Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present our Denver Workforce Services (DWS) annual report for program year 2019. DWS serves as a comprehensive employment and training resource for jobseekers, employers, and youth. Through our three Workforce Centers across the City, jobseekers have access to programs and services designed to connect them with training and employment opportunities. Simultaneously, employers can access a free, custom menu of services designed to connect them with a qualified and skilled workforce.

Our division has been focused on being an employer-driven system that keeps our fingers on the pulse of business needs by convening our key industry Sector Partnerships. Like everyone else, our attention shifted in March of 2020. Under the energetic leadership of Tony Anderson, Director of Denver Workforce Services, we were able to successfully deliver services right where they were needed most: to Denver’s workforce. Through virtual recruitment events, trainings, and webinars helping residents navigate the unemployment system, we moved Denver’s unemployment needle in a positive direction. We could not have done it without our partners and our workforce partner network, the Denver Workforce Integration Network (DWIN), who allow us to increase the impact of our services by connecting employers and jobseekers directly to resources and training partners.

Thank you,

Deborah Cameron
Chief Business Development Officer,
Denver Economic Development & Opportunity

Denver Workforce Services plays a critical role in creating an economy that works for everyone – an economy built on equity, and opportunity for every resident, every worker, and every family. As Denver’s workforce faces unprecedented times, our skills training, mentoring, job matching and unemployment support services are ensuring thousands of residents get back to work in the industries and fields that will define the future.

Mayor Michael B. Hancock

WHAT WE DO:

Denver Workforce Services assists employers to hire, train and retain a quality workforce while providing jobseekers access to employment, training, and workforce development opportunities.

HOW WE DO IT:

Denver Workforce Services is working to strengthen alignment between employer needs and community assets to expand the talent pipeline, while also focusing on increasing the access to and impact of our programs and services.

The work done by our workforce services team during the pandemic has been some of the most crucial and impactful to date. Our team is focused on providing critical support to thousands of jobseekers and businesses and helping them through these challenging times in our history. I am proud of our ability to quickly pivot and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.”

Eric Hiraga
Executive Director,
Denver Economic Development & Opportunity

Workforce at Work!

Denver Economic Development & Opportunity is a proud member of the Colorado Resource Partners (CORE) network that is responsible for presenting WORKNOW, a job recruitment, advancement and support platform for Denver area families living in neighborhoods directly affected by construction projects. Denver’s first workforce development platform striving to equalize opportunities for all Coloradans by enabling inclusive, diverse, and skilled employment opportunities in construction.
By the Numbers

TOTAL SERVED
36,211

67% were employed within six months of accessing services

3,054
EMPLOYERS SERVED

124,854
JOB OPENINGS POSTED

538
PEOPLE ENROLLED IN ALL WIOA (WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT) PROGRAMS

6,019
JOBSEEKERS SERVED THROUGH STAFF-ASSISTANCE SERVICE

$7.36M
Net new wages to the economy after taxes & cost of Workforce programming

$6.97
return on investment for every $1 spent

COVID-19 Response
3.1.20–6.30.20

Virtual Workforce Centers
5,156 Calls Received

Virtual Recruitment Events
87 Events
169 Employers
3,413 Job Seekers

Virtual Training Events
21 Events
172 Job Seekers

Unemployment Insurance Webinars/Information Sessions
114 Sessions
661 Job Seekers

FUNDING CATEGORIES
- Federal: $5,540,237 (53%)
- City: $2,471,605 (24%)
- State: $1,231,008 (12%)
- Other: $770,108 (7%)
- Private: $457,341 (4%)

TOTAL FUNDING
$10,473,300

As the proud Chair of Denver’s Workforce Development Board, and as a member of the private sector, I have witnessed first-hand the positive impact that Denver Workforce Services has on the community. Once COVID-19 began, the workforce team acted quickly to deliver critical and personalized service to the most vulnerable among us.”

Maggie Bolden
Director of Client Relations, Palace Construction
Chair, Denver Workforce Development Board
DENVER CONSTRUCTION CAREERS PILOT

December 2020 represents 24 of 36 months of the Pilot. The Pilot’s goal is to test ways to effectively leverage City investments to bring new talent to the construction industry and connect residents with economic opportunity. Our projects employed 7,734 workers from January, 2019 through September, 2020. In that timeframe, 3,171 new hires secured jobs in these projects. The DCCP team continued to provide technical support for Denver Metro Area construction companies, including deploying tools to assist with equity and diversity in hiring, establishing Registered Apprenticeship Programs, and providing industry supportive services for workers impacted by COVID-19.

EMPLOYER SERVICES

Supported the recruitment into and expansion of existing Registered Apprenticeship programs, while assisting in the launch of new RA programs in non-traditional industries. Engaged industry through the convening of Sector Partnerships in Construction, Healthcare, Information Technology, Retail & Hospitality, Manufacturing, and Early Childhood Education to guide the workforce system and remain informed of current and upcoming skill requirements.

LIVES EMPOWERED

Awarded a $550,000 grant from the Colorado Workforce Development Council and the Walmart Foundation to support the upskilling of incumbent workers, employer engagement and the expansion of newly developed Retail Sector Partnerships across the state of Colorado. Served 338 incumbent workers through the implementation of cohort-based upskilling and work-based learning opportunities. Engaged 65 new employers with the Metro Denver Retail Partnership and provided technical assistance to Colorado counties to launch new Retail Sector Partnerships.

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Increased the number of employer and job seeker services at the DEN Workforce Center through increased staff and access to services. Provided services to 119 employers and 2,216 job seekers. Expanded job seeker and incumbent worker services by offering a new array of job readiness and upskill training including English language, customer service, and cash handling training. To date, a total of 158 participants attended these offerings.

BACK TO WORK 50+

Partnered with the AARP Foundation to launch the Back to Work 50+ program, which provides a three-part, comprehensive job-search program specifically designed for older workers. Provided BTW 50+ tailored services to 28 job seekers, with a $31 average wage for those successfully gaining full-time employment.

MAYOR’S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Enrolled 270 youth in the Summer Youth Employment Program, including 40 young men as a part of the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative. The program offered a virtual platform through Google for Education, with youth receiving up to a $1,000 in stipends for completion. Partnered with iD Tech to provide week-long summer coding camps for youth ages 14-18. Participants were provided with a laptop to attend the camp and to keep after completion.

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Connected 388 individuals with disabilities (39% Veterans) to job fairs, online training, job readiness skills, and community resources. Improved internal infrastructure and added assistive technology. Collaborated with community partners to increase services through a variety of outreach and connection activities.

VETERANS SERVICE TO CAREER

Awarded additional funding to extend the Veterans Service to Career program which supports workforce development activities for Veterans with significant barriers to employment. Partnered with the Volunteers of America, Bill Daniels Veterans Service Center to incorporate workforce services into their one-stop approach to serving Veterans.
Denver Workforce Services would like to thank the Denver Workforce Development Board and our PY19 contracted partners, ResCare Workforce Services, Denver Public Schools, ACCO, CEO and Urban Peak for their commitment and dedication to building and sustaining a vibrant talent pool in Denver.

Equal Opportunity Is the Law. Denver Workforce Services and its contractors are an Equal Opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available on request to individuals with disabilities. Please dial 7-1-1 or 1.800.659.2656 to use the TTY service Relay Colorado. Accommodations through the Denver Workforce Centers can be requested by calling 720.930.4331 or 720.930.4063.

Workforce Centers
Montbello: 4685 Peoria St., Suite 251, Denver, CO 80239
Westside: 1200 Federal Blvd., First Floor, Denver, CO 80204
DEN: Inside Denver International Airport 8500 Pena Blvd., 5th Floor West Main, Denver, CO 80249

Workforce.development@denvergov.org
720-337-WORK

Denver Economic Development & Opportunity is leading an inclusive and innovative economy for all Denver residents, businesses, and neighborhoods. By supporting local and global business development, workforce development programs, and stabilization efforts in Denver’s diverse neighborhoods, we are creating opportunity for everyone to make a home, get a job, and build a future.

Learn more at DENVERGOV.ORG/ECONOMICDEVELOPMENT