



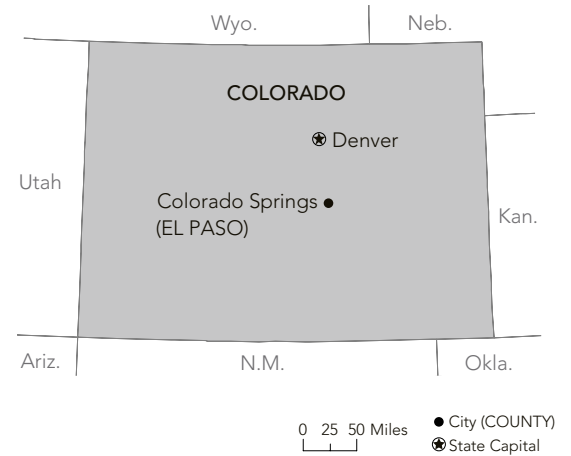
**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

Colorado had an estimated 2,234 homeless families on a single night in 2010, with providers serving nearly four times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Colorado Community and Interagency Council on Homelessness (established by executive order in October 2003) informs the governor, the legislature, and the public on housing and homelessness issues to create coordinated and integrated policies and strategies.

Governor's Appointee: Gary Sanford, Housing and Homelessness Policy Advisor to the Governor, has directed the Colorado Community and Interagency Council on Homelessness' initiatives since January 2011.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Colorado	Denver ²	El Paso County
Persons in homeless families ³	7,908	3,671	294
Number of family shelter beds ⁴	3,522	2,316	278
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁵	44	35	13
Percent of families in poverty ⁶	12.78%	12.29%	11.85%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	No plan	2005	2009
10-Year plan target population	No plan	All	All
Point-in-time count frequency	Biennially*	Biennially	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Colorado Community and Interagency Council on Homelessness	Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative; Colorado Department of Human Services	Homeward Pikes Peak; Pikes Peak United Way
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Colorado Coalition for the Homeless*	Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	Pikes Peak United Way
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Colorado Balance of State Advisory Board*	Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative	Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Providers Taskforce

*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of Colorado that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

Homeless Prevention Activities Program

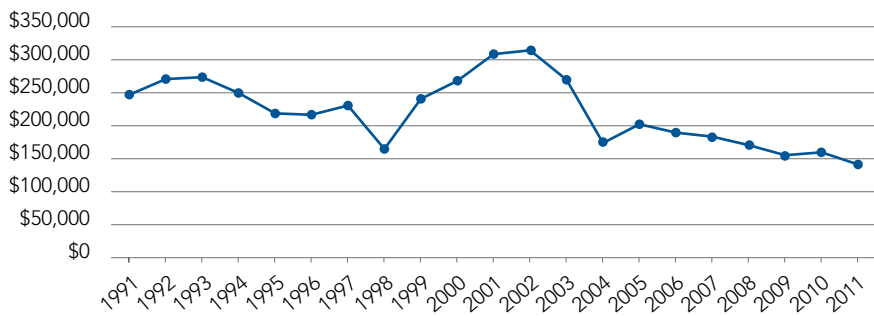
The Homeless Prevention Activities Program (HPAP), established by the Colorado General Assembly in 1989 and administered by the Colorado Trust since 1991, provides short-term cash assistance and case management to families and individuals who are at risk of becoming homeless. Funded through donations on the Colorado state income tax form, HPAP monies are distributed to subgrantees using a formula based on the number of individuals receiving Food Stamps and the number of unemployed persons in each county. At least 75% of the funds must be used for financial aid such as rent, mortgage, or utility payments. Since its inception, HPAP has disbursed over \$4.6 million to more than 11,000



The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Colorado and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

families and individuals. Of the approximately 350 households served each year, about 70% are families with children and more than half have annual incomes less than \$12,000. Over two-thirds of the heads of household are employed. All households receive housing stabilization services and an average of \$350 in monetary assistance. During the 2010–11 program year, HPAP awarded \$139,163 to 17 subgrantees for local distribution to families. In an effort to increase donations, HPAP joined with the other programs eligible for taxpayer contributions in 2003 to create a statewide public awareness campaign, Checkoff Colorado.⁷

Total Funding Distributed by the Homeless Prevention Activities Program (by program year)



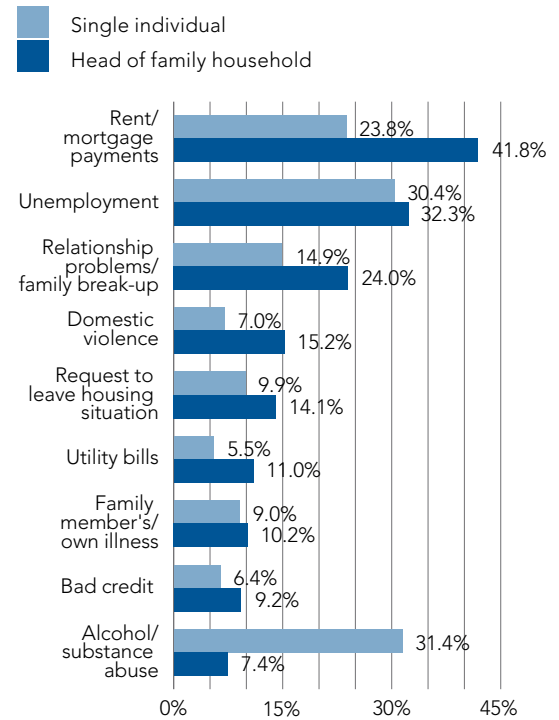
Source: Heidi Halpern (HPAP Project Coordinator), interview with ICPH, April 2011.

Denver’s Road Home

The Denver Commission to End Homelessness—a group of representatives from Denver’s government, non-profit organizations, and business community—adopted a ten-year plan to end homelessness in 2005. The plan commits to developing 3,193 permanent and transitional housing units; preventing homelessness; connecting homeless households with mainstream benefits; creating 750 employment opportunities each year for homeless persons (updated from the original goal of 580); and changing zoning, building, and development codes to increase the supply of emergency and affordable housing. As of 2010, 61% (1,961) of projected new permanent and transitional housing units have been built, over 5,500 families and individuals have been connected with eviction and utility assistance, and 5,253 persons have been placed in full- or part-time permanent jobs (with a retention rate of 73% over nine months). Denver established a \$15 million Transit Oriented Development Fund to create and preserve more than 1,000 affordable housing units near new and existing rail lines and bus routes, with the first property acquired in May 2010. In March 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development named the city a national model for improving homeless families’ and individuals’ access to mainstream benefits.

Denver’s plan also includes the Family and Senior Homeless Initiative (FSHI), which trains teams of two to six people from a faith-based congregation to mentor a homeless family or senior citizen with a steady income to manage a budget and set and attain personal goals. The team meets with its mentee seven times over four to six months and the congregation provides the household with monies for first month’s rent and deposit. By 2010, 720 households had already been served and 89% of families aided by FSHI’s 285 participating congregations remained in permanent housing one year after graduation, prompting an increase in FSHI’s objective from 1,000 families mentored by 2015 to 1,500 families.⁸

Contributing Factors to Homelessness in the Denver Metropolitan Area (by household type and percent of respondents)



Source: Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative and Colorado Department of Human Services, *Denver Metropolitan Area 2009 Homeless Point-in-time*. Interviewees could provide more than one response.

Endnotes

- ¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD’s 2010 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- ² Statistics for Denver include Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties.
- ³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2010 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD’s 2010 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- ⁵ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2010 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2005–2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.
- ⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, *2005–2009 American Community Survey*.
- ⁷ Heidi Halpern (HPAP Project Coordinator), interview with ICPH, April 2011; Checkoff Colorado, “Colorado Homeless Prevention Activities Fund,” <http://www.checkoffcolorado.org>
- ⁸ The Denver Commission to End Homelessness, *Denver’s Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness: July 1 Update—Second Revision 2009*; *Denver’s Road Home, Denver’s Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness: 2010 Annual Update: Year 5*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Strategies for Improving Homeless People’s Access to Mainstream Benefits and Services*, March 2010.