Dear Friends,

There is something so powerful about helping lift people up, providing the resources and encouragement they need to be successful in our Denver marketplace. Denver Workforce Services is the instrument of this momentum every day, as we help business owners find the talent they need to thrive and guide jobseekers from all walks of life in finding economic stability.

Applying best practices honed during the worst months of the pandemic-induced recession, we continued to deliver a wealth of virtual career exploration events, hiring events, and job fairs. An emergency call center launched in 2020 is now a staple of our welcoming spirit of service – dedicated to listening, guiding people to the best programs for their needs, and providing encouragement. A tagline developed in 2021, “Success Works Here,” has been proven true by our 2020-21 data.

Thanks to a wider range of funding streams, including recovery grants, we now reach more underserved residents. We’ve expanded so much in just a few years: people re-entering from the justice system, older adults seeking technology skills and job hunt tools, and immigrants/refugees who face multiple barriers to economic mobility.

The support of our funders, contractors, city colleagues, and community partners is invaluable. The lovely thank-you notes our staff receives from residents represent a beautiful reward. I think you’ll agree, viewing this report, that Denver Workforce Services is on a powerful path to propel Denver’s economy and shared quality of life forward.

Thank you,

Tony Anderson
Director – Denver Workforce Services
Denver Economic Development & Opportunity

I am so proud of how Denver’s employers and jobseekers have demonstrated their can-do spirit through loss and rebuilding. Denver Workforce is a shining example of service in the most basic, genuine sense of the word, and an overlooked component of city government that has never been more valuable and essential.

Mayor Michael B. Hancock
By the Numbers

TOTAL SERVED
38,499

61% were employed within six months of accessing services

1,090 EMPLOYERS SERVED

135,166 JOB OPENINGS POSTED

$4.61 ROI FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT

633 PEOPLE ENROLLED IN ALL WIOA PROGRAMS

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Recruitment Events (399 Total) (individual employers)
405 Employers
25,590 Jobseekers

Virtual Job Fairs (multiple employers)
106 Employers
14,238 Jobseekers

Career Exploration Sessions
161 Events
3,035 Jobseekers

Rapid Response Sessions
39 Employers
482 Jobseekers

The Denver Workforce Development Board is committed to driving a thriving, inclusive economy for all of Denver. As Chair, I am proud that during a time when the residents and businesses of Denver were faced with unprecedented challenges, Denver Workforce Services stepped up to meet the needs of the community – delivering programs, resources, and services to a record number of customers. I am confident that the agility and innovation of DWS and our community partners will continue to contribute to the strength and resiliency of the Denver economy.”

Kelli Kelly
Business Development & Strategy
Director - Aviation/Transit, Kiewit Engineering Group, Inc.
Chair, Denver Workforce Development Board

DENVER CONSTRUCTION CAREERS PILOT (DCCP)

June 30, 2021 was the 30-month milestone of the three-year Denver Construction Career Pilot. Based on impact data from the pilot, city leadership plans on launching a permanent program with $3.2M in 2022 funding. DCCP will continue bolstering the worker pipeline, reinforce its existing program supports, and expand staff, and community resources.

Over 30 months, DCCP reported strong outcomes for workers on 12 city-funded projects:

• 9,343 workers earned an average wage of $30.76/hr.
• 4,352 new hires earned an average wage of $28.50/hr.
• 749 apprentices on the pilot projects are an average wage of $24.00/hr.

Moving forward, DCCP will support city projects above $10M in construction value, expanding its impact beyond the pilot phase. With a newly added voluntary contribution from residential and commercial construction permits, Denver will allocate funds to expand the Careers In Construction program through Denver Public Schools.

“I would like to express how grateful I am for Elaine Lint-Scott’s assistance during this really difficult time. She has been a lifesaver for me and made a very hard situation better for me and my family! I tell her all of the time that she has been an angel and we are blessed to have been able to work with her.”

FROM A CLIENT:
**TECHNOLOGY EMPLOYMENT IN COLORADO PARTNERSHIP 2.0**

- Awarded $7.3M from U.S. Department of Labor to partner with Adams, Arapahoe/Douglas, Boulder, Larimer, Tri-County, and Weld counties to serve 750 jobseekers in IT, advanced manufacturing, and transportation.
- Launched in May 2021, serving a dozen enrollments regionally in the first two months, with 80% of those enrolled to date entering technical training programs.

**NEW AMERICANS**

- Actively networked and made referrals with government, nonprofits, community, and training partners focusing on unique barriers of Denver’s growing immigrant/refugee population.

**TECHNOLOGY LOANER PROGRAM**

- Using $625K of CARES Act funds, WFS partnered with the Denver Public Library to help individuals with limited access to technology to check out laptops and hot spots with just a library card.
- Logged 1,411 check-outs in the first 10 months, securing additional funding to expand this equity program to reduce digital divide.

**BACK TO WORK 50+**

- Ongoing collaboration with the AARP Foundation to provide virtual services—including job search help, job leads, resume writing, and digital literacy—to nearly 150 jobseekers aged 50+.
- Developed and delivered curriculum for workshops for 180 older adults including technology and fraud, virtual networking, and tuition assistance opportunities.

**CERTIFIED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

- New program allows employers to pay unemancipated minors 15% less than the current Denver minimum wage with rigorous requirement that employers provide youth the time and opportunity to attain an industry recognized credential.
- Accredited six employers to support the professional development of 161 participating youth workers, with city compliance in place.

**PATHWAYS HOME PROGRAM**

- Awarded $722K of federal funding to develop jobseeker supports to individuals within six months of expected release from incarceration.
- Partnered with CommunityWorks to enroll 34 individuals for custom pre- and post-release activities that are job-driven and build connections to local employers.

**SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

- Enrolled 270 youth in summer training/employment, including 40 young men from the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative. After completing a virtual platform through Google for Education, each youth earned a $1,000 stipend.
- Partnered with iDTech to provide youth ages 14-18 a week-long summer coding camp. Participants were provided a laptop to attend the camp, and upon completion, allowed to keep it.

**VETERANS SERVICE TO CAREER**

- Awarded additional funding to extend jobseeker supports for local veterans with significant barriers to employment.
- Enrolled 98 vets through partnership with Volunteers of America Bill Daniels Veteran Center, with more than 70 receiving wrap-around supports and access to work-based training opportunities.
DENVER WORKFORCE SERVICES
WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

The Denver Workforce Development Board and our PY19 contracted partners, Eckerd Connects, Ability Connection Colorado, Denver Public School Family & Community Engagement, Urban Peak, and Center for Employment Opportunities 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 can be requested using workforce.development@denvergov.org or 720-337-WORK (9675).

LEARN MORE AT
DENVERGOV.ORG/ECONOMICDEVELOPMENT