“Let’s stand up for our youth.
The time is now ... let’s effect change.”

Mayor Michael B. Hancock

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MBK Community Challenge - 6 Milestones ........................................ 1

Office of Children’s Affairs - Navigating the MBK Challenge ........ 2

MBK Index Map – Denver Neighborhoods in Need ...................... 3

MBK Denver Summit 2015 ................................................................. 4

Focus Areas and Action Plans ....................................................... 5

DENVER’S MBK WORKING COMMITTEE

Antwan Jefferson, PhD  
Human Development and Family Relations  
University of Colorado Denver

Benzel Jimmerson, CYFAR/FLTI  
Program Coordinator  
Colorado State University Denver Extension

Brad Strong, Executive Director  
Colorado Mentoring Partnership

Cedric Buchanan, City President  
Metropolitan Denver BBVA Compass

Darlene Sampson, PhD  
Culturally Responsive Education Director  
Denver Public Schools

Don Mares, Executive Director  
Denver Office of Behavioral Health Strategies

Erin Brown, Executive Director  
Denver Office of Children’s Affairs

Franita Ware, PhD  
Culturally Responsive Education Director  
Denver Public Schools

Happy Haynes, President  
Denver Public School Board of Education

Joey Pace, Youth Success Director  
Denver Office of Children’s Affairs

Jonathan McMillan, Director  
Be Better Than Average

Michelle Tenorio, Operations Manager  
Denver Office of Economic Development

Regina Huerter, Executive Director  
Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission

FOR YOUR INPUT AND DEDICATION ... THANK YOU

Athletics & Beyond  
Be Better Than Average  
Boys & Girls Club of Metro Denver  
Colorado State University Denver Extension  
Community College of Denver  
Denver Indian Family Resource Center  
Denver Police Department  
Denver Public Schools  
Friends First  
Human Rights and Community Partnerships, City and County of Denver  
La Raza Youth Leadership Institute  
Mayor’s Office of Denver  
Office of Behavioral Health, City and County of Denver  
Office of Children’s Affairs, City and County of Denver  
Office of Economic Development, City and County of Denver  
Office of Independent Monitor, City and County of Denver  
Project VOYCE  
Steps to Success  
Youth On Record
The White House announced the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative in February 2014. Through this initiative, the White House Administration is joining with numerous cities, towns, businesses and foundations that are all taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring and support networks. The MBK initiative is intended to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure all young people can reach their full potential.

In September 2014, President Obama issued the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, and the City and County of Denver quickly jumped on board! Denver is well situated to take on the MBK Challenge with many programs and efforts already in place to assure the success of our youth. Lead by the Mayor’s Office of Children’s Affairs, our team has been working collaboratively with community members and youth, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, businesses and other government agencies to identify the issues that most often keep boys and young men of color from achieving success. Together, we are designing comprehensive strategies and laying the groundwork to create opportunities to change their paths.

 OUR WORK WILL BE GUIDED BY 6 MILESTONES identified by the MBK Task Force. These goals will challenge Denver to ENSURE ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH ...

1. ENTER SCHOOL COGNITIVELY, PHYSICALLY, SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY
2. READ AT GRADE LEVEL
3. GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL READY FOR COLLEGE / CAREER
4. COMPLETE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION / TRAINING
5. FIND EMPLOYMENT SUCCESSFULLY WHEN OUT OF SCHOOL
6. REMAIN SAFE FROM VIOLENT CRIMES AND ARE GIVEN SECOND CHANCES
150,000 CHILDREN LIVE IN DENVER

Approximately 150,000 children live in Denver. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that Colorado, and Denver specifically, is undergoing significant demographic changes. Denver’s population is becoming increasingly diverse, with children of color making up a growing portion of children ages 17 and younger.

As of 2013, Denver was made up of a majority of children who reported race/ethnicity other than non-Hispanic White. In other words, children of color, mixed race/ethnicity, and others, made up 68 percent (92,000) of the total child population. Thirty-two percent of children ages 17 and younger were categorized as non-Hispanic White in 2013. Forty-nine percent were reported to be of Hispanic origin of any race.

CHILD POVERTY IMPACTS OUTCOMES

Children living in poverty often experience the negative conditions of substandard housing, homelessness, food insecurity, inadequate nutrition and child care, lack of access to health care, unsafe neighborhoods and under-resourced schools. They are also at risk for negative outcomes such as low academic achievement, dropping out of high school, abuse and neglect, behavioral or physical health problems and developmental delays.

DENVER CHILDREN IN POVERTY

The Mayor’s Office Of Children’s Affairs (OCA) consists of a team of professionals specifically dedicated to ensure Denver’s youth have access to life-enhancing opportunities and pathways.

OCA has inspired community partnerships with organizations that deliver programs emphasizing cognitive, social, emotional and physical development for youth. These partnerships have allowed our youth to explore opportunities, which have been untapped as a result of the negative effects of child poverty.

Under Mayor Hancock’s administration, the City and County of Denver established 5 GOALS to ensure Denver’s youth are prepared to succeed:

- Increase the number of children who have access to quality early childhood experiences
- Increase the number of third grade students who can read at grade level
- Decrease the number of disconnected youth
- Increase the number of students who have access to and complete a post-secondary pathway and obtain a job
- Increase the percentage of children who are at a healthy weight

Denver’s 5 GOALS align closely with the 6 MILESTONES defined by the My Brother’s Keeper Task Report.

The City and County of Denver is an “MBK Community.” With so many children in poverty and statistical evidence supporting that children of color have the odds stacked against them, we are embracing a shared responsibility to change those odds.

Email us at childrensaffairs@denvergov.org to learn more about the MBK initiative and how you can get involved!
The Office of Children’s Affairs uses data to provide an understanding of Denver’s children, such as where they live and what challenges or opportunities they face... obstacles that shape their experience. Several key indicators, as listed below, were identified from the current literature and the MBK Task Force Report submitted to President Obama in May 2014. Statistics revealed that many Denver neighborhoods have a multitude of these indicators, making opportunities in these areas less accessible to youth.

2015 MBK INDEX | DENVER NEIGHBORHOODS

Data Sources and Methodology available upon request.
The City and County of Denver hosted a My Brother’s Keeper Summit on April 4, 2015. This event created an opportunity for community members, along with youth, to engage in dialogue around the necessity of Denver building an MBK community.

TIMELINE: PRE-PLANNING FOR THE SUMMIT 2015

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>11.14</td>
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<td>11.14</td>
<td>Focus Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.14</td>
<td>MBK Overview</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MBK Priorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>02.15</td>
<td>Summit Agenda</td>
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OVERVIEW AND ARTISTIC DIAGRAM: MBK SUMMIT APRIL 4, 2015
**Action Plan: Juvenile Justice System**  
**Partner Agency:** Office of Independent Monitor  
**Key Resources:** OMNI Disproportionate Contact Report  
**Activities/Strategies:** Support the Office of Independent Monitor’s “Bridge the Gap” program, which seeks to proactively improve relationships between youth and law enforcement in Denver.

**Action Plan: Education**  
**Partner Agency:** Denver Public Schools and Office of Children’s Affairs  
**Key Resources:** Black Male Achievement Initiative and DPS Perception Survey  
**Activities/Strategies:** Identify key indicators of culturally responsive teaching methods, revise student perception survey and propose a culturally responsive parent observation.

**Action Plan: Social and Emotional Health**  
**Partner Agency:** Colorado Mentoring Partnerships and Office of Children’s Affairs  
**Key Resources:** Policy and political support from the Mayor’s Office and corporate partnerships  
**Activities/Strategies:** Develop a mentoring initiative and create an MBK awareness campaign.

**Action Plan: Workforce Development**  
**Partner Agency:** Office of Economic Development and Office of Children’s Affairs  
**Key Resources:** MBK index map, network of youth-focused mentors and coaches  
**Activities/Strategies:** Create a summer workforce program that employs young men from neighborhoods with the highest MBK indicators and provide coaching/mentoring on navigating the workplace successfully.

“The MBK Challenge calls for us to unify and advance each strategy toward creating opportunity for all Denver youth. The City and County of Denver is committed to the success of our youth and the MBK initiative,” Erin Brown, Executive Director, Denver Office of Children’s Affairs.