



DENVER'S TEN YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

PROGRESS REPORT: YEAR THREE

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CAMPAIGN TO END HOMELESSNESS

● DONATION METER LOCATIONS

GIVE A BETTER WAY:

There are better and more long-term ways to help than giving to panhandlers.

Bright red Campaign to End Homelessness donation meters are located throughout the downtown Denver area. Money collected is used to fund Denver's Road Home programs and services.

WHAT YOUR MONEY BUYS:

- \$.50** Helps a homeless person to use public transportation to reach an appointment.
- \$1.50** Provides a meal for a homeless individual.
- \$20** Provides a homeless family with food, shelter, clothing, employment assistance, and case management for a day.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Within two years of implementing Denver's plan, overall homelessness is down by 11% and chronic homelessness is down by 36%.
- In its first three years, Denver's Road Home has created 1,243 housing units and provided employment assistance to 3,278 homeless people.
- Denver's Road Home has provided eviction prevention services to 957 families.



"The kind of money it would take to solve the homeless problem could well be less than the kind of money it [would take] to ignore it."

Malcolm Gladwell, author of "The Tipping Point," New Yorker, January 2006

COST SAVINGS

While living on the streets, the chronically homeless use the most expensive city services. Detox treatment and emergency room visits are among the most costly.

Housing & treatment programs are cost effective:

- Among the 82 Denver CARES detox clients who participated in treatment for one year, admissions dropped by 76%, from 3,701 to 899. Based on the average cost per admission, this represents a savings of over a half million dollars that would have otherwise been expended on detox services.
- A recent two-year study by the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless showed Denver has net savings of \$4,745 per person per year by moving chronically homeless people into housing and treatment. That means the city is likely to save over \$1.5 million a year for persons who have entered the city's Housing First program. (This number represents cost savings realized by a reduced use of emergency services minus the cost of providing housing.)

Costs savings must be reinvested:

- Cost savings demonstrate Denver's Road Home is working, yet we have a long way to go before homelessness is ended in Denver.
- Cost savings must continue to be reinvested into housing and treatment services or we will reverse the progress that has been made.

FAMILY & SENIOR HOMELESS INITIATIVE:

Our faith community initiative is one of the many programs that make Denver's Road Home unique. Working with more than 195 Christian, Jewish and Muslim congregations, the Family and Senior Homeless Initiative program has had impressive results, including organizing more than 1,500 volunteers who have given thousands of hours and placing 1,301 homeless family members into permanent housing. All together, congregations and mentors have donated a total of \$200,453 toward homeless families' deposits and first month's rental payments. In total, 415 families have been mentored by the various congregations.

A SUCCESS STORY:

While panhandling on the corner of Colfax and Bannock, a homeless couple witnessed a crime. The responding patrol officers took statements from the couple. While interviewing the couple, the patrol officers observed that the woman was disabled. The officers called the homeless outreach officer on duty, who arrived and pre-sented several options to the couple for shelter and housing. By correctly assessing the needs of the couple, the involved agencies were able to help the couple get identification cards, temporary and then permanent housing, as well as helping the couple budget their finances. An added benefit was that with his new ID the man was able to go back to work so that he no longer has to panhandle for money.

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Three years into Denver's 10-year plan to end homelessness, we are on track to meet the initiative's ambitious goals.



The progress is tangible and encouraging.

- 1,243 new units of housing for the homeless have been created
- 957 families have received eviction assistance
- 3,278 homeless people have received employment assistance
- 415 families have been mentored through the faith initiative

In reducing both overall and chronic homelessness, Denver's Road Home is ahead of schedule. In fact, just three years into the initiative, we have created 60% of the housing stock for the chronically homeless called for in the plan and we are on track to meet this goal by 2010.

As the subject of more than 60 newspaper articles and ongoing radio and television interviews, Denver's Road Home has been acknowledged locally and nationally for its strategic innovations. Our donation meter project and annual pajama party continue to bring attention and funds to the initiative. The Downtown Denver Partnership this year recognized Denver's Road Home as having a key impact on the downtown community.

Meanwhile, Project Homeless Connect continues to connect the community with the homeless, and the homeless with services. Six Project Homeless Connects later, we have connected more than 3,200 homeless with more than 3,800 volunteers—progress that has prompted recognition from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Through public, private and foundation support, Denver's Road Home has exceeded its fundraising

goals for the first three years of the plan. We simply couldn't have succeeded without this generous support and we will continue to look to the community to fully fund this initiative.

This plan is truly a community plan that owes debts of gratitude to:

- The Denver City Council for its ongoing efforts to create housing, services and more strategic policies for the homeless of Denver.
- The Homeless Commission and the more than 300 community leaders and volunteers who helped us put this plan together in 2003.
- The foundation and business communities and the homeless providers who have tirelessly worked to implement this initiative and ensure that no one has to live on the streets.
- The hundreds of men, women and children in our community who have moved into housing and have shown that ending homelessness in Denver is possible.

Denver's Road Home is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. Moving the homeless off of the streets and into housing not only improves their quality of life and the health of the community, it also saves money.

With seven years to go, 3,900 homeless men, women and children still need our support. While we are on the right track, our work is not done. If you have already joined the community in supporting Denver's Road Home, I thank you. If you have not, I urge you to come on board. Together we can end homelessness.

John W. Hickenlooper
Mayor of Denver

"Thank you! I am glad that things have come to this way of working together. It sure beats the way things were two years ago!"

*Judy Schneider,
Ballpark Neighborhood*

MILE HIGH UNITED WAY – YOUR PARTNER IN SOLVING HOMELESSNESS

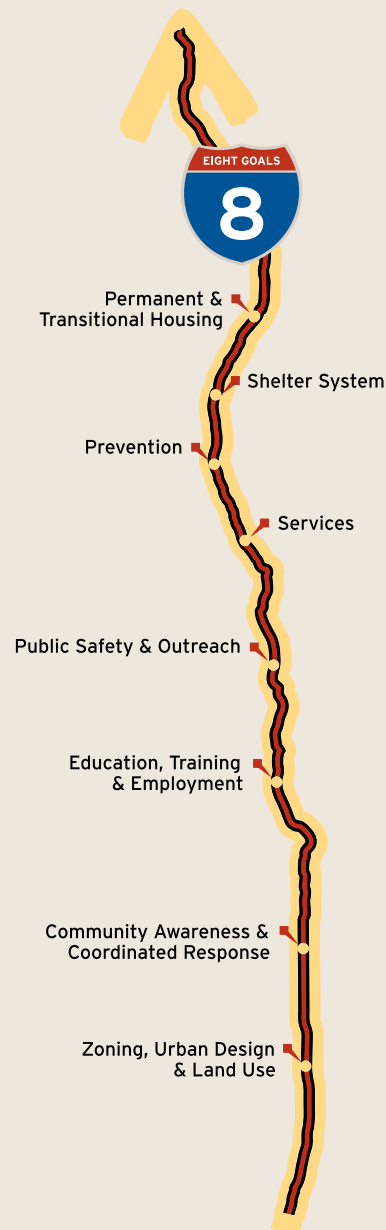
Mile High United Way was founded on the notion that we can do more together. By combining our resources and working together, we can accomplish more than any one organization can by itself.

Mayor Hickenlooper's ambitious goal of solving homelessness will indeed require our community to come together like it has never done before, and Mile High United Way is very proud to serve as the city's partner.

I thank each of you who have donated your time, money and talent to Denver's Road Home. The level of support from our community has been tremendous, and our accomplishments over the last two years show that by working together, we can, and we will, solve homelessness.

Christine Benero
President, Mile High United Way

DENVER'S TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS: YEAR 3



PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

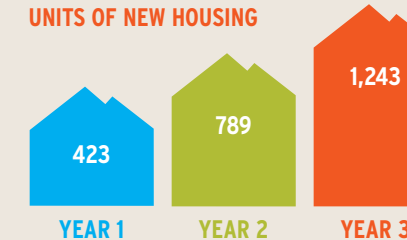
In the first three years of the plan, Denver's Road Home increased our total housing stock by 1,243 housing units. The plan remains focused on ensuring that a portion of these units targets the chronically homeless. To date, Denver's Road Home has created 60% of the housing units called for in the plan and is on track to meet a five-year 75% reduction in chronic homelessness. Studies by the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless demonstrate that the chronically homeless use our most expensive emergency services. Tremendous cost savings are realized by moving them indoors and surrounding them with services.

GOAL
1

"In the first three years, through the unprecedented support of this community, Denver's Road Home has shifted the idea of ending homelessness from the impossible to the possible!"

Tami Door, President, Downtown Denver Partnership

UNITS OF NEW HOUSING



SHELTER SYSTEM

Denver's Road Home remains committed to working with homeless providers in the community to transition the homeless out of shelter and into housing, focusing on expansion of housing stock rather than shelter beds. Through overflow services and collaboration across agencies, homeless providers in Denver have worked tirelessly to assist the homeless with this transition. In Year Three, Denver added five new respite beds to alleviate use of emergency services and reduce costs.

GOAL
2

PREVENTION

In the first three years of Denver's Road Home, 957 families received homelessness prevention assistance through eviction, foreclosure and utility shut-off assistance. As Denver assists its homeless in living life off of the streets, the commitment remains to work strategically to prevent new individuals and families from becoming homeless in the first place.

GOAL
3

SERVICES

Every unit of housing through Denver's Road Home is connected to services to ensure that the homeless have access to medical, mental health and substance abuse services. Since implementation, Denver's Road Home has assisted homeless people in accessing public assistance and key services necessary to live life off of the streets.

GOAL
4

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OUTREACH

Four outreach case managers, 19 outreach workers and two police officers work collaboratively to connect the homeless with services and to reach out to the community to ensure that the homeless in Denver are safe and well cared for. Since implementation, outreach workers have assisted 533 homeless persons in living life off of the streets.

GOAL
5

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Since implementation of the plan, Denver's Road Home has assisted 3,278 homeless persons with employment assistance. Through collaborative efforts involving the hospitality industry and other private sector outlets, the initiative remains committed to ensuring that every homeless person has access to employment services. **Denver's Road Home is not about free housing.** Most tenants are expected to pay 30% of their income for rent and those who have no income apply for benefits to help support their rent payments.

GOAL
6

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND COORDINATED RESPONSE

Denver's Road Home continues to pursue media coverage through a variety of outlets. During this past year, through high-profile efforts such as the Donation Meter Project, Denver's Road Home was the subject of 60 newspaper articles and multiple television and radio broadcasts, including National Public Radio, the **New York Times** and a Dublin, Ireland morning radio show.

GOAL
7

ZONING, URBAN DESIGN AND LAND USE

To ensure ongoing public participation and involvement in the development of affordable housing for the homeless, Denver's Road Home formed a site selection committee this year. Neighbors and other community leaders develop site selection criteria and make recommendations for new housing projects. Denver's Road Home remains committed to taking a comprehensive and collaborative approach to zoning, urban design and land use and is working closely with Housing and Neighborhood Development Services to advance its housing plan for Denver.

GOAL
8

➔ PLEASE DONATE OR VOLUNTEER! Visit www.DenversRoadHome.org or call United Way's 2-1-1