



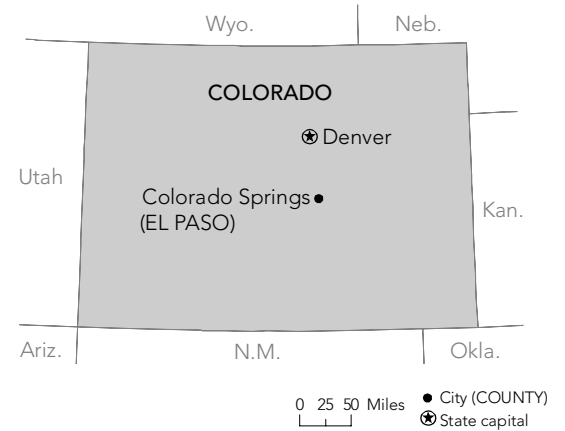
**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

Colorado had an estimated 2,457 homeless families on a single night in 2008, with providers serving nearly four times their bed capacity over the course of a year. This brief summarizes the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.¹

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Colorado Community and Interagency Council on Homelessness informs the governor, the legislature, and the public on housing and homeless issues to create a coordinated and integrated response to homelessness.

Governor's Appointee: Christine Murphy, Senior Policy Analyst in the Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives, chairs the Colorado Community and Interagency Council on Homelessness.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Colorado	Denver ²	El Paso County
Persons in homeless families ³	8,487	4,813	315
Percent of persons in homeless families ⁴	.47%	.47%	.13%
Family shelter beds ⁵	3,690	2,523	272
Percent of families in poverty ⁶	12.90%	21.21%	11.34%
10-Year plan date	No plan	2005	2009
10-Year plan target population	No plan	All	All
Point-in-time count frequency	Biennially	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Colorado Community and Interagency Council on Homelessness	Metro 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 Department of Human Services	Pikes Peak United Way
Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant or main organizing agency	Colorado Balance of State Advisory Board	Metro Denver Homeless Initiative	Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Providers Taskforce

Denver's Road Home

In Denver, one out of every 213 persons in families experienced homelessness on a single night in 2008.⁷ Recognizing the broad reach of homelessness in the city, Denver's government, local nonprofit organizations, affordable housing commissions, human service providers, and homeless advocates came together to create the Denver Commission to End Homelessness. The group's efforts yielded *Denver's Road Home: Denver's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness*. Adopted in 2005, the plan aims to increase permanent and transitional housing and develop additional shelter beds. The plan also calls for improved access to supportive services and educational opportunities, with heightened homeless prevention efforts. Finally, along with expanded community awareness and enhanced public safety, *Denver's Road Home* advises reforming local zoning regulations.

By 2008, the region had progressed on the plan's main goals; providers developed 1,243 (39%) of the recommended 3,193 permanent and transitional housing beds, although it is unclear how many beds are specifically for families. In addition, local

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, nonprofit, and voluntary sector work to end family homelessness. www.icprwb.org



stakeholders have created 140 shelter beds, helped 957 families avoid eviction, assisted 533 people through street outreach efforts, provided 3,278 persons with education and job training services, and formed a committee to facilitate affordable housing development through land use reform.⁸ Despite the progress in increasing shelter capacity, a gap still exists between the number of homeless families and available beds. In 2008, this shortfall numbered 2,290 beds, leaving thousands of family members without housing.⁹

Denver Family Shelters

In Denver, 11 out of 19 family shelters, serving 3,437 adults and 3,998 children, completed the *National Survey* questionnaire. Most participating shelters in Denver provide, in addition to basic housing, an array of on-site supportive services to eligible clients.

- 90% of shelters provide case management.
- 60% of facilities provide education to children and/or childcare.
- 60% of providers offer employment training programs for adults.

Additionally, 80% of organizations are primarily privately funded, compared to 45% of providers across the U.S. In two-thirds of facilities, more than half of adults are employed. Service providers cite lack of trade job skills and lack of education as the two main barriers to employment.¹⁰

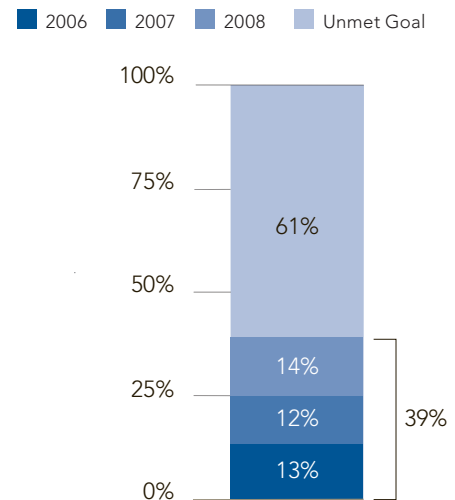
Colorado Springs Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Providers Taskforce

El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs began the process of homeless planning and service coordination in 1987 with the creation of the Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Providers (CHAP) Taskforce. Bringing together city and county officials, the group recognized the need for increased affordable housing, family transitional shelters, and increased funding for homeless prevention programs. As a result of CHAP's work, the city and county have secured approximately nine million dollars in homeless assistance funding and have made significant progress in reducing homelessness.¹¹ Today, the agency coordinates with Homeward Pikes Peak and the Colorado Springs Housing Development Division to apply for Continuum of Care funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless provides integrated health care, housing, and supportive services to homeless persons and families in metropolitan Denver. Founded in 1984 as a non-profit organization, the coalition actively participates in local and state efforts to prevent and end homelessness. The organization's emergency and transitional shelter programs house 2,100 adults and 2,400 children each year. These facilities also provide an array of on-site services, including case management, housing assistance, childcare, educational programs for children, employment counseling, and health services. The coalition's Stout Street Clinic is a national Health Care for the Homeless model, offering comprehensive medical, dental, vision, and mental health care. In 2007, this program served more than 12,000 low-income and homeless clients. Furthermore, the coalition unites homeless service providers across the state through its Rural Initiatives Program, a collaboration that operates permanent supportive housing units and rental assistance programs for homeless and at-risk families.¹²

Percent of Progress toward Denver's Permanent and Transitional Shelter Bed Development Goal (by year)



Source: Denver's Road Home, *Progress Report: Year Three*, November 2008.

Endnotes

¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2008 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, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.

⁴ Ibid.; U.S. Census Bureau, *2005–2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.

⁵ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, *2005–2007 American Community Survey*.

⁷ Ibid.; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.

⁸ Denver's Road Home, *Progress Report: Year Three*, November, 2008.

⁹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Housing Inventory Chart Report*.

¹⁰ Data provided by Almost Home, Inc.; Boulder County Advocates for Transitional Housing; Catholic Charities; The Catholic Worker Movement; Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Denver Rescue Mission; Emergency Family Assistance Association; Growing Home; Mile High Ministries; Sacred Heart House of Denver; Volunteers of America—Colorado Branch. Statistics do not include services provided by referral.

¹¹ Colorado Springs Department of Economic Development, "Homeless Program/Continuum of Care," <http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=288>

¹² Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, *2007 Annual Report: Every 1 Counts*.