

ADAMS COUNTY


A VISUALIZATION OF THE CARES ACT FUNDING



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

INNOVATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ABOUT ADAMS COUNTY COMMUNITY RESPONSE & RECOVERY EFFORTS

 Adams County Community COVID-19 Response & Recovery work is the collective effort of cross-sector partners who are working together to ensure policies, funding, programs, and practices are aligned to support those who are most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing the well-being of community members is critical to building stronger, more resilient individuals, families, and economies that will weather and recover from the COVID-19 crisis. Seven Response & Recovery Teams were established in mid-March 2020, championed by the Adams County Board of Commissioners and supported by the Adams County Manager: Childcare, Business Support and Retention, Aging Adults Services, Uninsured & Healthcare Access, Housing Stability, Food Security and Basic Essentials, and Unemployment and Workforce Support. Because disparities across the community are further exacerbated by the pandemic, these seven teams are bringing together key community representatives, including residents, to monitor the ever-changing state of each focus area, to identify gaps and barriers in support and to scale available resources. These teams also determine action needed to close and eliminate gaps to reshape the landscape of how, when, and where community members can connect with what they need most.

Adams County cannot achieve long-term success if the immediate needs of ALL residents are not supported throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The barriers community members are facing in each of the seven outcome areas do not exist in a vacuum, and no one municipality, sector, organization, or program can address or solve these challenges alone. This is why coordination and cohesion exists across all seven Response & Recovery Teams to unify the existing work and implement more holistic recovery strategies to support the community as a whole to have access to services and resources during COVID-19 and beyond.



\$90,285,974

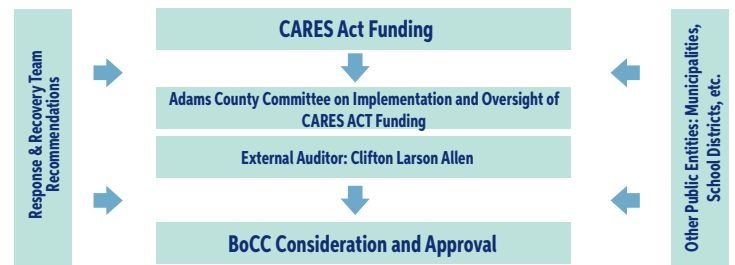
CITIES & TOWNS

\$34,012,424

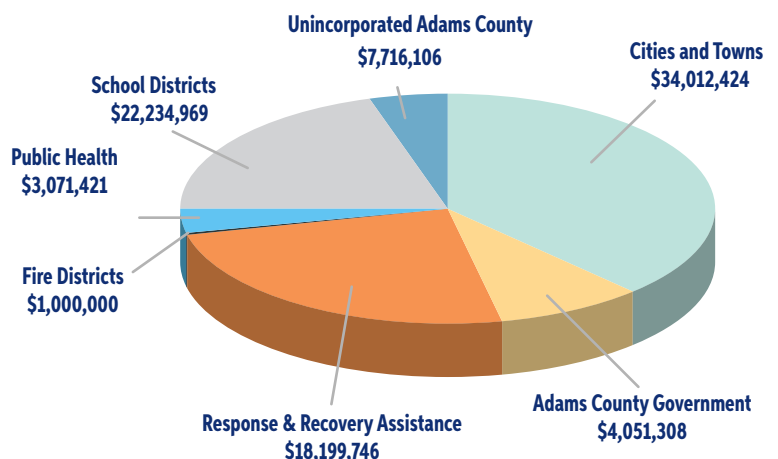


Arvada.....	\$242,993
Aurora.....	\$3,757,210
Bennett.....	\$167,211
Brighton.....	\$4,191,233
Commerce City.....	\$4,646,885
Federal Heights.....	\$1,107,884
Northglenn.....	\$3,186,617
Thornton.....	\$11,205,301
Westminster.....	\$5,507,090

CARES ACT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE



ALLOCATION BREAKDOWN



VISION

Adams County is the most innovative and inclusive county in America for all families and businesses.



ADAMS COUNTY

COVID-19 Response & Recovery

As part of a COVID-19 emergency management response and recovery strategy, Adams County launched a website dedicated to providing key resources to support residents and businesses.

adamscountycovid19.org

BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RETENTION

Colorado Enterprise Fund Loans

Adams County's Board of Commissioners, in partnership with Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF) and the Adams County Foundation, has increased its investment in the Adams County Small Business Loan Fund to help small businesses throughout the county access capital and business coaching. The goal is to provide support through a CEF COVID-19 Relief Loan to viable small businesses to help with immediate relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts.

Maximum Award: \$25,000.

Small Business Stabilization Program

The Adams County Community & Economic Development Department established the Small Business Stabilization Program (SBSP) to provide local businesses with grants to retain jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants for the SBSP are paid for by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to improve the physical, economic, and social conditions for low- to moderate-income populations. According to HUD's guidance, CDBG funds can be used to assist for-profit businesses to avoid job loss caused by closures related to social distancing. Funding can provide short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs and provide organizational stability. Learn more at adcogov.org/sbsp.

Maximum Award: \$35,000.

Restaurant Stability Program

Adams County has developed a new Restaurant Stability Program to support local businesses impacted by indoor dining capacity restrictions. Federal funding for this program comes from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress. The county's Restaurant Stability Program offers a one-time \$10,000 grant to businesses that can demonstrate substantial loss due to the reduction and elimination of indoor dining.

Mini-Grants for Small Businesses

In partnership with several local Chambers of Commerce and economic development groups, a series of mini-grants were developed to impact three critical areas of need for small businesses affected by COVID-19.

Maximum Award: \$10,000.

Business Operations Mini-Grants

Used for operational upgrades such as building safety enhancements to encourage social distancing, personal protective equipment for employees and customers, adjustments to air or filtration systems, or other costs associated with the enactment of COVID-19 specific operations plans.

Maximum Award: \$2,500.

Technology Upgrades Mini-Grants

Used for items like point-of-sale terminals or systems, including contactless payment systems, touchless entry and exit for a physical business location, temperature screening, and technology needs for the enactment of COVID-19 specific operations plans.

Maximum Award: \$1,000.

Compliance Issues Mini-Grants

Used for expenses such as legal support or guidance for operations during COVID-19, expenses for preparation of variance requests to public health agencies, and consulting support for operations during COVID-19.

Maximum Award: \$1,000.

Winterizing Operations Mini-Grants

Used for items like portable forced air heaters (and propane fuel), patio/mushroom heaters, electric heaters, fire prevention equipment (extinguishers and signage), tents, clearspan structures (or the like), furniture, and other outdoor decor to expand capacity to the outdoors during the winter season. Fees associated with third-party delivery services are also an eligible use. This category is only open to restaurants, senior care facilities, and childcare centers.

Maximum Award: \$5,000.



The COVID View app shows outbreak data for Adams County, CO, along with current case stats and restrictions. In addition, the app provides free COVID-19 testing site locations and many other COVID-19 resources. Users can also find local restaurants offering curbside and takeout services under the AdCo To Go section. If you're a local restaurant, add your restaurant to the list.

Covid View

AGING ADULT SERVICES

The goal of the Adams County Aging Adult Services Response & Recovery Team is to keep the mortality rate for aging adults 55+ on trend in the absence of COVID-19, with the projected estimated mortality count for aging adults 55 and over at 2,532 for 2020. This includes identifying policy and system shifts that may be needed and providing an avenue for clear, concise information and aid in real-time.

*Distributed 90,000 KN-95 and Surgical Masks/PPE to Long-Term Care Facilities and Homecare Providers
Distributed 1,000 Care Packages.*

Well Elder Program

The Well Elder Program is a network of community partners providing companion calls, fraud education, and resource sharing to Adams County older adults and measuring impact with a robust and vetted database.

Technology Mini-Grants

The technology mini-grants will support older adults with access to food delivery, telehealth, RX ordering

and delivery, video chat with family, virtual learning, transportation scheduling, and more for ongoing continuity of care needs.

Material Aid Support

To further mitigate food scarcity and access in the aging community during the public health crisis, material aid is a benefit providing a monthly allotment for older adults to garner food goods, personal care goods, pet companion goods, over-the-counter medical supplies, and cleaning supplies that are purchased on their behalf by "vetted shoppers" to support older adults with critical resources they need for their health and wellness.

Medical Gap Support Program

The Medical Gap Support Program is designed to assist in the payment (up to \$5,000 per individual) of uncovered and unanticipated medical-related expenses of Adams County aging residents and their caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following CARES funding guidelines, these supportive dollars are for current expenditures and reimbursable expenditures that began in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

HOUSING STABILITY

Connecting Residents to Housing Options

The Adams County Housing Stability Response & Recovery Team is working to keep people in their homes and ensuring community members' other housing needs are met during the COVID-19 crisis. This includes identifying policy and system shifts that may be needed and providing an avenue for clear, concise information and aid in real-time.

The Adams County Housing Stability Response & Recovery Team moved quickly to stand up a county-wide Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance Fund, administered by Maiker Housing Partners. The fund is open to all Adams County community members whose annual household income is below 120% the Area Median Income (AMI).

Total Funding Amount: \$2,352,293

Total Number of Unique Households Served: 585

Unmet Demand: \$4,752,000



The Pledge to Protect campaign will run through the county's COVID-19 website, social media channels, the Adams County COVID View smartphone app, as advertisements, and through other media channels. In the Pledge to Protect campaign, residents, local elected leaders, community leaders, and business owners, pledge to protect themselves, their neighbors, and their community in order to keep businesses and schools open. This is done by wearing a mask when in public, small and large gatherings, maintaining six feet of distance between themselves and others, washing hands regularly or using hand sanitizer frequently, regularly sanitizing high touch surfaces like cell phones, iPods, steering wheels, and surfaces in the home, immediately getting tested at the onset of any COVID-19 symptoms or notified of close contact with someone positive, staying home and isolating when sick and/or COVID-positive.

UNINSURED AND HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Connecting Uninsured Community Members to Health Insurance

With the rise in unemployment as the pandemic hit, many community members lost their private insurance, and the number of those without insurance was expected to rise. As a result, Connect for Health Colorado opened a Special Enrollment period for health insurance from March 20 through April 3.

Worried uninsured community members who most needed to access this enrollment period would not hear about it with sufficient time to apply, the Adams County Board of Commissioners and Uninsured and Healthcare Access Response & Recovery Team [submitted a letter to Governor Polis](#) requesting an extension of the emergency enrollment period. An extension to the deadline would ensure local governments and community partners would have the ability to properly promote the efforts underway by Connect for Health Colorado and continue to inform communities about the importance of having health insurance coverage.

With this letter, Connect for Health Colorado extended the open enrollment period through April 30, 2020.

With an extended open enrollment period 14,263 Coloradans, including 1,014 Adams County community members, were able to gain access to health insurance.

Increasing Access to Vaccinations

With concerns in the medical community about the impact of the flu on the COVID-19 crisis, increasing community members' access to flu shots has been prioritized by the Uninsured and Healthcare Access Response & Recovery Team as a high need across the region.

The Response & Recovery Team has identified an opportunity to support communications and outreach regarding where flu vaccinations are available and identifying opportunities to ensure the region's most vulnerable community members are accessing these vaccinations.

Total Flu Shot Clinics Hosted to Date: 18 Flu Shot Clinics

COVID-19 Testing for Vulnerable Community Members

As the pandemic hit, testing for COVID-19 was limited and oftentimes expensive. Knowing that vulnerable community members would likely be unable to access this critical resource, the Uninsured and Healthcare Access Response & Recovery Team worked to stand up four mobile testing sites that would provide free COVID-19 testing to the uninsured, uninsurable, and community members experiencing homelessness, regardless of immigration status.

In addition to the mobile testing sites, Adams County Government partnered with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to bring a super testing site to Water World that could test thousands of community members per day.

Between this super testing site and the expanded mobile sites, thousands of Adams County community members have received COVID-19 testing.

***Mobile Rapid COVID-19 Tests to Date (12/4/20)
14,685 Adams County Residents Tested***

***Water World COVID-19 Tests to Date (12/7/20)
88,638 Adams County Residents Tested***



ADAMS COUNTY

COVID-19 Response & Recovery

This Digital Dashboard Report showcases the work of the Adams County Community Response & Recovery effort towards addressing the needs of residents and businesses during the pandemic. This digital dashboard showcase report is meant to be an interactive tool that can be scrolled through and explored in order to help inform the work of the Response & Recovery Teams and the general public. Some of the sections in this dashboard report the work between March and December of 2020, while others continue to be updated in 2021.

Adams County COVID-19 Dashboard

UNEMPLOYED AND WORKFORCE SUPPORT

Left Behind Workers Fund

To soften the impact on the population and the economy, the **Left Behind Workers Fund** is a program that offers \$1,000 of direct cash assistance to those recently unemployed workers not eligible for Unemployment Insurance or a CARES Act Stimulus Check through two lead partner organizations: **Social Venture Partners** and the **Village Exchange Center**.

Previously, Adams County had invested \$50,000 to date in this fund, and with those dollars, combined with their privately raised dollars, they made grants to 875 Adams County residents, distributing \$875,000 supporting households with 1,586 children.

The Response & Recovery Team officially endorsed a CARES Act Funding Request by Village Exchange Center

that was approved for an additional \$1.3 million to be used for \$1,000 direct aid grants to Adams County residents who have experienced unemployment and are ineligible for unemployment insurance and the CARE Act Stimulus Check.

Low Wage Worker Fund

The Low Wage Worker Fund provides up to \$1,500 in cash payments to households (\$1,000 for single adults) to allow for people earning under \$30k/year to quarantine upon a positive COVID-19 test result. Screening and referrals are provided by Tri-County Health Department and the Veterans Affairs Hospital. Village Exchange Center in Aurora is administering the program. \$250k is included in the 2021 Budget. The program launches in January.

CHILDCARE

*Historical data has shown that Adams County has experienced a lack of affordable, high quality childcare for those who needed it. According to the 2019 report, **Affordability and Accessibility of Quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) Programs in Adams County by the Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC)** showed that there were fewer than 11,000 licensed slots available for an estimated 29,000 ages birth to five who have all parents in the labor force.*

Voice and Perspective

In addition to quantitative data, the Childcare Response & Recovery Team gathers voice and perspective from families, parents, providers, and school districts to best understand childcare needs and barriers to meeting those needs.

Provider Feedback

In April 2020, 40 childcare providers shared information

on what their needs were to operate their current operating capacity, concerns they had around operating during the pandemic, and what it would take for their facility or organization to provide childcare, summer camps, or other programming over the summer.

Needs Assessment

In May 2020, 519 families in the region completed a Needs Assessment survey and shared insight into what needs they had around childcare. This assessment helped capture what concerns and barriers they were experiencing.

Childcare PULSE Survey

The insight gained through the initial Needs Assessment was critical to understanding what families were enduring. With needs and barriers around childcare have been changing almost daily for many Adams County families, the Childcare Response & Recovery Team efforts were directed towards capturing this information in real time.



ACCESS ADAMS ONLINE

Access Adams Online at adcogov.org to take care of many county services from the comfort of your own home. For those needing resources for aging adults, childcare, food security, healthcare, housing, small businesses, and unemployment during this time, please visit adamscountycovid19.org.

adcogov.org

In order to keep their finger on the pulse of childcare needs, the Childcare Response and Recovery Team developed a quick, four-minute survey that was administered every two weeks in both English and Spanish. The top childcare concerns reported by families are monitored closely as it pertains to ensuring care for their children.

Provider Pulse Survey

In addition to regularly hearing from families and parents, the the Childcare Response & Recovery Team will be utilizing a Pulse Survey, to gather input from childcare providers. The survey will capture information related to operating capacity, operational changes, instructional

models, staff capacity, and financial and other needs. This survey will start going out for responses in early October 2020.

Childcare Mini-Grants and Family Tuition Assistance

The Adams County Childcare Response and Recovery Team moved quickly to stand up a county-wide Child care mini-grant program and a family tuition assistance fund administered by The Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County. The fund is open to all Adams County Community Members and child care providers.

Total Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

FOOD SECURITY AND BASIC ESSENTIALS

Food Security and Basic Essentials Response & Recovery Team is focused on supporting access to food and basic essentials for community members in need through the COVID-19 crisis. This includes identifying policy and system shifts that may be needed and providing an avenue for clear, concise information and aid in real-time.

Expanding SNAP Benefits

The spread of COVID-19 in Adams County has had widespread effects on all aspects of the food system. **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** is no exception. SNAP benefits, which can be used to purchase fresh produce and groceries, are needed now more than ever to support access to food for low-income families and ensure the current circumstances do not jeopardize the food security of the community.

In April 2020, the Adams County Board of Commissioners and members of the Response & Recovery Team **signed a letter** to urge the Adams County Delegation to support the policies put forward by Hunger Free Colorado in the COVID-19 relief packages related to food security and basic essentials.

With this letter and other advocacy efforts, the USDA approved a request from Colorado and states to allow online purchases using federal food assistance.

The advocacy of this team along side other entities made the initial four-month time frame into just one month. Online purchasing began to be implemented in May/June 2020.

Aligning Funding and Resources to Community Food Hubs

As the pandemic hit, schools quickly moved to remote learning to combat the spread of COVID-19. As an unfortunate consequence of keeping youth, families, and school personnel safe, families who relied on school meals for their children lost a key source of food and nutrition and had to look to other options to make sure they could feed their families.

School districts and food providers moved quickly to get federal waivers allowing them to continue meal service to these families in need through the remainder of the school year. As summer approached with no end to the pandemic in sight, the Food Security and Basic Essentials Response & Recovery Team mobilized to align resources and funding to support these 'community food hubs' to sustain their critical services throughout the summer and scale up the amount of families and community members they were able to serve.

In order to support the unique needs of different groups of community members, the Response & Recovery Team looked at SNAP eligibility data, triangulated with Free



Adams County restaurants continue to serve our communities with quality delivery and takeout options during the statewide closures. Through AdCo To Go, Adams County is proud to highlight the robust offerings that have been pulled together by various communities across the county. By coming together to support our local restaurants, we will ensure their vitality today and into the future. Residents can view an interactive map of Adams County restaurants open for takeout.

adamscountycovid19.org/adco-to-go

FOOD SECURITY AND BASIC ESSENTIALS

and Reduced Lunch eligibility data and perspective from school districts and food providers on the ground, to determine where food insecurity was likely the highest in Federal Heights, south Westminster, and Commerce City.

With school districts and their partner food providers already in action at these sites, the team aligned \$200,000 from the Adams County Foundation to meet key needs allowing them to sustain and scale their meal service. **Between these three ‘Community Food Hubs’, almost 1.5 million meals were served to families and community members between March and August 2020.**

Aligning Resources to Meet Fall and Winter Needs

As the pandemic dragged on and uncertainty about whether key waivers that supported the operations of these community food hubs would be extended through the fall and winter, the Response & Recovery Team worked to ensure these key services could continue for community members in need on the weekends (since weekday meals would likely be covered by standard school meal services).

Looking at Free and Reduced Lunch data, they identified 40 schools in the Adams County region that have Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility rates above 80% (accounting for almost 16,000 youth who are Free and Reduced Lunch eligible). Those schools were

predominantly located in the same geographic areas identified previously (Federal Heights, south Westminster, and Commerce City).

Using estimates of costs per meal provided by community food hub partners, **the team aligned \$1.66 million in CARES Act funding (which would provide weekend meals for nearly 16,000 youth through the end of the year) to the community food hub partners** to ensure they could continue and scale services through the remainder of 2020.

Transportation Support for Food Providers

One of the biggest barriers identified by food providers to meet the growing food needs of the community was transportation and delivery support. Food providers who had become emergency food pantry sites were unable to transport large amounts of food from their food sources to their sites. They were also unable to transport their packaged foods to their distribution partners.

The Food Security and Basic Essentials Response & Recovery Team established partnerships with community entities including American Furniture Warehouse, Midwest Motor Express (through the Colorado Motor Carriers Association), and Arc Thrift Stores. These partnerships helped secure ongoing transportation support for six food providers in the region.

CONTACT



Adams County Commissioners

Left to Right: Charles “Chaz” Tedesco, Mary Hodge, Steve O’Doriso, Emma Pinter-chair, Eva J. Henry



RAYMOND H. GONZALES | Adams County Manager

rgonzales@adcogov.org

Office: 720.523.6846

Cell: 720.556.4086



ALISHA REIS | Deputy County Manager

areis@adcogov.org

Office: 720.523.6293

Cell: 720.375.2361



NANCY DUNCAN | Director of Budget & Finance

nduncan@adcogov.org

Office: 720.523.6276

Cell: 720.971.5440