

Caring for Denver Foundation Agreement

November 6, 2024

Safety, Housing, Education & Health Committee

Empowering Denver's communities to live better, longer



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Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Background**
 - Timeline
 - Ordinance
 - Impact
- **Caring for Denver Foundation**
 - Board
 - Function
 - Community Engagement
- **Contract**
 - Overview
 - Accountability

Resolution 24-1520

Approves a contract with Caring For Denver Foundation from 1-01-2025 to 12-31-2029 to administer the Caring for Denver Fund to increase mental health and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction services, citywide. (ENVHL-202475076).

Background– Timeline

✓ 2018

Initiated Ordinance 301, Voter Approved

💰 2019

City Council approved CFD special revenue fund & appropriation, initial contract negotiated

♥ 2020

Caring for Denver Audit

🎯 2020

Contract amended based on recommendations

✍️ 2023

Contract extended one year

♥ 2024

New contract being presented to City Council

Initiated Ordinance 301 passed November 6, 2018

Authorizes sales and use tax increase by one-quarter of one percent (25 cents on a \$100-dollar purchase) to be used to fund:

- Mental health services and treatment for children and adults;
- Suicide prevention programs;
- Opioid and substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery programs;
- Facilities and programs, for those with mental health and substance abuse needs, including: joint efforts of first-responders and mental health experts, and training for first-responders; to reduce homelessness, improve long-term recovery, and reduce the use of jails and emergency rooms

Special provisions regarding funding to the City

At least 10% of Caring for Denver tax revenue annually shall be directed to the City, as decided by the board of Caring for Denver for:

1. Funding for a facility and staffing to create **alternatives to jail** for people with mental health and/or substance use disorder needs,
2. Fully funding a **co-responder program** for mental health experts to ride along with Denver police,
3. **Training for first responders**, including paramedics and fire response, on how to properly assess and work with people with mental health and/or substance use disorder needs.

An additional 10% for the first two years shall be used for developing the facility that creates alternatives to jail for people with mental health and/or substance use disorder needs.

Notable City Programs Funded by Caring for Denver Foundation Grants

- STAR (DDPHE)
- Wellness Winnie (DDPHE)
- Substance Use Navigators (DDPHE)
- Case Management & MAT Coordination (DSD)
- Co-Responder Program (DPD)
- Adult Diversion (DA)
- Forensic Peer Navigator Program (DCC)
- AID Center (DOS)
- All in Mile High Behavioral Health (MO, DDPHE, HOST)
- Strengthening the Peer Support Workforce (DDPHE)

\$28,035,797 in funding to City agencies since inception

29 total grants

Average grant size: \$966,752

Alternatives to Jail facilities projects

1. Behavioral Health Solutions Center (DDPHE)
2. Community Care/Jail Diversion Center (DOS)
3. Tooley Hall, Residential Treatment Center for Women (DOS)
4. Dahlia, Facility for Residential Treatment Center for Men (DOS)

**\$7,142,492 total, 10% from
2019 and 2020**

Caring for Denver Foundation's Mission:

To address Denver's
**mental health and
substance misuse
needs** by growing
community informed
solutions and turning
the community's desire
to help into action

Priorities



- **Inclusive Access:** People need access to care in ways that make sense for them, in places that feel comfortable, and at times that fit their schedules.



- **Attention to Fit:** When people seek care, they should feel understood, connected, and respected by those providing that care.



- **Care Over Time:** People need to know and experience care options that are consistent, dependable, and flexible.

Four-Year Grant Summary

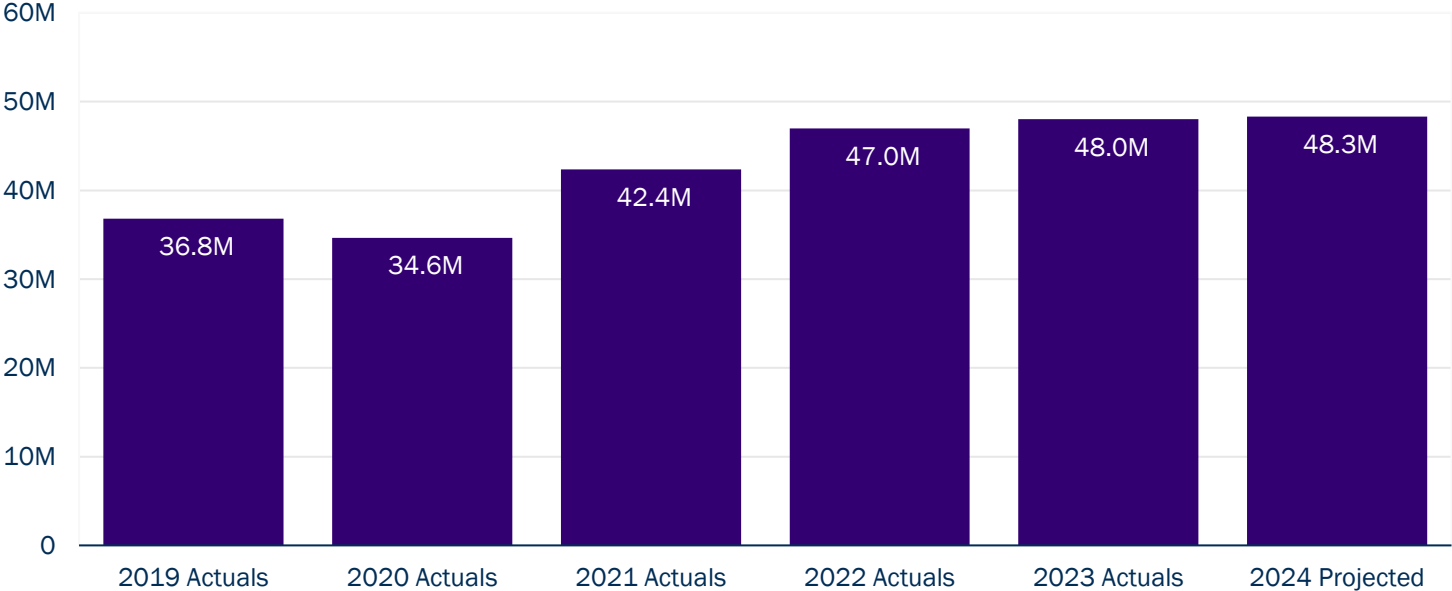
Sales Tax 2019	\$36,822,629
Sales Tax 2020	\$34,641,511
Sales Tax 2021	\$42,380,085
Sales Tax 2022	\$46,978,088
Total Sales Tax Received	\$160,822,313
Total Awarded/Allocated*	\$151,685,125
Total Unallocated	\$9,137,188
Percent Awarded: 94%	

Alternatives to Jail	\$ 44,921,360
Community Centered Solutions & Care Provision	\$ 46,019,708
Youth	\$ 32,947,573
Innovative and Responsive	\$ 12,526,741
Facilities	\$ 7,146,414
Admin	\$ 8,121,329
Total	\$ 151,685,125

From 2023 Annual Report

Caring for Denver Special Revenue Fund

Year Over Year Revenues



Year-to-year growth has slowed, jump in 2021 was due to internet sales tax

Total investment since inception:



468 grants



243 unique organizations



\$142 million

From 2023 Annual Report

<https://caring4denver.org/awarded-grants/>



Impact on Shared Goals:

- **70%** reduced substance misuse
- **76%** improved or maintained mental health
- **86%** reduced entry or recidivism into the criminal legal system

<https://bit.ly/TYDenver5Years>

<https://caring4denver.org/about/reports/>

Additional Details & Requirements:

- Funds **shall not supplant** existing funding sources for mental health programs
- **No more than 5%** of the tax revenue in any year spent on **administrative expenses**
- Grants from the new fund **shall be made through a non-profit entity** whose board members are appointed by the Mayor, District Attorney, City Council
- The **Caring for Denver Board** shall be subject to specific **accountability and transparency**

Board

Caring for Denver Foundation is integrated with and accountable to stakeholders across Denver with oversight from 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

Carl Clark

WellPower
Board Treasurer
Appointed by the Mayor

Dellena Aguilar

Licensed Clinical Psychologist,
Behavioral Health Provider
Board Secretary
Appointed by City Council

Kerry Tipper

Denver City Attorney
Appointed by the Mayor

Frank Locantore

Colfax Ave Business Improvement
District
Appointed by City Council

Tristan Sanders

City and County of Denver
Department of Public Health &
Environment Designee

Regina Huerter

Policy Research Associates
Appointed by the District Attorney

Donna Lynne

Denver Health
Appointed by the Mayor

Anne-Marie Braga

Denver Department of Human
Services
Appointed by the Mayor

Beth McCann

Denver District Attorney
Appointed by the Mayor

Jesse Ogas

9News
Appointed by City Council

Keith Hayes

5280 High School
Appointed by City Council

Community Engagement

- Caring for Denver Foundation is required to include public input in their strategic plan, which is updated every three years.
- In 2019, Caring for Denver shaped its funding priorities through community engagement. They have a continuous community engagement model, with their most recent community insights published in 2022: <https://caring4denver.org/partner-with-us/2022-community-check-in/>

Contract - Overview

- DDPHE is the expending authority under the ordinance
- DDPHE will contract with a spending agency (Caring for Denver Foundation)
- **Contract Agreement Highlights**
 - Recites many of the ordinance requirements and prescriptions
 - **Duration:** January 1, 2025– December 31, 2029 (5-year contract)
 - **Contract Value:**
 - City collects sales tax on spending agency’s behalf
 - DDPHE distributes funds to spending agency
 - No contract maximum because amount will vary annually based on sales tax collections.
 - CFD participates in annual budget process through DDPHE; creates annual spending plan approved by the Board

Contract - Overview

- Scope of Work Highlights
 - CFD will appoint a Liaison to the City
 - CFD will maintain grant-making policies in alignment with applicable City fiscal rules, ordinances, and executive orders; fund balance and conflict of interest policies.
 - CFD will develop a strategic plan and include public input.
 - Outlines DDPHE responsibilities and administrative allocation, in part to fund Liaison role

Contract - Accountability

Strategic Plan: The Board shall develop a strategic plan to determine funding priorities as outlined in the Ordinance.

Annual Public Reports: CFD will provide annual reports to include:

- Audited financial statements for CFD, conducted by an independent auditor, including full reports on expenditures for the prior fiscal year and anticipated budgets and work plans for the ensuing fiscal year of how the funds were spent in the City;
- An annual report that sets forth, at minimum, a strategic plan progress evaluation, the grants made in each of the funding areas identified, the names of the grantees, the dollar amounts granted to each grantee, the boards of directors and officers of each grantee, and the purposes and proposed City impacts of those grants; and
- Additional reports as requested
- Subject to Section 5F. of the Agreement regarding public reports, CFD will include reporting about reach, learnings, and geographic breakdown of investments in their annual report and presentation to City Council.

Open Meetings and Open Records: Meetings of the Board shall be treated as public meetings subject to the provisions of Chapter 2, Article III, D.R.M.C. Information shared at Board meetings and final grant awards shall be treated as public records and subject to the provisions of the Colorado Open Records Act, §§ 24-72-201, *et seq.*, C.R.S., as amended.

Questions?

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Department of Public Health & Environment

Lorez Meinhold
Executive Director
Caring For Denver Foundation