

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 23-1910 It Takes a Village Supporting Children and Families in Denver

WHEREAS, The Office of Children's Affairs is dedicated to supporting the well-being, safety, and development of the whole child through connecting various stakeholders, advocating on behalf of kids and families to remove barriers, and investing in equitable and impactful programs to lead across the child-serving field; and

WHEREAS, OCA's public health approach strives to create a child-friendly ecosystem where every Denver child has a safe and supportive space to learn, grow and play while also creating opportunities for families to be physically, mentally, and economically secure; and

WHEREAS, OCA recognizes that it takes a village to achieve the vibrant and thriving City that Denver kids deserve, and OCA is fortunate to work with a coalition of passionate and enthusiastic partners who are committed to delivering on that promise; and

WHEREAS, Early childhood education and childcare are essential first steps to promoting healthy development and the doulas, Family, Friend, and Neighbor care providers, Denver Great Kids Head Start delegates and other professionals providing those services ensure the youngest Denverites are academically, emotionally, and physically ready for school; and

WHEREAS, Tasty Foods has provided over 1.7 million free healthy meals to Denver kids at recreation centers, public libraries, and migrant shelters over the past decade with 200,000 more projected in 2024; and

WHEREAS, The Denver Afterschool Alliance works with hundreds of non-profits providing high-quality, comprehensive Out of School Time programming for over 100,000 kids over a decade; and

WHEREAS, OCA serves over 3,800 youth annually, through many non-profit community-based organization partners providing deep, intimate support for diverse groups of young people in alignment with the City's Youth Violence Prevention and Mental Health strategic plans; and

WHEREAS, Many offices and agencies of the City and County of Denver expand their focus to include an emphasis on children and families to ensure every decision made by City leaders is made with families front and center; and

WHEREAS, Denver Preschool Program, Prosperity Denver Fund, and other special revenue fund organizations are providing innovative and impactful support for Denver's young people from early childhood to postsecondary education, encouraging Denver's growth for kids, young adults, and for the Denver economy; and

WHEREAS, Community Collaboration groups in Sunnyside, Globeville, La Alma, and soon in the Kennedy neighborhood have fostered a strong, unified commitment to bring neighborhood partners together with City agencies to both respond to disruptive incidents and work to build preventative environments for parts of the City that will provide more pro-social activities and supports for young people; and

WHEREAS, Denver Public Schools is an active participant in many collaborative groups and works with the City to align priorities and outcomes for students and families in Community Hubs and other strategic projects; and

WHEREAS, These and other partnerships are essential to ensuring that the City and County of Denver is a child-friendly city for generations of young Denverites and every other generation to follow.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver proclaims December 18, 2023, as It Takes a Village Day in Denver and extends its sincerest and most profound appreciation to the vast coalition of partners providing resources and services to ensure all Denver children and families have opportunities to thrive.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to Melissa Janiszewski on behalf of the Office of Children's Affairs' many partners.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 18, 2023

PRESIDENT

