The Denver Foundation has always led on issues of importance to our community. We believe we have a responsibility to take bold steps to advance racial equity and drive meaningful systemic change. Our community believes we have this responsibility, too.

To that end, the foundation has developed a policy framework and principles to inform our activity in policy issues at the local, state, and federal levels in alignment with our mission, vision, and core values.

In 2021 the foundation distributed more than $100 million, making almost 6,000 grants across Denver, Colorado, and the U.S.

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

We believe that economic opportunity is achievable when the community has the tools and resources to build wealth, increase assets, and create local and just economies.

We support policy proposals that strengthen community wealth building and workforce development opportunities across the Metro Denver region.

We will consider policy proposals to increase individual wealth, reduce displacement of small businesses, increase employee ownership and worker cooperatives, and develop workforce development programs for transition into new economies.

**EDUCATION (K-12)**

We believe that access to a well-funded and racially equitable education system is critical for communities in Metro Denver to thrive.

We support policy proposals that prioritize racial equity in the K-12 public school system and increase school funding equitably.

We will consider policy proposals to modify the school funding formula in Colorado to increase funding to Metro Denver school districts that are disproportionately funded, and enact reforms to address students receiving high-quality public education and equitable education opportunities.

**Our recent work:** We supported HB22-1230 and HB22-1359. HB22-1230 continues a workforce development program that helps job seekers cover costs associated with technology, attire, transportation, or other resources needed when seeking new job opportunities. HB22-1359 provides lending opportunities to low-income individuals through a new household financial recovery program within the state treasurer’s office.

**OUR VISION**

A Metro Denver that is racially equitable in its leadership, prosperity, and culture.

**CONTACT**

Naomi Amaha
Director of Policy & Government Affairs
namaha@denverfoundation.org

denverfoundation.org
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

We believe that environmental justice begins with targeted policy efforts and investments in under-resourced communities to address the impacts of climate change.

We support policy proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create resilient communities across the Metro Denver region.

We will consider policy proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through investments and standards for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and air quality programs across Metro Denver, and adopt resiliency and adaptation plans for under-resourced communities.

HOUSING

We believe the continuum of housing programs designed to address affordable housing and homelessness should be well-funded and respond to the history of exclusionary housing policies.

We support policy proposals that increase opportunities for affordable housing options and establish systemic support to address barriers to housing security.

We will consider policy proposals to improve protections for renters, lessen regulatory barriers, and enhance equitable funding to create affordable housing for households making 0-30% of the area median income, and increase support for those experiencing homelessness.

TRANSPORTATION

We believe that access to reliable and affordable public transportation options is a core function of a thriving community.

We support policy proposals that make equitable investments into public transit to address the current challenges impacting ridership.

We will consider policy proposals to equitably infuse federal, state, and local funding in transportation systems in Metro Denver, and policy proposals to ensure improved service routes and fare structures and levels to get people to needed services, education, and jobs.

PHILANTHROPIC GIVING AND NONPROFIT SECTOR

We believe that philanthropists and nonprofits must work together to co-create change to address community needs. We must elevate the work of the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors to ensure that policies further both sectors’ investments in community change.

We support policy proposals at the federal level to further charitable giving, deepen collaboration between philanthropists, nonprofit organizations, and government entities, and address evidence-based concerns of the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. The foundation also supports advocacy efforts to educate decision-makers on the foundation’s engaged philanthropy model (grantmaking, business model, etc.).

We will consider policy proposals that impact philanthropic giving and nonprofits, and proposals that specifically affect community foundations.