

# **Homeless Prevention, Support Services, and Built Environment Initiative**

City Council Study Session

June 12, 2023



# Purpose

- Provide an update on current homelessness climate and collaborations
- Understanding of homelessness in our community
- Staff proposal to begin addressing barriers



# Presenters

- Dr. Jamie Rife, Executive Director, Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
- Paolo Diaz, Community Safety and Well-Being Manager, Adams County
- Lindsey Earl, Community Safety and Well-Being Homelessness Administrator, Adams County
- Sherry Adams, Homelessness Navigator, Community Well-Being
- Sarah Nachtman, Community Well-Being Manager
- Jim Tolbert, Assistant City Manager



# What the Data Show

## DATA SUMMARY

**27,860**

**HMIS**

People accessing services or housing related to homelessness at HMIS Partner Agencies

**07/01/21 - 06/30/2022**

**6,884**

**POINT IN TIME**

People counted experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on a single night

**NIGHT OF 01/24/22**

**3,695**

**VI-SPDAT**

People included in households assessed by the VI-SPDAT in our Coordinated Entry System

**07/01/21 - 06/30/2022**

**8,240**

**MCKINNEY-VENTO**

Students identified and reported by public school districts as experiencing homelessness

**2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**



Commerce  
**CITY**

# POINT IN TIME COUNT 2022

## ADAMS COUNTY DATA

*Please note that the Point in Time is only a snapshot of homelessness on a single night with numerous variables that could result in an undercount.*

**462** PEOPLE EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS

on a single night in Adams County, Colorado

### SHELTERED

**274**

People who stayed in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Safe Haven Programs

### UNSHELTERED

**188**

People who slept on the streets or another place not meant for human habitation

### WHERE THEY STAYED

This year's count occurred on Monday, January 24, 2022 and was the first comprehensive count since 2020.

Emergency Shelter  
49%



Unsheltered  
41%

Transitional Housing  
10%

# Adams County is Experiencing a Poverty and Homelessness Crisis

- Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) March 2023 data indicate that there are approximately 4,561 people experiencing homelessness in Adams County.
- The hotel voucher data reveals that at least 800 people experienced unsheltered homelessness at least once during the 2022-2023 cold weather season

## TOP REASONS WHY PEOPLE EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

1

RELATIONSHIP PROBLEM  
OR FAMILY BREAKUP

2

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

3

ASKED TO LEAVE  
OR EVICTED

4

LOST JOB AND COULD  
NOT FIND WORK

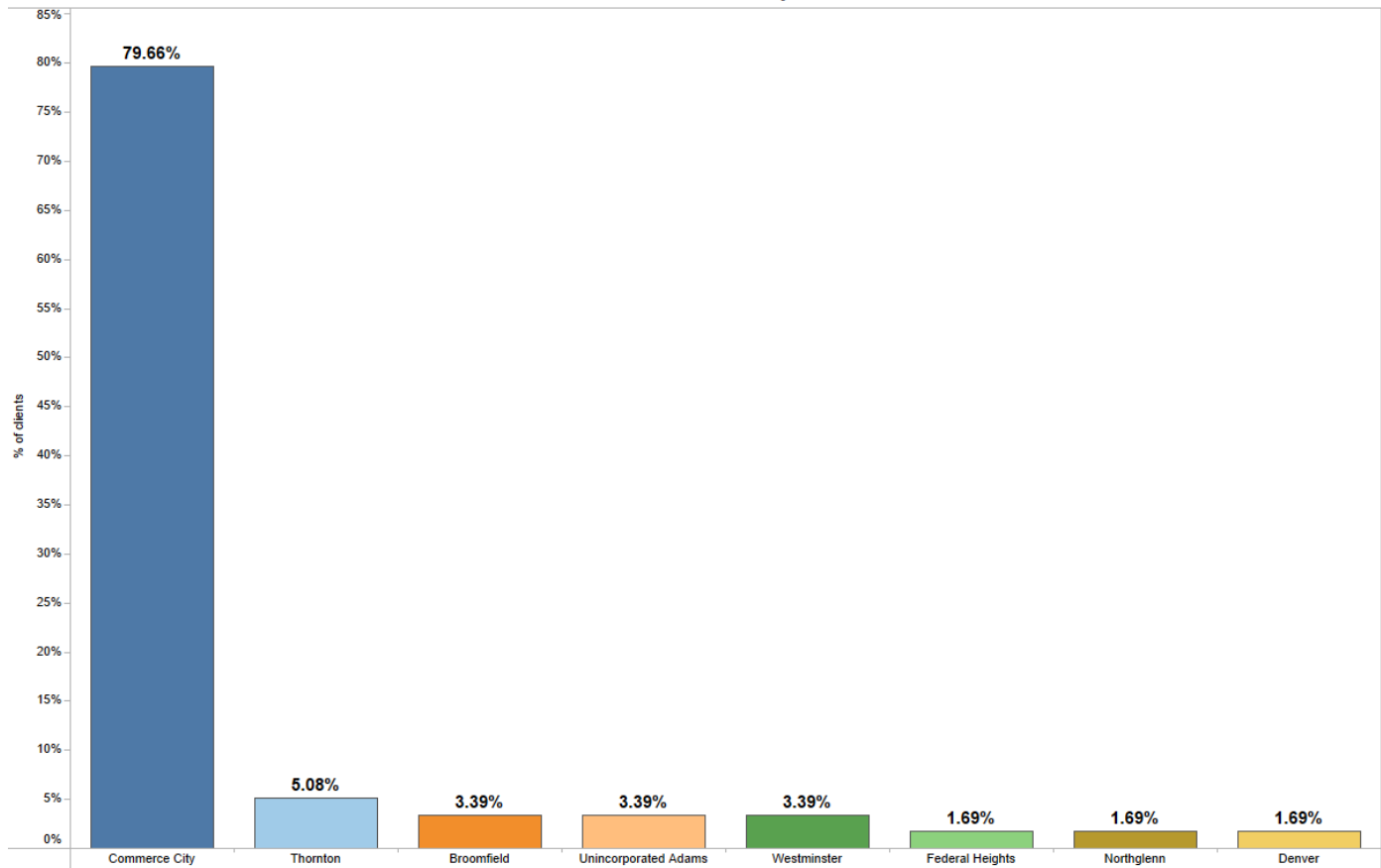
5

UNABLE TO PAY RENT  
OR THE MORTGAGE

*\* Based on 2022 Homeless Management Information System intake data of 1,157 people experiencing homelessness in Adams County.*

# Homelessness in Commerce City

Initial vs. Most Recent SWAP Intake  
What City Did You Sleep In Last Night?  
Initial = Commerce City



- 74 households currently enrolled into our program



# Updated Program Numbers

	2022 (Jan-Dec)	2023 (Jan-May)
Outreach Contacts	1,211	753
Identification assistance (IDs, Birth Certificates, Social Security Cards)	26	16
Public Benefit Assistance (SNAP, OAP, Medicaid, TANF)	52	26
SWAP vouchers administered	82	76
Housing Assessments/ Applications completed	56	93
Individuals placed into shelter or housing	10 shelter 5 housed	22 shelter 8 housed





# Case Studies

Putting the numbers to people:

- Disabled Veteran
- Family of 10
- First time experiencing homelessness
- Born and raised in Commerce City



# 3 Levels of Services to Begin Addressing Barriers

1<sup>st</sup>- Emergency shelter during severe weather

Staff is currently drafting an operations procedures that allows the capability of converting both recreations centers and civic center into emergency shelter.

2<sup>nd</sup>- Bridge housing with wrap around services

Short-term housing that allows unhoused residents stabilization while working on obtaining permanent housing.

3<sup>rd</sup>- Permanent supportive housing with wrap around services (SROs)



# Emergency Shelter Needs

Currently there are no emergency shelters in Adams County.

Number of deaths of PEH in Adams County due to exposure

- 2020- 1
  - 2021- 3
  - 2022-5
  - 2023-no known
- 5 amputee clients
  - 8 frost bitten clients

As of March, 2023 Adams County has a 570 shelter bed deficit.



# TrackNGO

- Equipment that would give the capability to rescue individuals and stranded motorists during heavy snowstorms/severe winter weather events
- It would address the current capability gap in City response plan
- 1 set is \$30,000 + shipping + \$2,500/additional vehicle attachments
- Staff is requesting 2 sets with 4 additional vehicle attachments= \$70,000 + shipping



# Bridge Housing with Wrap Around Services

- Bridge Housing is a short-term, continuous stay accommodation that helps people ‘bridge’ the gap from homelessness to permanent housing.
- Generally up to 90 days
- On-site and in-reach supports are offered to assist individuals with meeting basic needs, while individuals work with community supports to secure permanent housing as quickly as possible
- Can be via hotels or private/public landlords
- Helps ensure households remain safe and accessible during housing searches (don't fall through the cracks)



# Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- Intervention combining affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of those experiencing chronic homelessness
- In Colorado, shown to be 86% effective and [literature](#) demonstrates its effectiveness repeatedly
- "Housing First" (HF) model, meaning people secure housing and then receive services, including case management
- Housing First is **not** housing only
  - HF = 73% stability rates
  - Treatment first = 32% stability rates



# Proposal for ARPA Funds

- Emergency Shelter
- Bridge Housing
- Resource Center with Permanent Supportive Housing



# Timeline for the Use of ARPA Funds

- Allocation must occur by Dec 31, 2024  
(This can be through official Council Action to adopt this plan of use)
- Expenditure of funds by Dec 31, 2026

If we move forward now, we can meet this timeline.





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# Proposal



# Emergency Shelter

- Spec generators July '23
- Order generators Aug '23
- Install generators Sept '23
- Order cots/blankets etc. Aug '23

Other communities:

City of Boulder

City of Lakewood

City of Thornton

City of Westminster



# Bridge Housing

- Identify property June '23
- Land use entitlement Dec '23
- Identify partner Jan-June '24
- Design/construct June- Dec '24
- Occupy Spring '25



# Examples



Veteran's Community Project- Longmont, CO



Colorado Village Collaborative- Denver, CO



Salvation Army - Aurora, CO



Tiny Home- ACCESS Housing

# Resources Center with Permanent Supportive Housing

**What:** A center with wrap around services that also has small apartments above (50-60 units).

**Why:** Housing is the key to stabilization and services are vital to success.

**How:** Commerce City partners with a non-profit to construct and run housing.

Wrap around services are provided by Adams County or non-profits as appropriate.



## Resource Center with PSH

- Identify property Dec- Oct '23
- Engage partner June- Dec '23
- Design Jan '24
- Construct Oct '24
- Occupy Dec '25



# Examples



Charity House- Five Points



Fusion Studios- Denver



Heroes Landing- Santa Ana



# Resource Center Services

Typical services provided at center:

- Case Management
- Coordination of Bridge Housing
- Medical/Dental Office
- Computer Room
- Storage (Facility)
- Storage, Lockers (Users)
- Wet Rooms
  - Showers, Bathrooms, Laundry
- Kitchen
- Mailroom with Locking/Supervised Mailboxes
- Charge Station for Electronic Devices
- Bike Locks/Lockers
- Multi-Purpose Community Room (Dining, Emergency Shelter, Large Group Activities)
- Room for Food/Clothing Bank





# Wrap Around Supportive Services

## Potential community partners:

ACCESS Housing\*

Almost Home\*

Colorado Legal Services\*

Colorado Poverty Law Project\*

Servicios De La Raza

Yahweh Health Clinic

Veteran's Community Project

- Existing Adams County contracted partners



# Location Factors

- Below 88th Avenue (ARPA rule)
- Near Transit (1/4 mile)
- Bridge Housing and Resource Center in close proximity so bridge residents can access services



# Preliminary Allocation of Funds

- Emergency shelter stand up \$1.5 mill
- TrackNGo equipment \$75k
- Bridge housing \$2.0 mill
- Resource center w/PSH \$5.0 mill
- Contingency \$1.925 mill



# Regional Alignment on Homelessness

## Purpose:

- Strengthen regional coordination
- Noncentralized approach
- Improve outcomes
- Shared vision
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - Commitment on alignment
  - Assign member to Core Team
  - Data sharing



# Outputs and Outcomes

- Secure electronic data warehouse
- Evidence-based document with recommendations
- More collaboration and improve service provision to ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time



# What does regional partnership look like?

- Winter Housing Program – Northglenn
- Safe Parking – two lots in Commerce City
- Navigation Center at Human Services – Westminster
- SMART Bench – unincorporated Adams County, soon Commerce City
- Mailroom – Northglenn



*Programs and services concurrent with MOU*

# What does regional partnership look like?

- Office Hours – Northglenn
- Hotel Voucher Intakes – Northglenn
- Quarterly Navigate Adams Resource Fair – Northglenn, Unincorporated, Aurora, Westminster
- **Navigation center at Almost Home – Brighton**
- Family shelter at ACCESS Housing – Commerce City
- Mobile Showers and Laundry – Northglenn & Westminster



# Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)

- Since early 2021, the City of Commerce City has been an active participant in the Adams County Regional Working Group on Homelessness.
- The first component of this working group is a commitment to supporting one another via a memorandum of understanding (MOU).
- This MOU does not commit any Commerce City funds, staff, or resources; the purpose of the MOU is to affirm the City's commitment to collaboration on solving homelessness at the regional level.





# Adams County's Commitment

- New and continuous partnerships
- Support projects
- Work to identify funding sources
- Earmarked ARPA dollars



# Summary

## Direction Needed From Council

- Place MOU on agenda for adoption
- Authorize expenditure of ARPA Funds for emergency shelter stand up
- Authorize CM to look for land for bridge housing and resource center with permanent supportive housing
- Authorize staff to obtain commitments in writing from agencies to provide wrap around services



# Success Story

