

# A History of Progressive Policing

The Denver Police Department believes in a collaborative approach to public safety and values diversity of thought around complex issues. We strive to be a forward leaning agency focused on making Denver the safest, most equitable city in the country.

## Innovative Response Models

*We provide a wide array of some of the most advanced services to support vulnerable populations and maintain the highest degree of safety within our communities.*

### Highlights

- Since April 2016, in partnership with the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD), mental health clinicians from the department's *Crisis Intervention Response Unit* respond to calls with police officers, providing an immediate, on-scene assessment for persons in crisis.
- Our Homeless Outreach Team serves the downtown corridor, connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with support, supplies, and resources.
- We recently launched the Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) program which pairs a MHCD clinician with a Denver Health medic, responding to low-risk 911 calls and providing a more appropriate response for individuals who do not require police intervention.
- Our newly established Case Manager Hub program provides critical outreach support in each police district and with our Specialized Operations Response Team (SORT) to provide ongoing supportive care and services for our community. These are voluntary services meant to increase long-term success for some of our most vulnerable populations.



*"The Crisis Intervention Response Unit is an asset in my District and provides Officers with valuable resources to help them solve problems for some subjects in a more permanent way. They act as a liaison and provide direct connections to MHCD resources...which means those subjects are receiving better care overall."*

*– Denver Police Officer*



- For over 20 years all Denver Police officers are provided Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), an innovative police-based crisis intervention curriculum that provides officers with the tools to assist individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Our specialized units, including Victim Assistance, Biased-Motivated Crimes, Human Trafficking, and Domestic Violence, work collaboratively with systems agencies, community organizations, and community residents to collaboratively tailor our response procedures and expand our knowledge-base.

### Looking Forward

- We are currently working with the community and Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE) to expand the coverage and availability of the STAR program.
- The department is expanding our relationships with community and public health partners to improve understanding and collaboration around complex issues.
- Questions or comments? Email us at [dpdlistens@denvergov.org](mailto:dpdlistens@denvergov.org).

