

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023 | ISSUE 9



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

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

4,567+

people experiencing homelessness
in Adams County



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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 winter issue.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

MANDATORY MEDIATION IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES

Earlier this year, Colorado House Bill 23-1120 passed mandating tenant-landlord mediation for landlords with more than five rental properties where at least one tenant is receiving public benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI), federal Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Landlords can pay \$100 to initiate mediation. Scan the QR code to the right for more information.



Scan the QR code to find more information on HB 23-1120 and contracted mediators.



MOBILE HOME PARK EVICTIONS PREVENTED

In September 2023, Adams County Community Safety & Well-Being (CSWB), Joanna Rosa Saenz International, Brothers Redevelopment, and the Colorado Poverty Law Project worked together to halt two evictions in mobile home parks in Adams County—averting homelessness for 10+ community members. Inspired by these successes, on Oct. 25, CSWB held an outreach event at Skyview High School for residents of local mobile home parks. This event was initiated to connect residents who have faced predatory tactics from a mobile home park owner with no-cost resources to assist them in maintaining or improving their living situation. Eviction prevention, mediation, and tool shed rental resources were provided in English and Spanish. There were approximately 30 residents in attendance at this event.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION: FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

How much will people currently experiencing homelessness in Adams County cost taxpayers in medical, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, jail incarceration, and temporary shelter systems in 2023?

\$279,361,482

Department of Local Affairs - Fort Lyons Analysis 2023
Assuming non-chronic homelessness costs about 50% as much as chronic homelessness

How much would it cost to house everyone who is currently homeless in Adams County in 2023?

\$105,280,000

Department of Local Affairs - Fort Lyons Analysis 2023

How much would taxpayers absorb if everyone with an eviction filing is evicted in the next year in Adams County, assuming not everyone will become homeless?

\$34,642,400

University of Arizona Eviction Calculator 2023
17th Judicial District 2023

How much would it cost to prevent anyone else from being evicted for non-payment of rent in Adams County for the next year?

\$9,707,228

17th Judicial District 2023

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

AMAZON WISHLIST

The Poverty Reduction Unit in Adams County has an Amazon wishlist we maintain for needed supplies for people experiencing homelessness. When a community member purchases from the wishlist, the supplies arrive at the Government Center for the Adams County's Street Outreach Network. The Network then distributes the gear to their clients experiencing homelessness. As the weather gets colder, donations from our wishlist are more crucial than ever. We especially appreciate donations of gift cards as these funds are more flexible.

Scan the QR code to view our Amazon wishlist.



HARM REDUCTION HIGHLIGHT

The Adams County Harm Reduction Team provides lifesaving resources to the community including Naloxone access and trainings to prevent and reverse opioid overdoses; HIV, Hepatitis C, and STI testing; clean use supplies for individuals using drugs; and safer sex resources such as condoms. All services are offered at no cost through tabling and street outreach, walk-in hours at Westminster and Commerce City clinics, or by request. To partner with the Harm Reduction Team, request services or seek additional information, email HarmReduction@adcogov.org, call 303.363.3077, or visit their website at: adamscountyhealthdepartment.org/harm-reduction.

FIRST SWAP ACTIVATION

This year, the Severe Weather Activation Program (SWAP) looks a little different. The program is now fully decentralized and requires verifiable ties to Adams County or Broomfield to participate. So far, Almost Home has selected seven hotels that are accessible for residents experiencing homelessness connected to nine participating municipalities. On Oct. 27, SWAP activated for the first time this season with 147 total hotel vouchers averting 376 nights of unsheltered homelessness for Adams County and 212 for Broomfield. If you have a client needing a hotel voucher, they will need to build a relationship with their municipal navigator to become eligible.



STRENGTHEN THE HOUSING CONTINUUM



QUALITY DATA CERTIFICATION

Adams County and the City of Aurora achieved Quality Data for unhoused veterans. Quality Data means we can account for every veteran experiencing homelessness by name and in real-time. This Quality By-Name List helps us understand the scope of veteran homelessness in each subregion, the inflow and outflow from homelessness, gives us accurate information to reduce homelessness, and helps us measure our progress toward ending it. Lindsey Earl, CSWB Administrator for Adams County, shared her thoughts on the key benefits of quality data for veterans. "Quality data gives us a level of certainty that we are providing care for all veterans experiencing homelessness in our community."

HOUSING SEARCH TOOLS

Finding attainable housing in Adams County can be difficult. Currently, the average cost of a two bedroom apartment in Adams County is \$2,011 while fair market rent for a two bedroom is \$1,856. There are several online tools that can make the housing search easier including Colorado Housing Search where you can search for rentals by municipalities and maximum rental amount per month. Additionally, you can search for lower cost housing by searching for "low income subsidized rental housing" on 211colorado.org website or "housing" at FindHelp.org. Another tip: The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) publishes a list of properties receiving subsidies to provide lower cost housing. Additionally, Colorado Housing Connects (CHC) has HUD Certified Housing Counselors that can help community members navigate affordable housing systems. Call **1.844.926.6632** to get connected.



[ColoradoHousingSearch.com](https://coloradohousingsearch.com)

211colorado.org

[FindHelp.org](https://findhelp.org)

[LIHTC.huduser.gov](https://lihtc.huduser.gov)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



INTRODUCING RUHANI

Ruhani Sansoya is Adams County's first Homelessness Systems Coordinator. She was born and raised in Indiana (30 minutes out from Chicago!) where she completed her education at Purdue and Indiana University School of Medicine. There she studied Neuroscience, Medicine, Spanish, Medical Humanities, and Business while working part-time as a pharmacy technician and research assistant. Her experiences in healthcare and health science have shown her the detrimental consequences social determinants of health can have on health outcomes, and that is what brought her, her pet bunny, and her many plant babies to Adams County and this position. She is passionate about making data-driven sustainable change and advocating for anti-poverty efforts. In her free time, she loves to learn, paint, dance, try new foods, and spend time with her friends.

SPONSOR A SHELTER UNIT

Just like your own home, there is wear and tear that occurs in the shelter units at ACCESS Housing, and because of that, our units need repairs and maintenance. By supporting one of our eight unique units, you assist ACCESS Housing in creating a home for each and every family in need of our help. Within our units, we strive to create a comfortable and nurturing home for each family.



Scan the QR code to learn more about sponsoring a shelter unit.



For all questions, comments, or concerns, email PovertyReduction@adcogov.org.