

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023 | ISSUE 6



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

For homelessness services, housing providers, and interested residents in Adams County.

4,561+

people experiencing homelessness
in Adams County

*Curious why this number is higher than the Summer newsletter? We switched data sets to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).



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**WANT TO
CONTRIBUTE
TO THE NEXT
ISSUE?**



Scan the QR code to fill out a survey with content ideas for the Spring issue.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

INCREASING EVICTION FILINGS

In 2022, Denver County received 8,879 eviction filings. That is more than 2020 and 2021 combined. We are seeing the same trend in Adams County with 2,922 filings in 2022 alone. Evictions lead to generational instability often starting with homelessness. This winter, we have seen evictions increasing the demand for cold weather hotel vouchers.

Scan the QR code to view a news story about this topic.



SEEKING HELP WITH THE HOUSING NAVIGATION CENTER

Almost Home's Housing Navigation Center (HNC) is being held in the Adams County Human Services Center. The HNC will be a walk-in center for people experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. We are seeking municipal and nonprofit employees to staff at least one shift per month from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact Jamie Sherwood at JSherwood@adcogov.org if you are interested.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING DECISIONS

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, the Adams County Board of Commissioners approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Tranche 2 allocation. Adams County allocated funding for the Homelessness Campus partnership with City of Aurora, Mobile Mental Health, Domestic Violence Respite Housing, Rapid Rehousing, and Tiny Home Villages.



HOMELESS SERVICES

DOCUMENTARY & DIALOGUE RECAP

Documentary & Dialogue was held at the City of Northglenn's Parson's Theater on Jan. 12. The documentary "Us & Them" provoked an interesting and inspiring panel discussion among business and nonprofit leaders. Since, we have received many emails from community groups about sharing the film with their stakeholders. You can request a copy of the film at usandthemthefilm.ca.



If your organization would like to sign up to be a resource fair vendor, scan the QR code to complete the sign-up form.

MARCH NAVIGATE ADAMS RESOURCE FAIR

On March 23, we are hosting a resource fair at the Impacto De Fe Church in Commerce City. Individuals struggling with housing insecurity and homelessness are encouraged to attend. There will be representatives from the community available to provide information on shelter, housing, pet care, employment, and more.

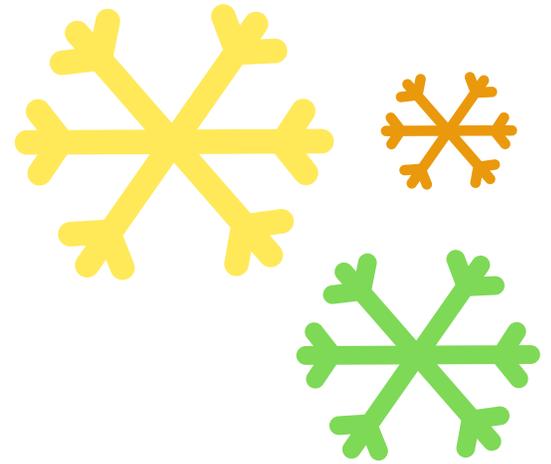
THE 2023 POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT COMPLETED

On Jan. 31, over 100 volunteers surveyed people experiencing homelessness across Adams County. The PIT Count provides a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single day. The Department of Housing & Urban Development uses PIT Count data to make funding decisions. Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated.



SEVERE WEATHER ACTIVATION PROGRAM CONTINUOUSLY EXPANDS

The Severe Weather Activation Program (SWAP) provides hotel vouchers to unsheltered individuals during extreme weather. From November 2022, to February 2023, there were 2,246 vouchers distributed, resulting in 12,246 nights of unsheltered homelessness averted, the highest number to date. Thank you to all voucher distributors for continuing to save lives.

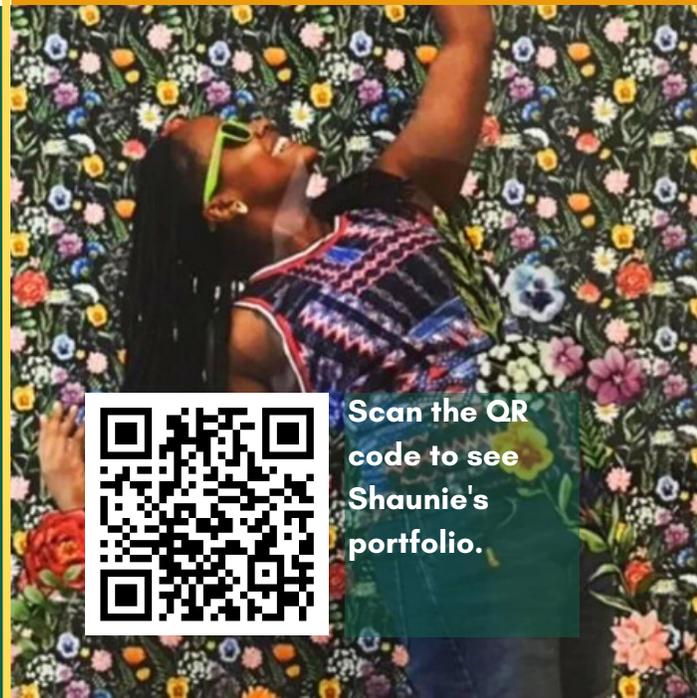


LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

The first committee meeting for Adams and Jefferson County residents with lived experience of homelessness will be held on March 15, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Westminster. This will give a voice to those who have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity. Jamie Sherwood, the committee facilitator, believes "their stories can shed light on people still experiencing homelessness and help them out of their situation."

ELEVATING VOICES SERIES: ARTIST INTRODUCTION

Local artist Shaunie Berry will host free artmaking sessions this spring for people experiencing homelessness. The sessions will explore multiple artforms to foster space for connection. Her engagement with residents will complement the existing provision of services. Shaunie will commemorate the project with an original art piece inspired by her experience. What type of public artwork would you like to see? Email RMarkley@adcogov.org with your thoughts.



Scan the QR code to see Shaunie's portfolio.

STRENGTHEN THE HOUSING CONTINUUM



March 12 - 18 is #AmeriCorpsWeek 2023! Did you know Department of Community Safety & Well-Being has five AmeriCorpsVISTA members? VISTA members devote a year to community-based, anti-poverty efforts. Ryan Markley is our VISTA Leader, coordinating resource fairs and employment programming. Jamie Sherwood is elevating the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness through committees and events. Jess Swithers is expanding resources for people who are LGBTQ+ and/or disabled including new resource guides. Julia Martinez is hard at work installing community gardens and planting trees in low-income neighborhoods. Lastly, Ruhani Sansoya is conducting a health needs assessment to improve quality of life in Adams County. Check out our open VISTA positions at my.americorps.gov.

CREATION OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING 2022-2023

The Division of Housing is continuing its effort with the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority and local municipalities to increase the production of Permanent Supportive Housing. Applicants can apply for any supportive housing project in Colorado including Project Based Vouchers, Section 8 Vouchers, Tenancy Supportive Services, or Loans or Grants for Affordable Housing. The next Letter of Intent is due on April 23, and the application is due on May 1.



Scan the QR code to learn more and view the Supportive Housing application.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

Heather McClure, Adams County's Community Justice Specialist, won Fall Employee of the Season. Heather has experience with homelessness, addiction, and the criminal justice system, and she is using her experiences to help people with similar backgrounds achieve upward mobility.

Heather has directly housed at least 15 high-needs residents due to her hard work and dedication. On top of this, Heather has coordinated Adams County's PIT Count two years in a row. Heather is a shining example of courage, perseverance, and possibility.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HISPANIC NETWORK

Adams County is leading the charge with launching a Colorado-based Local Government Hispanic Network Chapter (LGHN). LGHN is a nonprofit that is the leading organization for the development of public service professionals. The purpose is to encourage professional excellence among Hispanic/Latin(a/o/x) local government administrators and those working in communities with significant Hispanic and Latin(a/o/x) populations. We are launching the Colorado Chapter, *Juntos Colorado*, to create a network to connect with other local administrators around our region. We encourage and focus on resource sharing and professional development to continue to attract, retain, and develop local talent. Lastly, we focus on cultural awareness to celebrate our heritage. As part of our commitment to professional development, we invite anyone interested in presenting to reach out to get on our calendar.



For all questions, comments, or concerns, email PovertyReduction@adco.gov