

# Homelessness Update and ARPA Funds

City of Commerce City  
City Council Study Session January 24, 2022



# Purpose

- ▶ Provide an update of current homelessness efforts in our community, collaborations, and upcoming projects.
- ▶ Provide an update on the American Rescue Plan and its related projects.
- ▶ Discuss Adams County municipal memorandum of understanding on homelessness.
- ▶ Presenters:

Sarah Nachtman, Community Navigator- Homeless Outreach

Trenten Robinson, Management Analyst

Jim Tolbert, Director of Community Development

# Homelessness Efforts

Sarah Nachtman, Community Navigator - Homeless Outreach

# Collaborations and Partnerships

## Ongoing:

- ▶ Adams County
- ▶ City of Aurora
- ▶ City of Northglenn
- ▶ City of Thornton
- ▶ City of Westminster
- ▶ ACCESS Housing
- ▶ Almost Home, Inc.
- ▶ Anythink Library
- ▶ Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI)
- ▶ Stout Street Foundation

## New Since Fall 2021:

- ▶ City of Denver
- ▶ Adams14
- ▶ ShowersForAll
- ▶ Yahweh Health Clinic (YHC)
- ▶ Colorado Safe Parking Initiative (CSPI)

# Current Homelessness Efforts in Commerce City

- ▶ Severe Weather Activation Plan (SWAP)
  - ▶ 5 activations
  - ▶ 34 vouchers administered
  - ▶ 23 nights of motel stays
- ▶ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  - ▶ Awarded 10k for outreach supplies & service-related resources
- ▶ Point In Time (PIT)
  - ▶ Participating in regional surveying of unsheltered homelessness in Commerce City
  - ▶ Jan 25<sup>th</sup>
  - ▶ ACCESS Housing, Park Rangers, & YHC volunteers
- ▶ Mobile Sanitation Services
  - ▶ Laundry & showers
  - ▶ ACCESS hosting ShowersForAll monthly
- ▶ Volunteer Outreach Program
  - ▶ YHC undertaking CU Med students
  - ▶ 21 medical students, 4 medical prescribers & 2 registered nurses
  - ▶ Scheduling platform 2x/week
- ▶ Safe Parking Lot
  - ▶ Nativity Lutheran Church & CSPI to open a 7-car only lot
  - ▶ Case management provided

# Final 2021 Numbers and Successes

- ▶ 292 Commerce City outreach contacts
- ▶ 16 state ID assistance
- ▶ 9 SNAP application assistance
- ▶ 5 Stimulus payments assistance
- ▶ First resource event held at Stout Street Foundation
- ▶ Internal 'Coats for Commerce City' drive
- ▶ Success stories

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# American Rescue Plan Update

Trenten Robinson, Management Analyst

# State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Review

- ▶ The City is eligible to receive approximately \$10.5 million in SLFRF as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
  - ▶ Issued in Two Equal Tranches of approximately \$5.25 million
  - ▶ Tranche 1 - Received in July 2021; transferred to City funds as Revenue Replacement.
  - ▶ To receive the second tranche in mid-2022, the City must spend or attribute the entirety of the First Tranche through any of the ARP allowable use categories.
- ▶ The Department of the Treasury issued its Final Rule on allowable uses of SLFRF on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - ▶ Staff has worked with the Treasury and identified a number of options that would likely qualify as an Allowable Uses for “Promoting Long-Term Housing Security” under the final rule.



# Previous Direction from Council

- ▶ Council direction to staff in July 2021 was to ‘act boldly’ with the funds to address and end homelessness in Commerce City.
  - ▶ Particular emphasis on providing individuals job training, addiction counseling, and other ‘wrap-around’ services.
  - ▶ Decision to address homelessness with a large portion of the SLFRF was made after Council worked closely with staff on identifying a number of priorities.
  - ▶ Staff has since worked on identifying the projects and/or programs for which we could utilize the funds

# Homelessness Project and Program through SLFRF

Addressing homelessness in Commerce City will take two components:

## SLFRF Project

- ▶ Physical space purchased, constructed, or renovated by the City
- ▶ Provides temporary or permanent housing and emergency shelter
  - ▶ Numerous options currently being explored: “pallet” shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.
- ▶ Central location to provide services with private offices and common spaces
- ▶ The SLFRF Funding alone will likely not be enough to fund a brick-and-mortar facility.
  - ▶ Partnerships with Private Sector, Non-Profit, and other Municipalities will be necessary to complete the capital stack.

## SLFRF Program

- ▶ Network of ‘wrap-around’ services that can utilize the project space
- ▶ Key services identified by staff: job training, case management, washrooms, medical and addiction services, and animal-friendly spaces
- ▶ Less up-front costs, requires on-going staffing and maintenance costs
- ▶ The SLFRF Funding alone will not be enough for funding the programming.
  - ▶ Partnerships with non-profits and other government entities will be necessary to support this effort.

# Collaborations on Homelessness

- ▶ Homelessness cannot be solved or addressed by any one municipality or County. Collaboration is necessary to address the root causes of homelessness.
- ▶ Staff has worked closely with the *Adams County Housing and Homelessness Municipal Working Group* to coordinate homelessness response efforts across the County.
  - ▶ Working Group has created an MOU which affirms each municipality's and the County's commitment to collaboration on homelessness.
    - ▶ MOU to be presented to Council for review in Q1 2022.
    - ▶ No financial commitment from City will be made as part of MOU.
  - ▶ Working Group allows for information and resource sharing, more efficient by decreasing duplication of services.
  - ▶ County Commissioners planning 'Road Show' for Adams County Municipal Councilmembers as part of homelessness effort for February 2022.

# Next Steps - ARPA

- ▶ Completion of mapping project to identify best locations for Navigation Center and other temporary housing and shelter options.
  - ▶ Once map is complete, staff will conduct cost analyses on potential locations.
- ▶ First tranche must be completely attributed by Summer 2022.
  - ▶ Revenue replacement
  - ▶ Capital improvement/construction
- ▶ Once first tranche is attributed, staff will apply for Second Tranche.

# Next Steps - Pallet Shelters

- Staff approached by Adams County to identify potential locations in Commerce City for a small set (4-8) of 'Pallet Shelters'.
  - Current discussions involve Adams County or their non-profit partners staffing and maintaining location.
  - City would be responsible for providing location only.
- Coordinating with Community Development, GIS, and Community Navigator - Homeless Outreach on identifying locations.
- Once locations are identified and evaluated, staff will return to Council with recommendations.

More information on Pallet Shelters and an article about the Aurora shelter project have been included in your packet.

Images to the right show a sample of shelters from Aurora.



# Next Steps - MOU

Jim Tolbert, Director of Community Development

# Next Steps - MOU on Homelessness

- Created through Adams County Housing and Homelessness Municipal Working Group.

- Developed with input from:

**Adams County**

**Northglenn**

**Commerce City**

**Thornton**

**Aurora**

**Westminster**

**Brighton**

**Bennett**

**Federal Heights**

**Broomfield**

- No fiscal contribution required as part of MOU. Bring to Council later in Q1 2022 for review.

# Next Steps - MOU on Homelessness

## Purpose

- ▶ Strengthen regional coordination and improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness or at a risk of homelessness through a shared vision.

## Goals

- ▶ Shared data
- ▶ Identify areas of opportunity to provide a system of services and housing
- ▶ Development of a single navigation and entry system
- ▶ Identify possible funding sources
- ▶ Identify possible development partners

## Outcomes

- ▶ More collaboration between the local governments in making homelessness rare, brief and one time
- ▶ Improved service provision and infrastructure
- ▶ Increased housing opportunities



# Questions and Comments?

Staff is available to answer and respond to any comments from Council.