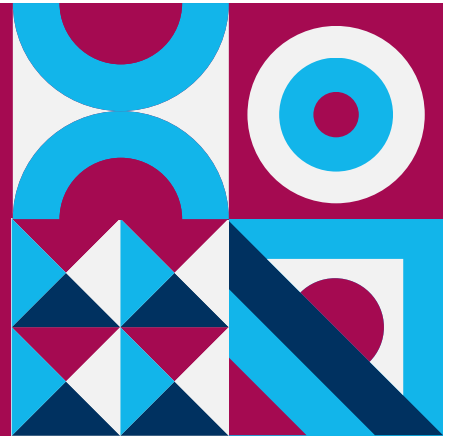


Bright Spot

August 2024 | Significant Reduction in Unsheltered Homeless



Overview

Metro Denver is a large city that joined the BFZ movement in 2015 to build infrastructure to support single adults, families, and youth subpopulations and end veteran homelessness by the end of 2024. Recently, their approach to reducing unsheltered homelessness in the city has gotten major attention. Through Denver's 'Mile High Initiative,' the **city has moved over 1,673 individuals into shelters and permanently housed 583 people.**

Key Strategies

System Commitment to a Shared Goal

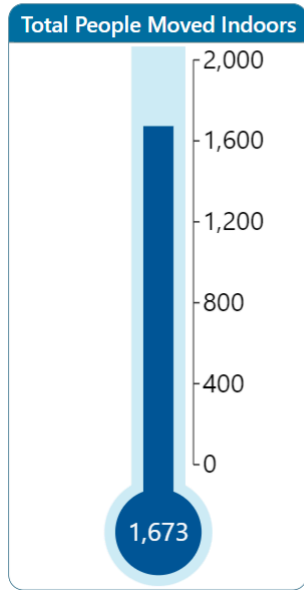
Mayor Johnston's declaration of a state of emergency and the goal to move 1,000 people indoors demonstrates strong leadership and shared commitment to ending homelessness in the region. A year to the date following the launch of the emergency declaration, the administration has completely redesigned the city's approach to people living in encampments.

Establishing Necessary Structures and Mechanisms

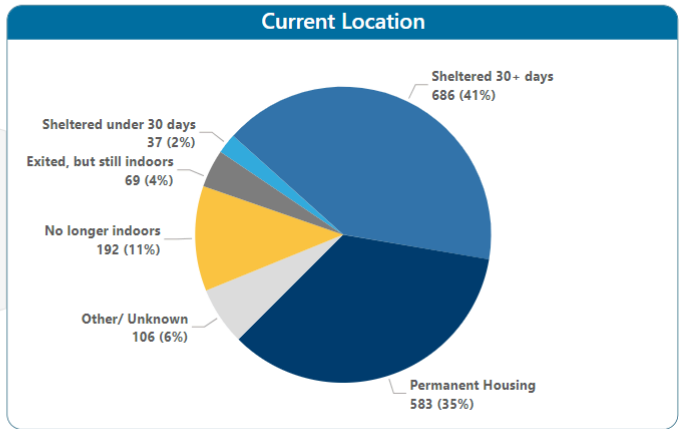
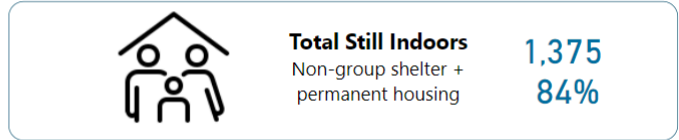
One of the strategies key to moving people from encampments into transitional housing was place-based, targeted outreach to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Ultimately, eight new transitional housing sites were opened and the inter-agency team ensured that once encampments were closed, they remained closed. As a result, there was **a 36% reduction in 9-1-1 calls and a 49% reduction in 3-1-1 calls related to encampments.**

Quality Data and Infrastructure

The interactive [All In Mile High Dashboard](#) provides **transparent visualizations of progress**, including metrics such as the number of people moved indoors and reductions in emergency service calls. This aligns with BFZ's focus on quality data and transparency.



Where are people now?



→ Initial Indoor Location

Understanding the System

The All in Mile High Initiative's success in mobilizing resources from various community partners and quickly converting hotels into shelters shows an understanding of available resources and gaps. They also acquired tiny homes and apartments to meet housing needs.



Working in Partnership and Collaboration

The All in Mile High Initiative comprises extensive community engagement and partnerships with nonprofits, faith leaders, and local businesses, reflecting strong collaborative efforts. With the

mayor's declaration, **the initiative was able to utilize emergency powers to prioritize homelessness** response across all city agencies.

Adopting an Equitable and Person-Centered Approach

Providing non-congregate housing options and wraparound services reflects a person-centered approach. Transitional housing and other units were private with comprehensive supportive services and a path to permanent housing.

Influencing System Conditions

The All In Mile High report highlights community engagement and public meetings, resulting in over 60 town hall meetings to gather community input and influence public will and narratives.

What's Next

Denver is showing other cities how to help homeless people without shelter in new and caring ways. In 2024, these efforts led to significant positive changes in its neighborhoods and public spaces. The closure of encampments has enhanced safety and decreased the occurrence of emergency incidents. Furthermore, collaboration among city agencies, non-profits, and community members has been strengthened. **Denver has proven that working together to help vulnerable groups can lead to big improvements.**

Built For Zero.
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Sources

🌐 All In Mile High Dashboard

[All In Mile High Report](#)