The Denver Foundation’s Programs Department conducts grantmaking from the Foundation’s community endowment and field of interest funds. The department also supports capacity building for nonprofit organizations, leadership development, and convenings to address critical community issues. All work of the department is in alignment with the core values of racial equity and constituent leadership. This report captures the work of the Programs Department since the start of the Foundation’s strategic plan in 2012.
The Community Grants Program (CGP) is funded by the generosity of donors to The Fund for Denver, the Foundation’s permanent endowment. CGP priorities are driven by community listening sessions and The Denver Foundation’s strategic plan. The program currently makes grants to organizations focused on Basic Human Needs, Economic Opportunity, Education, and Leadership & Equity. Responsive CGP grants are distributed twice per year.

SINCE THE START OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN IN 2012

$18.5 MILLION
total dollars granted

1,570
total grants

31%
increase in average grant amount

29%
awarded to organizations led by people of color

58%
awarded for general operating support

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FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

A field of interest (FOI) fund is designated for a specific purpose by a donor. FOI funds that are aligned with the Foundation’s Community Grants Program are used to supplement responsive grantmaking. FOI funds that focus on issues outside of our current priorities are distributed annually to fulfill the purpose of the funds.

COLORADO HEALTH ACCESS FUND

The Colorado Health Access Fund was founded in 2015 with a $40 million gift from an anonymous donor. With the goal of increasing access to mental and behavioral health care for Coloradans who need it most, the Fund grants money statewide with a special emphasis on serving rural areas. Because the Fund is set to end in 2022, there is a strong emphasis on the sustainability of programs and projects it supports.

TRANSFORMING SAFETY

Transforming Safety is a special project fund that supports increasing public safety by investing in the community instead of the criminal justice system. The program takes $4 million in savings each year from state parole reforms and reinvests it in North Aurora and Southeast Colorado Springs. The funding is deployed for small business loans managed by community lenders and through a grant program stewarded by The Denver Foundation.

DENVER IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES FUND

The Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund (DILSF) is a special project fund created in 2018 that supports the provision of legal services to Denver’s immigrant community. The Fund provides grants to qualified nonprofit organizations that offer direct legal representation, provide affirmative relief, and build the pool of pro bono attorneys in the community.

25,000 COLORADANS SERVED

$6.47 million in grants to 46 organizations

19 detained immigrants at risk of deportation have received legal representation through DILSF

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GRANTS
The Denver Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations to build their organizational capacity. With funding of up to $6,000, nonprofits are able to secure external support to enhance their strength and effectiveness.

17 organizations have received support from 7 coaches

100% of 2018 Shift grantees initiated a new participant-led program

THE SHIFT
The Shift is a capacity-building program that helps nonprofit organizations “make the shift” in how they view those they serve. Instead of engaging with clients only as recipients of services, grantees learn to see their constituents as leaders who can shape an organization and contribute to its mission. The one-year program is rooted in the Foundation’s belief that people most affected by social problems should be actively involved in responding to them. Guided by coaches from organizations with strong practice in this core value, grantees participate in intensive one-on-one mentoring, and engage in group workshops.

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INITIATIVES

CLOSE TO HOME
In 2015, The Denver Foundation began the Close to Home public will-building campaign to make homelessness a priority issue in Metro Denver. Close to Home works to increase awareness and compel people to take action to address homelessness. Campaign members reach out to Metro Denver residents through media platforms, events, and public speaking to educate audiences about the causes and realities of homelessness, as well as solutions to it.

COMMON SENSE DISCIPLINE
In early 2013, The Denver Foundation initiated a grantmaking program called Common Sense Discipline (CSD). The main goals of CSD are: 1) to reduce the use of in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, and referrals to law enforcement, and 2) to reduce the disproportionality of these outcomes for students of color.

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<th>Expulsions decreased from 75 in 2014 to 13 in 2018.</th>
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COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING
Anchor institutions are defined by The Democracy Collaborative as “enterprises such as universities and hospitals that are rooted in their local communities by mission, invested capital, or relationships to customers, employees, and vendors.” As part of its Community Wealth Building strategy, the Foundation helped to create the Denver Anchor Network. The network brings leaders of local institutions together to learn, practice, and implement wealth-building strategies in their communities.

| 103 positions at the University of Colorado Anschutz Campus filled through the Community Campus Partnership Job Hub |

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NONPROFIT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2007, The Denver Foundation created the Nonprofit Internship Program (NPIP) in response to a series of conversations about strengthening the pipeline of people of color into the nonprofit sector. Through NPIP, undergraduate student interns learn about the nonprofit sector through a 10-week paid nonprofit/community experience. Supervisors of the interns also participate in workshops to increase their leadership skills and expand their organization’s inclusion and racial equity practices.

200
students have completed NPIP

70%
of NPIP alumni are employed in the public or nonprofit sectors

Did you know that you can support the community impact priorities of The Denver Foundation?

Community impact results from broad community support. We would not be able to make these critical investments in creating a more equitable future for everyone without generous donations from community members. To explore how you can advance this work through a gift to The Fund for Denver, please call 303.300.1790 and ask to speak with a member of the Philanthropic Services Group.