender-specific mental health or substance misuse services. The providers will be awarded one year of funding with the potential for a second year of funding based on year one outcomes.

## Year One Funding

**\$754,405**

- Program Administrator
- Community Providers

\$63,588  
\$690,817

## Year Two Funding

**\$779,280**

- Program Administrator
- Community Providers

\$64,860  
\$714,420

# Denver Thrives Program

Denver Thrives community service providers will receive funding to hire mental health and substance misuse case managers, behavioral health licensed therapists, and substance misuse clinicians to provide programming that supports the program's objectives to:

- Improve or maintain wellness
- Increase connections to mental health and substance misuse care
- Reduce entry to the criminal justice system for those living with mental health or substance misuse
- Reduce recidivism in the criminal justice system for those living with mental health or substance misuse

## Implementation Timeline

**January/February 2024:** Hire Program Administrator

**February/March 2024:** Finalize contracts with approved community partners

**March/April 2024:** Launch Program



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# Questions?