

DENVER'S SCORECARD

2025 ANNUAL RESULTS



DENVER
MAYOR'S OFFICE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Message from
Mayor Mike Johnston

03

Highlights in the
Headlines

04

2025 Goals

05

2025 Goals
Report Card

12

2025 Department
Wins

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Denver,

We began 2025 with ambitious goals: to make Denver more vibrant, affordable and safe. That means reducing crime, cutting street homelessness and growing our economy.

Vibrant

Voters approved the Vibrant Denver bond, unlocking nearly \$1 billion for critical infrastructure and creating thousands of jobs. We fully reopened 16th Street and successfully returned downtown foot traffic to pre-pandemic levels.

Affordable

As the cost of living continues to rise, we added or preserved more than 2,000 affordable homes and launched new approaches to housing, including a middle-income rental program that will deliver nearly 1,200 new affordable units over the next two years. We are not just building housing — we are moving people into it. Through the **All In Mile High** initiative, we brought 2,400 people off the streets and into transitional housing, and more than 1,700 secured permanent housing in 2025 alone. Even as the federal government reduces funding for housing, this is our most significant housing achievement to date. This sustained work has led to Denver delivering the largest reduction in street homelessness of any city in American history — and yet we still have much more work to do.

Safe

Downtown is safer — and feels safer — than it has in years, with dedicated officers, park rangers and a mounted patrol now on the ground. Citywide, Denver recorded its second-lowest homicide rate since 1990, and the largest year-over-year drop in homicides of any large U.S. city. Shootings and auto thefts fell 35%. We did this by focusing on proven strategies, including putting more officers on the streets, concentrating enforcement in hot spots and developing community-based approaches to make spaces safer. We will not stop until Denver can be called the safest big city in the country.

Building the Denver of the Future

We also landed a series of long-term opportunities in sports, arts and recreation that will drive Denver's growth for the next generation: keeping the Denver Broncos in Denver for another 50 years; opening the path for a new entertainment district at Burnham Yard; and planning a community-led redevelopment of the current Mile High site when the Broncos leave. We brought the National Women's Soccer League to South Broadway with our new Denver Summit FC franchise and opened Park Hill Golf Course as Park Hill Park — the city's fourth-largest park and its largest land acquisition in more than a century. And we worked with the state of Colorado and the city of Boulder to bring the Sundance Film Festival to Colorado.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Defending Our Values

We also defended Denver's values. I testified before Congress to stand up for Denver's commitment to welcoming immigrants. We sued the Trump administration when it threatened to cut critical funding over our DEI policies, our support for the LGBTQ community, our support for migrants and the unlawful deployment of the National Guard into American cities — and we won. When the government shutdown cut off food benefits, we worked with community partners to secure food assistance for Denverites. When the federal government stepped back, Denver stepped up.

Climate Resilient

To cut carbon pollution, we added more than 2,000 heat pumps, electric vehicle chargers and solar arrays. We planted 5,200 trees to cool the city and bring shade to neighborhoods long disproportionately affected by extreme heat.

Family Friendly

We connected thousands of children to out-of-school programs and put more than 4,000 teens and young people to work through job fairs and employment incentives. When climbing a daunting Colorado mountain, it is helpful sometimes to stop and look back at how far we've come — not because it means we have succeeded, but because the progress we've made gives us strength to believe we can succeed at the climb that still waits ahead.

Onward and upward in 2026,

Mike



Mayor Mike Johnston
City & County of Denver



HIGHLIGHTS IN THE HEADLINES


Unsheltered homelessness cut 45% since 2023, the largest recorded decline in American history

 KDVR

Denver sees historic drop in street homelessness: Mayor Johnston



Denver's homicide rate cut by nearly 50%

 9News

Denver homicides drop to near two-decade low as city credits multi-pronged approach



Downtown Denver crowds returning to pre-pandemic rates

 Downtown Denver Partnership

Downtown Denver Ends 2025 with 99% recovery rate




Broncos' long-term future in Denver confirmed

 Denver Broncos

READ: Owners Greg Penner & Carrie Walton Penner announce preferred stadium site in joint letter with Mayor Mike Johnston, Gov. Jared Polis



Denver acquired its largest new park in a century

 The Denver Post

Denver announces deal to acquire Park Hill Golf Course in a land swap — and make it city's newest park




Denver secured its first professional women's sports team

 The New York Times

NWSL's Denver expansion team announces stadium plans to open in 2028 - The Athletic



Denver voters approved \$950 million investment

 CBS News

Denver residents overwhelmingly vote yes for Vibrant Denver bond that's packed full of projects



2025 GOALS

Every year, Denver sets clear, ambitious goals focused on the issues that matter most to Denverites. By collaborating across city agencies, we turn those goals into action, all to help make Denver a more vibrant, affordable and safe place for everyone.

2025 YEAR-END GOAL OUTCOMES

CATEGORY	GOAL	STATUS	RESULT	PROGRESS
VIBRANT	Drive strategic investments across all neighborhoods		5 of 5 Vibrant Denver Bond measures passed	
	Revitalize downtown & fully reopen 16th Street		13 of 13 blocks open	
AFFORDABLE	Create 3,000 affordable units		2,310 units	
SAFE	Decrease shootings by 15%		37% decrease	
ALL IN MILE HIGH	Bring 2,000 people experiencing homelessness indoors		2,584 people brought inside	
	Connect 2,000 people to permanent housing		1,744 people housed	
CLIMATE RESILIENT	Add 2,000 clean energy systems		2,001 systems	
	Plant 4,500 trees		5,217 trees	
	Cut municipal water usage by 20M gallons		21M gallons	
FAMILY FRIENDLY	Connect 5,000 additional kids to out-of-school programming		6,348 kids	
	Place 2,500 young adults in jobs		4,366 kids	

VIBRANT

WHY?

Investing in our culture, infrastructure and downtown keep our city vibrant. The Vibrant Denver Bond and the reopening of 16th Street will help spur the city's momentum and economic growth.



Goal 1: Develop a comprehensive plan to drive strategic investments across Denver's neighborhoods



- Passed the \$950 million Vibrant Denver Bond, funding projects across Denver to improve transportation safety, parks, recreation centers, libraries, community facilities and affordable housing

Goal 2: Revitalize downtown and fully reopen 16th Street



- Officially reopened every block of the newly renovated 16th Street
- Awarded \$166 million through the Downtown Denver Development Authority for projects shaping Denver's future, including Denver Pavilions, the McNichols Building, Civic Center Park, converting three office buildings into downtown housing and attracting 10 new businesses
- Downtown welcomed 65 new ground-floor businesses
- Downtown foot traffic up to 99% of pre-pandemic levels as of December

DETAILS

Thanks to historic investments and the long-awaited completion of 16th Street, Downtown Denver has renewed energy. Residential growth continued to climb, with more than 2,400 new units occupied in the urban core and a surge in hotel occupancy. Additionally, the voter-approved Downtown Denver Development Authority (DDDA) awarded \$166 million in its first round of funding for 13 projects, including new and expanded businesses, public safety, parks and affordable housing.

We want every neighborhood to feel alive and connected. With overwhelming voter approval, the Vibrant Denver Bond will invest nearly \$1 billion in projects citywide to deliver safer streets, better parks, new libraries, community spaces and more housing, all starting this year.

AFFORDABLE

WHY?

Housing affordability remains a top concern, particularly at a time of economic uncertainty, high inflation and changing policies at federal level. That's why we're focused on delivering more affordable housing and cutting the number of families spending over half their income on rent



Goal 1: Create or preserve a total of 3,000 new, affordable units



- Added 2,310 units; Progress impacted by funding cuts at state and federal levels, delays with the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development due to the federal government shutdown and market uncertainty

Goal 2: Develop innovative solutions to close the affordability gap



- Along with the Denver Housing Authority, the city launched a tax-rebate pilot to create affordable housing for middle-income families
- The DDDA awarded \$45 million to convert three vacant office buildings into 415 affordable units
- The Vibrant Denver Bond includes \$10 million for an East Denver housing project and \$45 million for additional affordable housing and anti-displacement efforts

DETAILS

Denver is deeply committed to ensuring residents can continue to live and thrive in the city they love, and partnerships are key to making that vision a reality. By collaborating with nonprofit developers, housing organizations and community stakeholders, the city is expanding its stock of affordable housing units across neighborhoods.

Denver provides critical funding and supports the development process to accelerate the creation of affordable apartments, townhomes and single-family residences. These efforts are designed to offer a range of housing options and price points, creating real pathways to stability and opportunity for individuals and families at every income level

SAFE

WHY?

Everyone deserves to feel secure in their community. Denver's safety plan uses a citywide approach to not only reduce gun violence, but also tackle non-violent crime through problem-solving and smarter use of resources.



Goal 1: Decrease shootings by 15%



- 37% decline in shootings overall
 - 48% decrease in total homicides
 - 51% decrease in firearm homicides

Goal 2: Launch a coordinated strategy to address non-violent crime



- Launched a focused downtown safety plan with increased patrols, mounted officers and expanded mental health support
- Strengthened the interagency group responsible for compassionately responding to reports of public disorder, leading to a 61% decrease in 911/311 reports related to homelessness citywide since 2023

DETAILS

In 2025, Denver continued proven practices like Place Network Investigations (PNI), Hot Streets, and Trust Patrols to combat violent gun crime. Through the PNI initiative, the city prioritizes infrastructure improvements and expands positive programming, restoring a sense of safety and belonging in neighborhoods that have long faced public safety challenges. Hot Streets and Trust Patrols send officers to specific locations to curb violent trends and create lasting relationships with residents and businesses. This combination of tactics, among others, has led to a 53% decrease in shootings since 2023.

Citywide, Denver suffered its fewest murders in the past decade, with a year-over-year decline that ranks as the second largest since 1984. These outcomes represent lives saved, communities strengthened, and meaningful progress toward a safer, more resilient Denver.

ALL IN MILE HIGH

WHY?

AIMH is transforming Denver and the lives of people experiencing street homelessness. We continued to bring people indoors, connect them to services and provide outreach, while also connecting more people to permanent housing solutions.



Goal 1: Bring 2,000 people experiencing homelessness indoors



- 2,584 people experiencing street homelessness were brought indoors

Goal 2: Connect 2,000 people to permanent housing



- 1,744 people connected to permanent housing; Progress impacted by a loss of state and federal housing vouchers

Additional wins:

- 45% drop in unsheltered homelessness since 2023, the largest-multi-year drop in recorded U.S. history
- 98% fewer large encampments since 2023
- Launched a Vehicular Homelessness pilot supporting people living in vehicles, bringing more than 100 people indoors
- Denver recorded the lowest point-in-time count among major U.S. cities in 2025

DETAILS

2025 marked a historic year in Denver's effort to end street homelessness. In July, the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) announced that Denver's unsheltered point-in-time count showed a 45% reduction since Mayor Johnston took office — the largest multiyear reduction in unsheltered homelessness in American history — achieved by bringing more people into AIMH sites while moving more people from those sites into housing.

This progress was strengthened by the delivery of comprehensive, wraparound behavioral health services at AIMH sites. In an analysis by Denver's Department of Public Health and Environment, front-line nurses from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless praised the micro-communities as a transformative model for care — trusted spaces where healing begins. "Residents come to us," one nurse shared, "because we've earned their trust." This testimony underscores how AIMH sites foster connection, dignity and access to care in ways homeless service models often struggle to achieve.

CLIMATE RESILIENT

WHY?

Denver is building a climate-resilient future by cutting carbon pollution and protecting neighborhoods from climate risks. We're accelerating clean energy and strengthening natural infrastructure to protect communities and ecosystems.



Goal 1: Cut carbon pollution by adding 2,000 heat pumps, EV chargers and solar arrays in homes, businesses and nonprofits



- 2,001 clean energy systems installed via CASR incentive programs
- An additional 2,560 systems contracted

Goal 2: Prepare for a climate resilient future by planting 4,500 trees in Denver neighborhoods and reducing municipal water usage by 20M gallons



- Planted 5,217 trees citywide, with a focus on west-side parks and parkways; represented approximately 150 different species
- Saved 21 million gallons of water through:
 - Upgrades to our northwest park district irrigation control and
 - The transformation of 10 acres of medians into native landscapes

DETAILS

As climate change intensifies, its effects fall hardest on underserved communities, compounding existing health and social challenges. Planting trees and electrifying homes are not only environmental efforts but also public health and equity priorities.

Expanding Denver's tree canopy and transitioning to clean energy technologies, such as heat pumps, electric vehicles and rooftop solar, can reduce climate risks while lowering household costs. Energy-efficient home upgrades save the average U.S. household more than \$1,000 annually, while electric vehicles reduce fuel and maintenance costs by 60% to 70% compared with gasoline-powered cars, as gasoline accounts for more than half of a typical household's annual energy spending. Making these investments a way to improve affordability and protect families from volatile fossil fuel prices.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

WHY?

High-quality out-of-school time and job placement opportunities help young people explore their interests, equip them with real-world skills, and foster trusted relationships with adults who guide their growth – laying the groundwork for lifelong success.



Goal 1: Connect 5,000 more kids to high-quality out-of-school programs than in 2024, serving 59,600 total



- 60,767 engagements

Goal 2: Place 2,500 young adults in jobs



- 4,366 young adults placed in jobs
 - Engaged 6,359 young adults in Denver workforce programs
 - 28 employers supported used the Mayor's YouthWorks business bonus program

DETAILS

We want Denver to be the best city in America to raise a family.

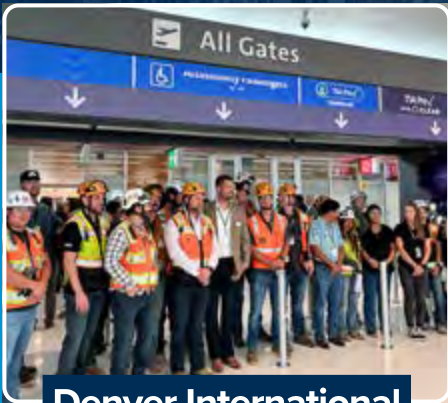
Achieving that goal means engaging young people in meaningful activities that help build strong, thriving neighborhoods. For many youth, Denver's out-of-school programs, such as summer camps, sports and before- and after-school programs, are essential resources. They offer safe, supportive environments where kids can learn, grow and build lasting connections.

Work experience also plays a critical role in young people's development. The 6,359 young adults participating in Denver's workforce programs gain skills, purpose and professional connections that extend far beyond a paycheck and set them up for long-term success.

2025 DEPARTMENT WINS

Beyond our core city goals, every agency also delivered impactful work in their own areas of focus, all contributing to what makes Denver a great place to live and do business.

2025 DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



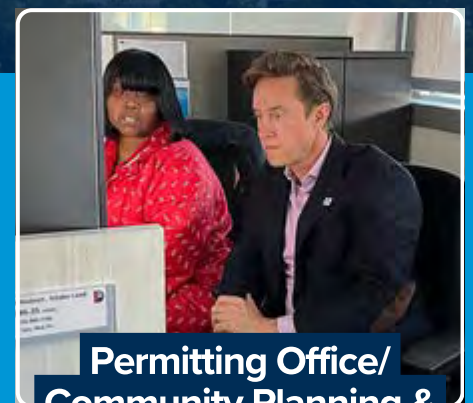
Denver International Airport

Two new security gates now open, marking a Great Hall Project milestone



Dept. of Transportation & Infrastructure

99% of solid waste pickups completed on time



Permitting Office/ Community Planning & Development

Launched new permitting office; Ended 2025 with 90% of permit reviews delivered on-time



National Western Center

Livestock Center opened for the 120th National Western Stock Show



Denver Arts & Venues

New DENVER CREATES program unites artists and leaders to build a more inclusive, vibrant community



Denver Sheriff's Dept.

First-in-the-nation Visitation Clothing Project allows people in custody to wear non-institutional clothing during visits

City Attorney's Office (CAO)

CAO's work strengthened public safety, advanced housing goals and delivered financial benefits that support Denver's long-term stability.

- **Prosecution and Code Enforcement (PACE)** managed a significant caseload, handling 2,234 domestic violence cases, supporting 6,000 victims, and prosecuting 4,305 shoplifting cases to protect Denver businesses and customers.
- **Municipal Operations (MuniOps)** drove major city initiatives by negotiating agreements for projects like 16th Street and Ball Arena, securing 1,200+ affordable housing units, and supporting sheltering and housing efforts. MuniOps also managed bond projects and ballot certifications for the Vibrant Bond Program.
- **Employment and Labor Law** recovered nearly \$500,000 in workers' compensation—\$180,000 above the ten-year average—providing meaningful revenue for the General Fund.

Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency (CASR)

CASR's work reflects how targeted investments can directly support the health and stability of Denver families. Climate resiliency work protects residents' health, builds equity and reduces climate risks.

- **Cool and clean air for all:** This initiative continued to make a meaningful difference for residents who are most vulnerable to poor air quality and extreme heat. CASR delivered 572 air purifiers and 155 air conditioners to income-qualified households.
- **Electrify affordable housing:** CASR funded the electrification of several affordable housing developments in 2025, including the Denver Dry Goods Building, where we provided \$1.3 million for electric heat pumps, avoiding 3,500 tons of carbon in phase one and 8,000 tons over 25 years. Residents will collectively save \$120,000 in the first year and \$4 million long-term, while preserving 51 affordable homes, adding 55 more, and creating jobs and clean energy training opportunities.

Community Planning and Development (CPD)

CPD improved efficiency and expanded housing options in 2025 by streamlining processes, expanding housing choices and positioning Denver for smarter, more sustainable growth.

- **Permitting:** CPD reduced review times to meet the 180-day Denver Permitting Office target (see *Denver Permitting Office*) and ended the year with a 90% on-time rate.

- **Regulatory reforms:** CPD advanced key changes to support flexible, affordable housing:
 - Allowed accessory dwelling units citywide
 - Removed all parking minimums from the zoning code
 - Adopted Building and Fire Code updates permitting single-stair apartment buildings and reducing regulations by 30%

Denver Arts and Venues (DAV)

DAV advanced Denver’s cultural vibrancy in 2025 through strategic planning, exceptional programming and creative placemaking. These efforts created paid opportunities for creatives, enlivened public spaces and welcomed residents and visitors back to a more vibrant, art-filled downtown.

- **Strategic planning:** DAV launched DENVER CREATES, a community-driven roadmap to broaden access and cultivate creativity. The initiative calls on artists, organizations and residents to co-create a more vibrant, equitable cultural landscape.
- **Venue impact:** City-owned venues served nearly 4 million ticketed visitors. Red Rocks remained the world’s most attended amphitheater with 1.7 million paid attendees, and downtown venues welcomed more than 2 million, including 750,000 at the Colorado Convention Center and 1.25 million at the Arts Complex. Combined attendance outpaced all Denver professional sports teams.

Denver Fire Department (DFD)

DFD delivered top-tier public safety and operational excellence in 2025.

- **Fire code compliance:** DFD inspected 99.4% of all businesses citywide, ensuring strong compliance and safer communities.
- **Emergency response:** DFD maintained 92.5% turnout compliance and 75%+ total response time compliance, reflecting highly effective service.
- **ISO Class 1 Rating:** The Insurance Services Office gives a public protection classification; DFD preserved the nation’s highest rating, signaling elite capabilities in staffing, training, equipment, water supply and communications. This designation not only demonstrates operational excellence, but also helps lower insurance costs for residents, reinforcing Denver’s position as one of the safest cities for fire protection.

Denver Human Services (DHS)

DHS delivered record-breaking results and strengthened service to Denverites:

- **Expanded access:** DHS connected an additional 8,236 Denver residents to benefits they might otherwise have missed through its support team, as well as MyFriendBen, a website that helps users understand and access government benefits, tax credits and nonprofit programs.
- **Faster service:** DHS processed food and financial assistance faster than ever, achieving a 95% on-time rate and reduced call wait times by more than 50% to an average of 6.5 minutes.
- **Child welfare excellence:** DHS' Denver Child Welfare Team met the federal timeliness goal for initial responses every month during the past year, achieving a perfect record.

Denver International Airport (DEN)

DEN advanced modernization and sustainability in 2025, continuing to position the airport as a national leader in efficiency, sustainability and traveler experience.

- **Great Hall progress:** DEN opened the East Security Checkpoint early and \$10 million under budget, moving forward the terminal revitalization plan.
- **Green leadership:** DEN was named NAFA's #1 Green Fleet of 2025, expanding its electric vehicle fleet by 49% over 2024, with 103% total growth projected as more EVs arrive.
- **Energy performance:** Completing Colorado's largest Energy Performance Contract is expected to cut airport energy use by 20% and reduce 30,000 metric tons of CO₂e annually.

Denver Permitting Office (DPO)

DPO launched in 2025 to overhaul and optimize the permitting process for the entire city. Since its creation, the office has improved coordination, transparency and customer service. Customers now have more predictable timelines and faster pathways to get projects moving.

- **Operational improvements:** DPO introduced an interdepartmental conflict resolution process to help customers navigate cross-departmental issues efficiently. The office also launched a counter operations plan, bringing plan review staff from multiple departments together for walk-in customers five days a week, assisting 170+ customers since August.

- **Accountability & speed:** DPO created a dashboard tracking the city’s 180-day review window; to date, no active project has reached that threshold. DPO also advanced the downtown express permitting pilot in partnership with DEDO, permitting six locations in an average of 20 days, with more projects in progress.

Denver Police Department (DPD)

DPD achieved major public safety gains in 2025.

- **Violent crime reduction:** Murders dropped by 46% and total shootings, including both homicides and non-fatal incidents fell by 36% reflecting focused strategies, strong community partnerships and effective deployment of resources.
- **More officers:** Mayor Johnston’s budget prioritized hiring more police officers with 159 officers hired in 2025.
- **Property crime reduction:** Auto thefts declined by 36% compared to the previous year and are down 55% from 2023, marking one of the city’s most substantial improvements in recent years and contributing to a safer Denver for residents and visitors alike.

Denver Public Library (DPL)

DPL expanded access and renewed community spaces in 2025.

- **Branch improvements:** DPL reopened Athmar Park Branch with expanded square footage, improved restrooms, new youth spaces, flexible learning areas, and upgraded systems. The Pauline Robinson Branch reopened after Elevate Denver bond renovations, adding a long-needed community meeting room, staff spaces, new bathrooms and overall improvements to the entire building.
- **New location:** DPL opened the Lena Archuleta Branch, DPL’s 28th location, funded by the 2021 RISE Denver Bond and celebrated with a large community gathering honoring Archuleta’s legacy.
- **Community engagement:** DPL relaunched One Book One Denver, uniting residents around a single book and drawing hundreds to events citywide, reinforcing DPL’s role as a hub for learning and connection.

Denver Sheriff's Department (DSD)

DSD advanced innovative, humane correctional practices in 2025.

- **Dignity in visitation:** DSD launched the first-in-the-nation In-Person Visitation Clothing Project; In family visits, people in custody can wear non-institutional, everyday clothes donated by Goodwill of Colorado to support dignity and personal connection.
- **Veteran support:** DSD opened the Housing Unit for Military Veterans Pod at the Downtown Detention Center, providing a structured environment that fosters rehabilitation, personal growth, specialized programming and resources.
- **National leadership:** DSD hosted the American Correctional Association's 155th Congress of Correction, the nation's largest corrections conference, highlighting Denver's commitment to innovation and rehabilitation. Sheriff Diggins co-chaired.

Denver Economic Development & Opportunity (DEDO)

DEDO advanced economic growth and workforce priorities in 2025. These efforts created meaningful opportunities for residents and businesses while driving revitalization and equity across Denver.

- **Workforce development:** DEDO served 20,000 job seekers and 1,000 employers, posting 162,000+ jobs. Through the Mayor's YouthWorks Program, DEDO partnered with businesses to deliver youth employment programming for 6,000+ young people, placing 4,000+ in verifiable jobs.
- **Economic investment:** DEDO secured \$7.5 million in new federal funding to support our workforce and helped design and execute a \$570 million Downtown Denver Development Authority strategy. Supported 12 new retailers, restaurants and experiences downtown.
- **Policy leadership:** DEDO led Enterprise Zone reauthorization for another decade, aligning zones with key corridors, NEST neighborhoods (neighborhoods experiencing significant change) and Upper Downtown to sustain long-term growth.

Department of Finance (DOF)

DOF delivered record results in 2025.

- **Downtown investment:** DOF secured over \$166 million in downtown investments through four DDDA award cycles.

- **Financial performance:** DOF generated \$228 million in investment earnings for the city, including \$18 million for the General Fund, and recovered \$100 million in tax revenue.
- **Process improvements:** DOF implemented 54 process improvements citywide; improvements included saving 16,000 staff hours, and revamping Denver Police Department’s Civil Service exam, which boosted completion by 133% and increased recruit class sizes from 33.5 to 54.

Department of Housing Stability (HOST)

HOST made historic progress on housing and homelessness in 2025, leading innovative housing solutions to create stability and opportunity for residents.

- **Housing & shelter:** HOST facilitated 3,182 moves from homelessness to housing, and funded the opening of 1,249 new affordable units and preservation of 279 existing units; HOST expanded family shelter capacity by nearly 10% with the opening of the Theodora Family Hotel offering 60 suites and wraparound services.
- **Major redevelopment:** HOST completed the Sun Valley redevelopment, transforming 333 outdated public housing units into 965 modern mixed-income homes through \$60 million in city investment.
- **Innovative solutions:** HOST launched a middle-income housing pilot to support Denver’s essential workforce, and introduced Denver’s first locally-funded housing vouchers at Warren Village to ensure long-term affordability for vulnerable families.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

DPR strengthened sustainability, expanded access to green spaces and delivered record youth engagement citywide.

- **Sustainability:** DPR planted 5,217 trees across 150 species, focusing on high-heat neighborhoods to improve cooling, air quality and stormwater management. DPR also saved 21 million gallons of water through landscape transformations and advanced irrigation technology.
- **Community spaces:** DPR celebrated the historic opening of Park Hill Park, a 155-acre site and Denver’s fourth-largest park, and has led a robust community visioning process. Invested in upcoming major improvements, including the new Westwood Recreation Center, Ruby Hill’s Outdoor Adventure Hub, Civic Center Next 100 and multiple neighborhood park renovations.

- **Youth programming:** Recreation registrations reached 98% of annual goal, Summer Rec Kidz enrollment exceeded targets by 142%, and youth employment surpassed goals by 152%. Recreation usage grew 11%, and MY Denver (youth library and recreation center pass) participation rose 7%.

Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE)

DDPHE advanced health equity, sustainability and community well-being in 2025.

- **Healthy Food for Denver’s Kids:** This DDPHE program has given out more than \$100 million in grants since 2020, reaching 149,000+ families, serving 40 million culturally relevant meals and supporting programming in 33 languages to combat childhood food insecurity.
- **Climate action:** DDPHE announced a collaboration with Waste Management to build Colorado’s largest Renewable Natural Gas facility at the Denver Arapahoe Disposal Site. When complete in 2027, the facility will convert landfill gas into pipeline-quality fuel and significantly reduce carbon emissions.
- **Community health assessment:** With significant input from the community and public health partners, DDPHE identified access to healthcare (including mental and behavioral health), systemic racism and safe, affordable housing as top priorities for citywide health improvement planning.
- **Roads to Recovery:** DDPHE achieved 71% engagement in intensive case management through the Mayor’s Roads to Recovery initiative, which serves people with complex mental health and substance use needs. The program diverts participants from the criminal justice system into a coordinated network of treatment and rehabilitation services. Roads to Recovery participants have shown a 72% decrease in jail bookings since starting the program. In 2025, active participants spent a total of 28,000 days in services, an average of 168 days per person, highlighting Denver’s commitment to rehabilitation and resilience.

Department of Safety (DOS)

DOS advanced public safety and community support in 2025.

- **Street engagement:** DOS made 2,905 contacts with individuals experiencing homelessness as part of the All In Mile High Initiative and performed six lifesaving overdose reversals.
- **Emergency response modernization:** DOS launched the Dynamic Response Model Advisory Committee to update emergency medical dispatch and develop clinically grounded performance standards, setting the stage for a new benchmark in emergency response efficiency in 2026.

- **Reentry & rehabilitation:** DOS supported 300 returning citizens through Community Corrections programming to strengthen reintegration and enhance long-term public safety. Project Elevate, Denver’s gender-responsive program for women, earned top statewide recognition for its evidence-based practices and innovative partnerships.

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI)

DOTI delivered transformative projects and service improvements in 2025.

- **Infrastructure upgrades:** DOTI renovated 16th Street, replaced an aging concrete culvert in Montbello with a naturalized channel to reduce flood risk and create green space, and expanded the bike network with 20 new miles of bikeways.
- **Customer experience:** DOTI increased on-time solid waste collection to 99%, streamlined permitting review and processing, and launched a new website and pre-qualification process to make it easier for contractors and local businesses to work with the department.

General Services (GS)

GS improved efficiency and expanded workforce development in 2025.

- **Operational efficiency:** GS streamlined the city’s contracting process by consolidating procurement, contract administration, compliance and close-out functions into a single workgroup; GS integrated the Division of Small Business Opportunity Compliance team – which supports small, minority and women-owned businesses as they compete on city contracts – after it moved from DEDO; the city’s Facilities Management team reorganized to better align resources and prioritize core functions across its 140-building portfolio.
- **Workforce development:** GS expanded the GS Works! program, hosting 60+ trade school students for facility tours and job shadowing. Launched a surplus vehicle donation program, partnering with Denver City Council and educational institutions to provide impounded vehicles for vocational training, supporting hands-on learning and career pathways.

Human Rights & Community Partnerships (HRCP)

HRCP advanced equity and community well-being in 2025, strengthening inclusion, accessibility and support for Denver’s diverse communities.

- **Financial empowerment:** HRCP supported 500 residents in achieving their financial goals through one-on-one financial coaching, strengthening economic stability and long-term economic mobility.
- **Immigrant & refugee support:** HRCP assisted 905 immigrants and refugees through work authorization permit clinics, helping participants take critical steps toward lawful employment and successful integration into the communities they call home.
- **Community impact:** HRCP promoted equity and inclusion by hosting 11 culturally focused community events attended by more than 7,700 people, celebrating Denver’s diverse communities and supporting nonprofits and community-based organizations serving historically underrepresented residents. Additionally, HRCP connected 3,450 older adults and caregivers to aging-in-place resources through monthly in-person workshops.
- **Youth & Families:** HRCP exceeded school supply goals for the 2025–26 academic year, serving 6,000+ attendees at a major event through collaboration with city agencies and partners.

Licensing and Consumer Protection (LCP)

LCP improved transparency, efficiency and consumer safety in 2025.

- **Customer experience:** Voters approved the department’s new name by 75%, making it easier for the public to understand the services provided and easier to navigate. Implemented nearly 40 innovations that saved customers an estimated 134,000 hours, far exceeding the goal of 50,000. Some of these include faster short-term rental license processing and reducing public hearing requirements.
- **Consumer protection:** LCP increased licensed parking lots by 15% by bringing 22 noncompliant lots into compliance and began enforcing enhanced lighting.

National Western Center (NWCO)

NWCO advanced campus transformation in 2025.

- **Major milestone:** Celebrated the opening of the \$250 million Livestock Center, which debuted at the 120th National Western Stock Show in January 2026.
- **Community engagement:** Launched the Triangle Community Vision Plan, a 15-month process shaping the final phases of development.
- **Future development:** Secured funding, advanced design work and finalized negotiations for the upcoming Equestrian Center, Hotel and Housing project—key components of creating a vibrant, year-round destination for education, entertainment and community engagement.

Office of Children’s Affairs (OCA)

OCA expanded youth opportunities and engagement in 2025.

- **Workforce development:** OCA, in partnership with DEDO helped 4,366 youth gain valuable work experience, build skills and pathways toward future careers.
- **Out-of-school programs:** OCA collaborated with 44 community-based organizations to provide enriching programs that promote learning, safety and healthy development.
- **Youth voice in governance:** OCA facilitated the first-ever inclusion of youth on the People’s Budget Committee, where young people made up 30% of membership, ensuring Denver’s budget reflects youth priorities and perspectives.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

OEM strengthened Denver’s emergency preparedness and response in 2025 through large-scale exercises, community engagement and critical planning:

- **Preparedness exercises:** OEM hosted Mile High Ready, the first Emergency Operations Center functional exercise in two years, engaging 130+ participants from city agencies, regional partners and federal entities to simulate a tornado-induced power outage.
- **Community engagement:** OEM delivered the largest National Preparedness Month program to date, including a citywide emergency alert test, a blood drive and multiple preparedness events with partners like the Denver Zoo, Auraria Campus, nonprofits and local businesses.
- **Planning & readiness:** OEM developed Denver’s first mass evacuation plan for hazards such as wildfires, dam failures and hazardous material releases, collaborating with city, state and federal agencies to enhance readiness for complex emergencies.

Office of Human Resources (OHR)

OHR turned one of Denver’s most challenging years into a record of achievement.

- **Layoff management:** OHR created new policies, processes, communications and data systems from the ground up to guide city leaders and employees through the transition in partnership with the Mayor’s Office and Department of Finance.
- **Talent strategy:** OHR improved first-year retention, reduced cost per hire and quadrupled engagement across digital talent platforms while earning national recognition, including awards for its employment brand campaign and placements on Forbes’ lists of America’s Best Employers.

- **Collective bargaining:** OHR provided labor relations expertise and leadership to the Mayor’s Office, City Council and other partners, shaping collective bargaining for the city and communicating these new processes to city employees.

Office of Social Equity and Innovation (OSEI)

OSEI strengthened Denver’s equity infrastructure in 2025.

- **Equity framework:** OSEI launched a digital Racial Equity Action Plan platform and a new Agency Needs Assessment Tool, aligning all equity work under a shared Measures of Success framework for greater accountability and measurable outcomes.
- **Collaboration & integration:** OSEI advanced cross-agency collaboration through citywide EDI training for 250 participants and a centralized resource hub while integrating ONS programs into the Social Determinants of Health framework and implementing digital data systems to improve tracking and coordination.
- **Recognition & impact:** OSEI earned Colorado Youth Detention Continuum’s Team of the Year, with outcomes far exceeding state benchmarks, including 6% failure to appear, 5% non-compliance and 4% recidivism reflecting OSEI’s leadership in equity, innovation and community impact.

Technology Services (TS)

TS achieved national recognition and advanced Denver’s digital transformation in 2025:

- **National recognition:** TS earned first place for Overall City Government Experience from the Center for Digital Government for leadership in modernizing public services.
- **Digital access:** TS converted 38% of 311 calls into online interactions, allowing residents to get help more efficiently while freeing customer service agents to focus on complex issues.
- **Innovation leadership:** TS hosted the sold-out second-annual DenAI Summit, convening leaders from the public and private sectors and organizations across the country to explore how artificial intelligence can drive innovative solutions to civic challenges and improve government performance.

20



25



[DenverGov.org/2025Goals](https://denvergov.org/2025Goals)

