



IMPACT REPORT

SUMMER 2017



THE DENVER FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION



Since 1925, The Denver Foundation has responded to community needs, working in partnership with our donors to improve the lives of the most vulnerable. In our last Impact Report, we featured a program that helps community members navigate the many complex systems that deliver social services. We also shared how we support youth as they explore careers in the nonprofit sector through our Nonprofit Internship Program.

This Impact Report—prepared for our family of fundholders, friends, and supporters like you—highlights two other innovative initiatives of The Denver Foundation. The first advances our focus on Economic Opportunity by working with anchor institutions such as hospitals and universities to connect with the community and support local economic development. The second highlights a significant investment to support the provision of behavioral health services across Colorado and to create more streamlined systems of care. We at The Denver Foundation are honored to be leading and stewarding this vital work. To learn more, please contact the Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Graduates from the Healthcare Bridge Job Pipeline Program. Photo courtesy of Community Campus Partnership.



The Denver region is home to a number of institutions that are physically connected to their communities by their large physical footprints and long-term, stable presence. They are significant economic engines and typically employ thousands of people and spend millions of dollars annually. A growing national movement is working in partnership with these “anchor institutions” to address challenges in the communities in which they are located, such as high rates of unemployment, dilapidated infrastructure, large numbers of newly arrived immigrants, rising housing costs, and struggling local businesses.

This anchor institution movement demonstrates how an anchor institution’s economic power can create strong and stable local economies by prioritizing local hiring, purchasing from their surrounding neighborhoods, and involving local residents in community development decisions. For example, the University of Pennsylvania, starting in 2006-07, shifted more than 10 percent of its annual expenditures to purchasing locally, injecting an estimated \$120 million into the West Philadelphia economy over the following three years. In North Carolina, Duke University created a partnership with the City of Durham to develop an affordable housing loan fund that has invested more than \$2 million in local neighborhoods to promote affordable home ownership and neighborhood stabilization.

The Denver Foundation, in partnership with Mile High Connects, created the Anchor Institution Learning Cohort in late 2016 to engage Metro Denver institutions in a broader conversation about their role in community economic development.

Participating institutions include the University of Colorado Denver, Regis University, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Kaiser Permanente, the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative, Adams County Housing Authority, Denver Public Schools, and others. The Denver Foundation has brought Cohort members together for a variety of learning opportunities and has directly funded several Cohort members to launch specific anchor initiatives.

One of these is the Community Campus Partnership (CCP) at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. With Denver Foundation consultation and funding support, the CCP created the Healthcare Bridge Job Pipeline Program to train local residents for jobs at University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital Colorado. Beverly F., who enrolled in the program after being out of the workforce for 18 years, is the first Healthcare Bridge Project graduate hired by Children's Hospital Colorado. "The Healthcare Bridge program helped me gain confidence in myself," Beverly recently shared. "I was able to start building a career at this stage in my life."



Photo courtesy of University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Anchor Institution Learning Cohort Member: Anschutz Medical Campus

381

local residents hired by the two hospitals on campus

41

local residents hired as a direct result of Healthcare Bridge Project

COLORADO HEALTH ACCESS FUND



olorado lags behind other states in addressing behavioral health issues. Substance misuse and opioid deaths are growing. Suicide rates are some of the highest in the nation and the stigma of mental health issues is a substantial barrier to treatment. There are also significant access gaps across racial and ethnic groups, ages, and geographies.

The Colorado Health Access (CHA) Fund was created by an anonymous donor with a significant gift in 2015. The CHA Fund is a field of interest fund managed by The Denver Foundation, which is entrusted to oversee its grantmaking and evaluation.

Before launching the CHA Fund, The Denver Foundation worked with experts to complete a statewide health asset and gap analysis and found that behavioral health needs rose to the top. The Colorado Health Access Survey of Coloradans age five and older found that nearly one out of 10 of the respondents reported having eight or more days of poor mental health in the past month. The CHA Fund is increasing access to behavioral health care for the most vulnerable populations across the state, including people experiencing homelessness, people with high health care needs, people with cultural or language barriers, people with disabilities, people in need of addiction treatment, and those who live in rural communities.

The CHA Fund has released five statewide funding opportunities since 2015 to support capital improvements, expansion of programming, general operations, and collaborations. The Denver Foundation relies on experts from across the state to serve on an advisory committee. These locally-driven experts help shape the strategies used by the CHA Fund.





Grantees of the CHA Fund gathered in November 2016 at the second Learning Circle of the year.

As a result, the CHA Fund has invested more than \$10 million across the state to expand programming to reach the most vulnerable. In partnership with a wide range of community-driven programs, the CHA Fund has addressed varied, specific, and local needs.

- In Salida and rural communities in southeastern Colorado, the CHA Fund supported telehealth projects that allowed clients to access care by live video link, reducing geographic barriers.
- Denver Health used funding to meet a growing demand for substance misuse treatment among adolescents in school-based health centers.
- Local human service providers were able to offer their services in multiple languages for non-English speakers.

The CHA Fund is on track to meet its mission of expanding behavioral health care access to Coloradans with high health care needs.

32,000
COLORADANS

received services from the first cohort of grantees,
thanks in part to CHA funding.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

LEARN

The Denver Foundation offers many opportunities to learn and connect to others throughout the year, including Issue Briefings for fundholders, our Annual Celebration, and multiple community events. If you have an interest in meeting with Foundation staff to delve deeper into an area of focus, please contact Dace West, Vice President of Community Impact, at 303.865.4609.

VOLUNTEER

We value the gifts of time, talent, treasure, and testimony of all who want to make a difference. If you are interested in giving of your time and talent to organizations working in these impact areas or others, we would be happy to connect you to a meaningful opportunity.

GIVE

As a community foundation, The Denver Foundation relies on the generosity of donors to financially support its community impact work. Please consider making an annual or testamentary gift to The Fund for Denver or a field of interest fund to support this and similar work. To learn more, please contact the Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.