

Community Well-Being Division

July 27th, 2026



National League of Cities: Community Health & Wellbeing Accelerator



- Commerce City was selected as one of six cities nationwide to join the National League of Cities 2025 Community Health & Well-Being Accelerator.
- A 12-month immersive planning process that builds city capacity to address the root causes of health disparities by aligning resources, leveraging local assets, and advancing transformative policies and systems change
- Participating cities
 - Lawrence, IN
 - Providence, RI
 - Las Vegas, NV
 - Miramar, FL
 - Perris, CA

Cohort Teams



- Core Team (Bi-monthly meetings)
 - Team Lead, Sarah Mondesire
 - ACM, Jim Tolbert
 - Health & Food Equity Navigator, Paulina Ursua Garcia
 - Senior Bilingual Communications Specialist, Alondra Gonzalez Carillo
 - AdCo, Community Safety & Well-Being Systems Coordinator, Ruhani Sansoya
 - Almost Home, Deputy Director, Delaney Coe
- Leadership Team (quarterly meetings)
 - DCM, Courtney Brown
 - ACM, Jason Dennison

Laying the Foundation



- Conducted data collection and initial analysis in 4 key areas:
 - Economic Opportunity
 - Housing
 - City Planning & Design
 - Health & Human Services
- Identified key issues and cross-cutting themes
 - Un/underemployment
 - low educational attainment
 - stagnant wages for renters
 - Lack of available housing
 - Geographical isolation and lack of transportation
 - High rates of chronic disease and barriers to accessing food

Emerging Priorities

From the Data Collection & Initial Analysis, we established 2-3 emerging priorities per issue area.

Overall summary:

- Improve transportation services and infrastructure to increase access to services and resources across the city
- Address the divide between “North vs South”
 - Differing needs, availability of resources, and economic disparities
- Address affordability (housing, food, healthcare) exacerbated by a lack of opportunity and housing options

Cities of Opportunities Capacity Checklist

- Conducted a cross-departmental collaboration to examine the City's current capacity, opportunities, and challenges in the following areas:
 - Race & Equity Lens
 - Strategic Data Capacity
 - Cross-Departmental Alignment
 - Increased & Diversified Funding
 - Authentic Community Engagement
 - Effective Multi-Sector Partnership
 - Comprehensive Policy Agenda
- **Assets**
 - ARPA Funds (ACT Program)
 - Non-monetary resources (space, fleet, equipment)
 - Community Partnerships
 - Strong cross-departmental collaboration
- **Challenges**
 - End of ARPA
 - Limited internal capacity and bandwidth
 - Varying levels of understanding and role in strategic priorities
- **Opportunities**
 - Develop a shared framework
 - Strengthen data systems and reporting processes
 - Recent community assessments

Accelerator Workplan Creation



- Overall goal: Healthier Residents
- Five priority focus areas were determined:
 - Access to Quality Housing
 - Access to Healthy Foods
 - Access to Quality Healthcare
 - Access to Transportation
 - Access to Economic Opportunities

Priority Strategy 1:

Increase and improve housing inventory, and strengthen partnerships with housing partners

Few key actions:

- Review the County housing plan & identify alignment opportunities
- Create a streamlined referral system with housing partners
 - Build centralized housing unit database (platform & data types)
- Implement an ADU(Accessory Dwelling Unit) strategy after the new Land Development Code

Priority Strategy 2:

Increase food access by expanding free meals and grocery programs

Few key actions:

- Collect food insecurity data to determine needs & barriers
 - Inventory food sources (affordability, freshness, cultural relevance)
- Coordinate with Adams County on Food Systems Resilience Plan
- Expand partnerships for warm meals, mobile markets, and school programs

Priority Strategy 3:

Provide quality healthcare access and wellness initiatives for residents, including the uninsured and undocumented

Few key actions:

- Align with the Adams County Community Health Improvement Plan
- Identify high-need areas for mobile healthcare sites
 - Strengthen partnerships with mobile/telehealth providers
- Increase awareness & access to green space for health outcomes

Priority Strategy 4:

Improve transportation access and increase connectivity

Few key actions:

- Identify existing transportation services and resources
- Support efforts by DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Governments) to establish microtransit opportunities
- Improve public transportation stops to promote accessibility and safety
 - Advocate for additional RTD routes

Priority Strategy 5:

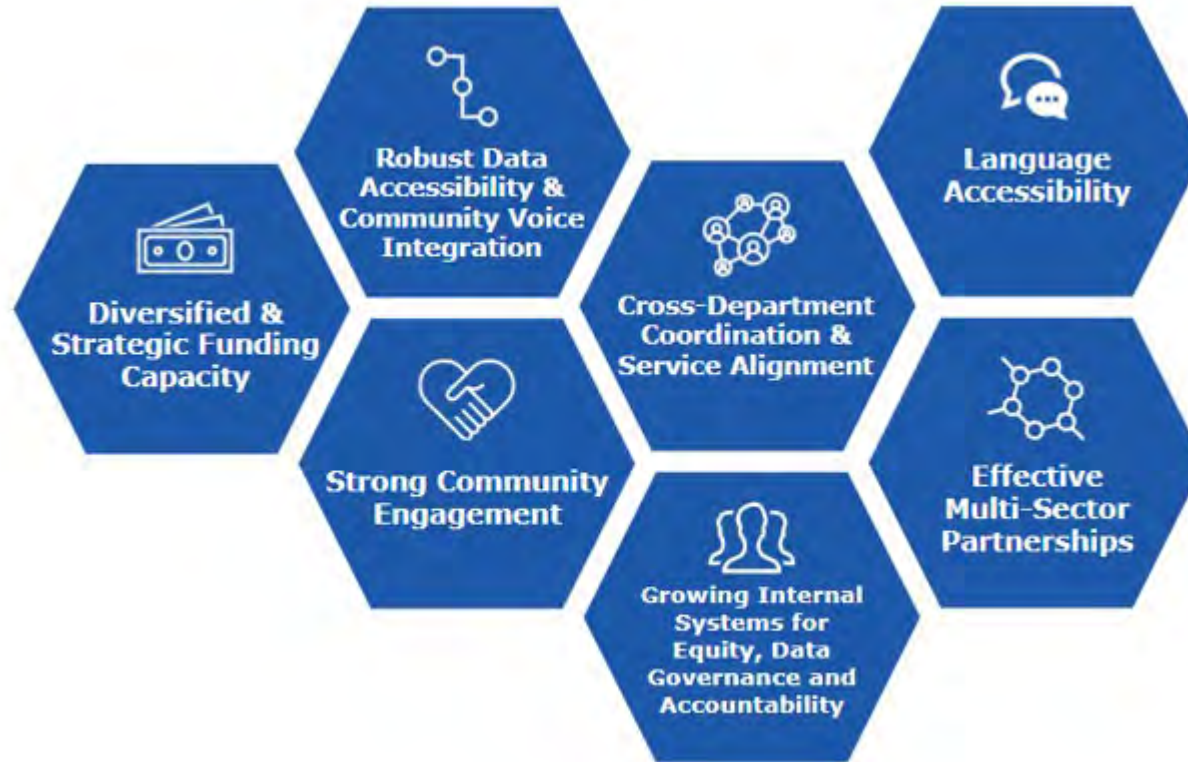
Support workforce development pathways to higher-paying jobs and prioritize career/ economic mobility in workforce development efforts

Few key actions:

- Establish a long-term Workforce Pathway Program budget
- Collect and audit workforce data aligned with community outcomes
- Recruit employers to support student pathways
- Expand onsite employment preparation resources

Next Steps

- Bring forward a resolution



Energy, Equity, and the Environment (E3) Division Update

July 27, 2026



How does E3 advance Community Health and League of Cities as part of this team?

Energy Efficiency & Collaboration CWB

How is E3 Advancing League of Cities Social Determinants of Health

Strategy 1 – Increase & Improve Housing Inventory with Energy Equity Action Plan

- Working with Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy & Community Well-Being
- Plan is complete, in Phase II: Plan Implementation
- Focus on weatherization, energy efficiency in residences and businesses

Strategy 4 – Improve Transportation Access - Electric Vehicle (EV) Action Plan

- Working with Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy
- Phase I: Plan Overview going to EPIC on June 26
- Phase II: Implementation starts in Q3 2026 and lasts 18-months
- Focus on EV equity for all residents, businesses and institutions



Grants

Strategy 1 & 5 - Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)

- Building Policy Collaborative Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program
- City Sub-award Amount: \$1,182,753
- The goal of the project is to build staffing capacity and training to promote building decarbonization policies



Strategy 2 - Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) Funding

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for 2025 and 2026
- Xeric gardens one in the north and one in south of city

Strategy 2 - Colorado Water Conservation Board Grant

- Awarded in Fall 2025 to fund \$47K toward the Xeric Demonstration Gardens
- Required to use funding by end of 2026



Water Conservation & Food Access

Strategy 2 - Xeric Demonstration Gardens

- Request for Bid (RFB) in Spring 2026
- Construction Contract in progress in Late Q2 2026
- Construction Estimation in Late August/Early September 2026
- Working on Educational Signage Estimates

Strategy 2 -Garden-in-a-Box Program with Resource Central

- \$25 off per box discounts offered
- (Launch) Late Summer boxes 2025 – Sold 13 boxes
- Spring boxes sold out 20 boxes
- Summer boxes – Launched June 24th with 15 discounts (5 provided from grant with Resource Central)



Oil and Gas Updates – Air Quality

Refinery Report Details

- The passage of [Colorado House Bill 24-1338](#) required the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) to hire a refinery expert to examine cumulative impacts and environmental justice at petroleum refineries. The [report](#) for Suncor was released on May 1, 2026.

Meetings

- E3, Adams County, and the ACPD office of CDPHE began meeting monthly to discuss matters exclusive to air quality in Adams County.
- E3 and the City Attorney's Office meet monthly on a Local Government Roundtable to learn about CO oil and gas matters with local government staff.

Monthly Oil and Gas Update

- Starting in Spring 2026, all monthly Oil and Gas Presentations are posted on the E3 webpage rather than an update at City Council.



Sustainable Neighborhoods Network

The Sustainable Neighborhood Network was established to oversee the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program.

- ✓ This program allows residents to actively engage in creating environmentally sustainable and socially connected communities.
- ✓ It encourages neighborhoods to achieve Certified Sustainable Neighborhood status by offering structured guidance, resources, and tracking tools to help implement local sustainability projects.
- ✓ Rollout in the fall
- ✓ Onboarding of neighborhoods in early 2027



Current Projects

Urban Tree Canopy

- PlanIT Geo Tree Canopy Assessment and Inventory (on E3 webpage)
- CU Boulder Masters of the Environment Commerce City pilot project created a Tree Planting and Care Guide specific to C3 needs (on E3 webpage)
- 2 E3 Sustainability Interns for summer working on Tree Canopy Expansion Plan (program and policy outlines)

Environmental and Climate Resilience Framework

- Supplements the Sustainability Action Plan and Adams County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Posted to E3 webpage

LEED for Cities

- 1 of 17 communities nationwide to participate in the 2026 LEED for Cities Cohort. Certification will help C3 measure progress, set future sustainability goals, and continue building a healthier, more sustainable community.

Next Steps

- Align E3 activities to more seamlessly work with CWB to address the social determinants of health
- Resolution to approve the Community Health and Well being Strategy
- Include appropriate activities in the Strategic Plan Refresher

Thank you, Questions

Community Well-Being

- **Sarah Mondesire**, Community Well-Being Manager
- **Fabiola Prieto**, Bilingual Administrative Specialist
- **Jerimie Olvera**, Housing and Homelessness Supervisor
- **Roxzana Martinez**, Stability Services Supervisor
- **Lizbeth Gomez Estrada**, Family and Seniors Navigator
- **Kelsey Medina**, Homelessness Navigator
- **Paulina Ursua Garcia**, Health & Food Equity Navigator

Energy Equity and the Environment

- **Melody Mascarenaz**, Sustainability Manager
- **Olivia Quagliani**, Sustainability Program Coordinator
- **Libby Tart**, Senior Environmental Planner