

Overview:

Built for Zero (BFZ) is a national change initiative made up of 80+ cities and counties in the U.S. that have committed to measurably ending homelessness, one population at a time. BFZ empowers communities to use real-time, person-specific data to coordinate resources, develop strategic investments, and create systems that ensure no one languishes in homelessness and that episodes of homelessness are rare overall and brief when they occur. More than half of BFZ cities and counties have achieved reductions in the number of people experiencing chronic and veteran homelessness. Twelve of those communities have ended homelessness for a population by reaching a standard called [Functional Zero](#).

BFZ: Colorado brings together local communities and statewide entities to meet the needs of veterans experiencing homelessness and those experiencing chronic homelessness in Colorado. In starting with veteran and chronic homelessness, BFZ: Colorado aims to develop the infrastructure, policies/practices, and resources needed to create a broader continuum of efficient and effective solutions across the state. [Our vision is that everyone in Colorado has a safe, stable, and affordable place to live.](#) BFZ: Colorado is supported by Community Solutions, Kaiser Permanente, the Colorado Health Foundation and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Division of Housing. We believe that by adopting a system-wide approach, establishing rigorous goals and corresponding benchmarks, embracing peer-learning, and supporting local leadership structures, we can drive this critical work forward in a measurable and sustainable manner.

Community Team Cohort:

Seven Community Teams from Colorado are currently participating in BFZ: Colorado. Community Teams consist of various local and regional entities including homeless service providers, behavioral health organizations, public health agencies, Public Housing Authorities, healthcare providers, and local governments. Community Teams establish rigorous goals and corresponding benchmarks intended to drive this critical work forward in a measurable and sustainable manner.

Metro Denver (Adams/Arapahoe/Boulder/Broomfield/Denver/Douglas/Jefferson) joined Built For Zero in 2016. In September 2019, a competitive application process selected five new Community Teams to join Built for Zero. They include; Fremont County, Grand Valley (Mesa), Roaring Fork Valley (Pitkin/Garfield/Eagle), Northern Colorado (Weld/Larimer) and Pikes Peak (El Paso). With support from the Colorado Health Foundation, the Cohort expanded to include Pueblo County in 2020. Since joining BFZ: Colorado, Community Teams have developed local leadership structures, established tools to track progress, and met with and learned from other BFZ teams from across the U.S. It's estimated that approximately 88% of people experiencing homelessness in Colorado live in a community currently participating in Built for Zero.

In 2021, Southwest Colorado (Montezuma/Dolores) and one other Community Team selected through a competitive application process will be joining BFZ: Colorado.

Strategy Design Team:

Representatives from federal agencies (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness), state agencies (Department of Local Affairs, Department of Human Services, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Department of Public Health and Environment) Colorado's Continuums of Care (Denver Metro Homeless Initiative, Pikes Peak, Northern Colorado, Balance of State), homeless service providers (Volunteers of America, Ready to Work), Regional Accountable Entities (Rocky Mountain Health Plans), Kaiser Permanente, and the Colorado State Housing Board have joined the Built for Zero: Colorado Strategy Design Team to support Community Teams by clearing barriers, setting ambitious shared goals, and aligning resources to implement systems-level change.

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