



caring
for Denver

FOUNDATION

Key Facts



Founded by and for Denver
in 2019



Independent, non-profit
foundation funded by sales
tax dollars



Addresses Denver's
mental health &
substance misuse needs.

\$126+ million in funding to 234 unique organizations since our founding.

*We're on a
Mission*

To address Denver's mental health and substance misuse needs by growing **community-informed solutions**, dismantling stigma, and turning the community's desire to help into action.

Meaningful Impact

To address Denver's mental health and substance misuse challenges, we must see changes in Access, Fit, and Care Over Time across our funding areas: Alternatives to Jail, Community-Centered Solutions, and Youth.



Inclusive Access

People need access to care in ways that make sense for them, in places that feel comfortable, and at times that fit their schedules.



Attention to Fit

When people seek care, they should feel understood, connected, and respected by those providing that care.



Care Over Time

People need to know and experience care options that are consistent, dependable, and flexible.

“They hold you accountable, provide structure, and a safe living environment without drugs and alcohol. My recovery would not have been possible without them.”

- Brad S.



Hazelbrook Community Center

Brad S. is a resident at Hazelbrook Community Center, a recovery space that is filling a dire need for services that support individuals who are exiting the criminal justice system or experiencing homelessness, helping them transition into sober living environments.

Their unique model, the Transitional Safety Zone Program, was piloted to provide recovery supports and sobriety programming for men who have relapsed or are at risk of relapse.



"There's something very powerful when you recover is you want to help other people going through the same thing."

- Cuica Montoya

Colorado Village Collaborative

Cuica Montoya leads the outreach and wellness program at Colorado Village Collaborative, a transformational housing community built in partnership with people experiencing homelessness.

Her lived experience and peer support training helps her to connect with residents through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment.



“When I was younger, I didn't even think I would make it till 15. I thought I would be dead by 14. It's just so crazy that I'm 15 years old and I have almost nine months sober and I'm genuinely like, I love my life and I love myself.”

-5280 Student

5280 High School

5280 is a project-based learning school that serves students in recovery from substance misuse, self harm, eating disorders, and other harmful behaviors.

5280's Summit Program serves students in recovery from addiction by providing a strong pro-social peer community, specialized recovery reports, and an engaging educational environment. This program emphasizes the importance of being open, authentic, and altruistic together in their recovery process.

Community Systems of Care

- Strengths-based approach
- Within trusted spaces
- Not always a place
- Prioritizes access, cultural relevance, and connections
- Reduced navigation

84%

of participants had never received behavioral or mental health services prior



**Center for African American Health
partnership with Therapists of Color**



Community Themes



- Partnering with organizations who provide education, employment, and social supports to co-locate mental health, trauma, and substance misuse supports
- Supporting and recognizing the crucial role of community care systems
- Fostering more options for care that fall between stability and crisis
- Lived experience, people hired from community “get it”, better connections, have credibility, and model for other staff
- Building trust and buy-in to programs is key

Thank You! Questions?

Lorez Meinhold
Executive Director
lorez@caring4denver.org



www.Caring4Denver.org

