



---

# Denver Asylum Seeker Program Contracts

**Denver City Council**

**Safety, Housing, Education and Homelessness Committee**

**July 10, 2024**

**10:30 – 12:00 p.m.**

**Sarah Plastino, Newcomer Program Director, Denver Human Services**

# Presentation Agenda

1. Denver Asylum Seeker Program (DASP)  
Overview
2. Haven of Hope Contract
3. ViVe Wellness & Papagayo Contracts
4. Other DASP Contracts
5. Question & Answer

# Goals of the Denver Asylum Seeker Program

- Assist large number of newcomers who now call Denver home to settle into communities
- Compliment federal refugee resettlement programs
  - Asylum seekers not eligible for resettlement or public benefits
- Assist newcomers with seeking asylum & work authorization
- Support newcomers during period when prohibited from working
- Capitalize on waiting period for work authorization to increase newcomer job skills and train for critical needs sectors

# **Haven of Hope: Administration of the Denver Asylum Seeker Program and Food Assistance**

**Contract # SOCSV-202474739-00**

# Overview – Denver Asylum Seeker Program Administration and Food Assistance

- **Term: Aug. 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025**
- **Budget Maximum: \$5,789,308**
- **Agency: Denver Human Services (DHS)**
- **Fund: Border Crisis Response Fund**
- **Budgeting Status: included in 2024 approved budget**
- **Services: administration of Denver Asylum Seeker Program, food & personal item assistance**

# Haven of Hope



- **Serving the Denver community since 1998**
- **Co-Executive Directors: Derrick Vaughns & Ondrea Trahan**
- **Located near downtown Denver in La Alma-Lincoln Park**
- **Current services include meals, community resources, counseling, food boxes, internet access, clothing pantry, mail services, hygiene kits, health access, dental access, and more**
- **Already provides culturally- and linguistically-appropriate trauma-informed services to approx. 1,000 newcomers / mo.**

# Services under the Contract

- Administering Denver Asylum Seeker Program (DASP) enrollment
- Creating & Administering DASP waitlist
- Providing DASP newcomer customer service
- Coordinating among DASP partners
- Managing food, personal items and cash assistance (debit cards)
- Managing DASP RTD passes, cell phones, and laundry assistance
- Providing existing services to DASP participants & newcomers on waitlist (food, clothing, counseling, etc.)

# **ViVe Wellness**

**Contract # SOCSV-202474738-00**

**Papagayo**

**Contract # SOCSV-202474737-00**

**Rental Assistance**



# Overview – Rental Assistance

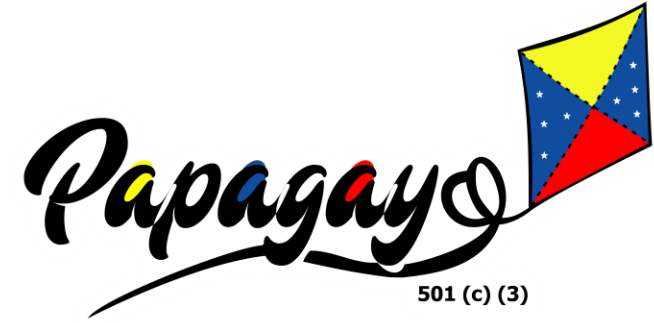
- **Term: Aug. 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025**
- **Budget Maximum:**
  - ViVe: \$7,863,598
  - Papagayo: \$2,924,179
- **Agency: Denver Human Services (DHS)**
- **Fund: Border Crisis Response Fund**
- **Budgeting Status: included in 2024 approved budget**
- **Services: rental and utilities assistance for Denver Asylum Seeker Program participants**

# ViVe



- **Serving the Denver community since 2016**
- **Executive Director: Yoli Casas**
- **Non-profit organization serving newcomers and immigrant youth focused on holistic wellness**
- **Current services include newcomer rental assistance, case management, shelter staffing, summer camps, education, resources navigation, food assistance and more**
- **Already provides culturally- and linguistically-appropriate trauma-informed services to approx. 4,100 newcomers / mo.**

# Papagayo



- **Serving the Colorado immigrant community since 2017**
- **Executive Director: Marielena Suarez**
- **Non-profit organization serving newcomers and immigrant youth focused on social development and education**
- **Current services include newcomer rental assistance, case management, education, entrepreneurial supports, and more**
- **Already provides culturally- and linguistically-appropriate trauma-informed services to approx. 1,100 newcomers / mo.**

# Services under the Contracts

- Administering rental and utilities assistance benefit to approximately 300 households at a time
  - 230 (ViVe), 70 (Papagayo)
- Assisting Denver Asylum Seeker Program participants in acquiring rental units, entering into leases, moving and furnishing units, managing leases and utilities
- Case management related to housing
- Education on financial management skills related to housing

# Features of the Contracts

- Monthly reporting of data on a variety of measures
- Quarterly and annual reports
- Adequate navigator staffing to manage size of DASP cohort
- Staffing for administration and financial management of the contract
- Development of policies and procedures with the City related to various aspects of the program

# Other Denver Asylum Seeker Program Contracts

- **Village Exchange Center – Denver Human Services - negotiating**
  - Additional food and personal item access
- **El Centro Humanitario – Denver Economic Development & Opportunity - executed**
  - WorkReady program
- **Colorado Asylum Center – Human Rights & Community Partnerships - executed**
  - Asylum and Work Permit Clinics for DASP participants
- **Case Management – Denver Human Services (forthcoming Request for Applications (RFA))**
- **Resettlement program – Denver Human Services (forthcoming Request for Applications (RFA))**

Questions?