

**DENVER COMMUNITY ACTIVE LIVING COALITION (CALC): BUILT ENVIRONMENT POLICY PROGRAM (CALC-BEP FY24-26)**

**Background:** Denver Community Active Living Coalition (CALC) is an engagement program within the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DOTI), originally started in 2015 within the Denver Department of Environmental Health (now DDPHE). The grant-funded program is now moving into its 9<sup>th</sup> year, expanding upon a localized and transformational engagement program model that proactively connects, collaborates, and build relationships and shared-leadership coalitions with Denver community members, especially those in DOTI Equity areas and our most vulnerable residents.

The program's goal is to make active living and healthy choices the default by promoting community-driven action, connecting communities to available resources, providing culturally appropriate education and capacity-building programs, improving policies and systems, and increasing access to safe, convenient, and fun places for **walking, rolling, biking, taking transit, and participating in active play and recreation** in the City & County of Denver. CALC is aligned with DOTI and OCBE's mission and goals, and supports or leads several action items in both the Safe Routes to School 5-Year Action Plan (2021) and Denver Vision Zero Action Plan (2023).

**Key Program Components:**

1. **Citywide engagement and coalition building:** convening the Denver Community Active Living Coalition through communications, coalition meetings, activities, and events.
2. **Focused engagement and partnership building in equity areas:** proactively building partnerships and supporting community-led initiatives, especially within areas defined in DOTI's Equity Index. This work is led by four full-time Community Connector Program Administrators. Each dedicated to one quadrant of the city, who focuses on building authentic partnerships and works to include, represent, and support all residents, including the most vulnerable folks.
  - a. Southwest Denver (City Council Districts 2, 3, 7): Established in 2018 with relationships currently focused in College View, Harvey Park, Ruby Hill, Westwood, and Mar Lee.
  - b. Northeast Denver (City Council Districts 8, 11): Established in 2018 with relationships currently focused in Montbello and East Colfax.
  - c. Northwest Denver (City Council Districts 1, 9, 10): Established in 2022 with relationships currently focused in Sunnyside and Chaffee Park.
  - d. Southeast Denver (City Council District 4, 5, 6): New to be established in 2024.
3. **Community capacity-building programs:** supporting community-led initiatives and projects through:
  - a. **CALC Micro-Grants Program:** Since 2020, this program has provided micro-grant funding up to \$1,500 for community-driven projects that enhance the built environment and support walkability, bikeability, or access to safe and healthy spaces for physical activity. Past projects have included biking or walking groups, community murals, and bike and walk to school day events. Now in Phase V, the program has seen impressive success in community feedback, inspiring community-led projects, and building relationships. In the first four phases (2020-2022), the program funded 188 projects and distributed \$202,797. In 2023, the program will distribute \$125,000.
  - b. **Community Streets Program:** DOTI's formal process and permitting for artwork in the public right-of-way. Since the origination of this permit process, CALC has led or supported at least 8 intersection murals and 5 other asphalt art projects in bulb-outs or on sidewalks.
4. **Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) Change:** a critical aspect of the CCPD grants program is to improve health and quality of life through an upstream, systemic approach to built environment policies, systems, and environments – making active living and healthy choices the default. Through evaluation of the previous 5-year grant program (FY19-FY23), the program tracked 19 PSE changes.

**Funding/Administration Details:**

- Awarded by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) under the Cancer, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disease (CCPD) grants program.
- Grant agreement to fund first year (July 2023 – June 2024) of multiyear grant program (3-5 years): \$680,000 in FY24, \$800,000 in FY25, and \$870,000 in FY26 for a total of \$2,350,000 in FY24-26.
- Administered and staffed by DOTI, Office of Community & Business Engagement (OCBE)  
Senior Programs Manager: Kayla Gilbert; CALC Program Manager: Shaylee Zaugg
- Past program reports, evaluation data, and deliverables can be provided upon request. Our team is happy to meet with City Council offices to answer any questions and discuss more about our program and partnership opportunities.