

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024 | ISSUE 10



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

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

EVICIONS SKYROCKETING

According to CBS News, Denver County Court has seen more eviction case filings in 2023 than any other year since the 2008 housing crisis. Some relief will come to Denverites through an agreement by the Denver City Council and Mayor Mike Johnston to make more than \$30 million available for rental assistance in 2024.

Adams County, however, does not anticipate an increase in rental assistance funding making the future uncertain.



AVERAGE JUDGMENT AMOUNT

The average eviction judgment amount may not be as much as you would think. According to 2023 data from the 17th Judicial District, the average judgment amount, or the amount that the judge rules a tenant owes to avoid an eviction, is approximately \$3,886. For many, falling one paycheck behind is the difference between housing and homelessness.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEFENSE PROJECT

The Community Economic Defense Project (CEDP) received Transformational Homelessness Response funds from the state to provide rental assistance to people facing an eviction in the Denver Metro Area including Adams County. Residents must fill out the application for assistance and upload their demand or notice as documentation. Any resident who has received Emergency Rental Assistance in the last year will not be eligible.



Community
Economic
Defense Project

Scan the QR code above to learn more about eviction prevention assistance through CEDP.

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION: A NEW MODEL FOR HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION

Encampment Resolution is an innovative new model that decommissions encampments by housing all its members through intensive, short-term support. Dallas adopted this model in 2022 and has closed 12 encampments. 82% have accepted housing and services and 83% have remained in housing. Dallas reduced unsheltered homelessness by 14% in one year.



Scan the QR code above to learn more about the Homeless Program Specialist

NOW HIRING: HOMELESS PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Want to make a difference for people experiencing homelessness in rural communities? The Homeless Program Specialist will work on behalf of the Balance of State Continuum of Care to facilitate, communicate, and collaborate with the 54 member counties. The Specialist will manage programs and oversee grant compliance and build capacity and trainings for member counties. This position is mostly a hybrid work position with as needed on-site visits with employee and stakeholder groups.

NATIVE AMERICAN INCLUSIVE SOS

A Safe Outdoor Space (SOS) is an outdoor sheltering model that is staffed 24 hours a day and provides necessary resources, services, and stability to our unhoused neighbors in a safe environment. The Native American inclusive SOS is located on Peoria Street in Denver. This project launched on Dec. 1, 2022, as a joint venture of Colorado Village Collaborative (CVC) and the City and County of Denver. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the Native American inclusive SOS contact CVC at info@covillageco.org.



STRENGTHEN THE HOUSING CONTINUUM



HOUSING SELECTED AS COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITY

In 2023, Adams County's freshly minted Health Department convened Adams County employees, community-based organizations, and residents to create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) as required by the Colorado Public Health Act. After many meetings, focus groups, and surveys, common themes emerged and the CHIP collective voted to focus on three priorities: economic security, access to care, and housing. Now that the priority areas have been established, the Health Department will lead the collective in developing a plan to address these issues and create a healthier and thriving Adams County. If you would like to get involved in a CHIP priority area workgroup, email Callie at CPreheimeadcogov.org.

RAPID REHOUSING FOR SAFE PARKERS

In late 2023, Adams County launched an innovative rapid rehousing (RRH) program in partnership with the Colorado Safe Parking Initiative and the Salvation Army of Denver's Housing Now program. Adams County has devoted \$1 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act funds for the Salvation Army to rehouse safe parkers in Adams County. The Salvation Army is expected to house 38 households experiencing unsheltered homelessness throughout the funding period. If you know someone who could benefit from safe parking, they can fill out an application at scolosafeparking.org/safelot-information.



STRENGTHEN THE HOUSING CONTINUUM



SUCCESS STORY

Heather McClure, Adams County's Homelessness Outreach Coordinator, first started working with Jeremy and his service dog named Spaceman in late 2022 when she gave him a sleeping bag and several Lyft rides while he was experiencing unsheltered homelessness. When Jeremy gained a car, Heather referred him to the Colorado Safe Parking Initiative where Jeremy was assigned to our safelot at a church in the City of Commerce City. The pastor said affectionately, "[Jeremy] used to attend services with his dog who would howl every time someone clapped." When Jeremy was matched with a housing voucher, Heather referred him to Temporary Respite Housing where Jeremy spent 21 days stabilizing, searching for a unit, and preparing to lease-up. We are proud to share that Jeremy and Spaceman are now housed and doing well.

2023 HOMELESSNESS ASSESSMENT RELEASED

In December 2023, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its annual Homelessness Assessment Report. This report outlines the key findings of the Point-In-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) conducted in January 2023. Specifically, this report provides 2023 national, state, and Continuum-of-Care-level PIT and HIC estimates of homelessness, as well as estimates of chronically homeless persons, homeless veterans, and homeless children and youth. Namely, between 2022 and 2023, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased by 12%, or roughly 70,650 more people. Further, the national inventory of beds for people currently experiencing homelessness increased by 7% between 2022 and 2023, not quite keeping pace with the need.

The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress



Scan the QR code to the left to read the 2023 Homelessness Assessment Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Scan the QR code to the left to fill out a screening form for potential Long Distance Travel participants.



LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL FUNDS REMAINING

The Adams County Long Distance Travel Fund is used to ensure a safe transition for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Adams County to doubled-up or housed situations in cities not accessible via the Regional Transportation District. We provide participants with a resettlement gift card and a paid ticket to their new location. All participants need to be able to prove they have a low- or no-cost place to live in the destination city for at least three months. For more information, email Heather McClure at HMcClure@adcogov.org.

HOST A DIPJAR FOR ALMOST HOME

DipJars are like a tip jar but it allows for cashless donations via debit or credit cards. It is a fast, easy way to help raise money for Almost Home and raise awareness for homelessness and housing instability in our community. If you would like to host a DipJar at your office, community center, or faith-based community, please contact Rachel Monroe at [303-659-6199](tel:303-659-6199) or rachelealmosthomeonline.org.



REHOUSE A FAMILY THIS WINTER

Landlords willing to house families experiencing homelessness are in great demand. The Salvation Army of Denver's Housing Now works with clients and potential landlords in the community to negotiate and solidify deposit and rental amounts, collaborate and build rapport in order to improve retention rates. Landlords can contact Walker Kemp at [720\) 630-0337](tel:720-630-0337) or Walker.Kemp@usw.salvationarmy.org.



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