

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 2023 the foundation distributed more than \$128 million making more than 6,000 grants across Denver, Colorado, and the U.S.



## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

We believe economic opportunity is achievable when the community has the tools, resources, and conditions to build individual and community wealth.

We support policy proposals that strengthen community wealth-building and workforce development opportunities for individuals and small businesses in Metro Denver.

We will consider policy proposals to address the root causes of barriers identified by those with lived experiences, focusing on building wealth, starting and growing businesses, and increasing workforce development opportunities.



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

We believe that environmental justice must be rooted in policy change and government investments in under-resourced communities to reduce 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 that help improve air quality by reducing emissions from sources such as transportation, preserving and increasing resources for the transition to energy-efficient homes and buildings, and mitigating the impacts of a changing climate.

### Our recent work:

During the 2024 state legislative session, we supported bills to further economic opportunity through strategies such as limiting fees associated with lending, adopting employee ownership tax credits, increasing tax credits for families, and studying the impacts of systemic racism on Black Coloradans.

### Our recent work:

During the 2024 state legislative session, we supported bills to adopt recommendations from the state's environmental justice task force, improve the electric grid in Colorado, and adopt strategies to mitigate the impacts of pollution.

## THE DENVER FOUNDATION

For 100 years, The Denver Foundation has been a leading philanthropic organization dedicated to creating a strong, thriving Metro Denver, Colorado, and beyond. Through enduring partnerships with individuals, nonprofits, and civic leaders, we have made a significant and lasting impact. Over the past century, we have received \$2.1 billion in gifts and given \$1.5 billion to support the community.

The Denver Foundation plays three critical roles: stewarding an endowment to address both current and future needs in Metro Denver, collaborating with community leaders to tackle the region's core challenges, and managing more than 1,500 charitable funds on behalf of individuals, families, and businesses.

We believe in bringing people together to create positive change and are dedicated to bridging gaps and fostering partnerships to achieve our vision of vibrant and connected communities.

## CONTACT

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## HOUSING

We believe that to tackle the affordable housing crisis in Metro Denver, strategies should be well-funded, respond to the history of exclusionary zoning, and mitigate displacement.

We support policy proposals that increase the development and preservation of affordable housing and address barriers to housing security.

We will consider policy proposals to reduce costs and improve protections for tenants, lessen regulatory barriers to acquiring, preserving, and building affordable housing for those of the lowest income, and increase resources for those experiencing homelessness.



## YOUTH WELL-BEING

We believe that to ensure youth can thrive, they must have access to a well-funded and racially equitable education system and programs to support their well-being.

We support policy proposals that address K-12 school funding and school reforms prioritizing racial equity, and youth mental health in Metro Denver.

We will consider policy proposals that improve educational outcomes and increase access to quality education. We will also consider policy proposals that provide young people with mental health support in schools and community programs.



## PHILANTHROPIC GIVING AND NONPROFIT SECTOR

We believe that philanthropists, nonprofits, the private sector, and governmental entities must collaborate to meet community needs and further invest in community change.

We support policy proposals at the federal and, at times, state levels to further charitable giving, deepen collaboration between philanthropists, nonprofit organizations, and governmental entities, and address evidence-based concerns of the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors.

We will consider policy proposals that impact philanthropic giving, community foundations, nonprofits in Colorado, and the foundation's engaged philanthropy model.

## CRITICAL AND TIMELY ISSUES

In executing our policy framework, we strive to dismantle systemic barriers and eliminate disparities based on race while promoting fair and just opportunities for all individuals. We also recognize that critical and timely issues will arise in 2025, and we stand committed to engaging on policy proposals that impact our vision for a Metro Denver that is racially equitable in its leadership, prosperity, and culture.

### Our recent work:

During the 2024 state legislative session, we supported bills to improve renters' protections and reform state zoning practices. We also co-led the passage of a bill to update the state's warranty of habitability law. We supported ballot questions in Adams County and Denver that aimed to raise funding to acquire, develop, and preserve affordable housing.

### Our recent work:

During the 2024 state legislative session, we supported a bill to update the state's approach to allocating school funding. We supported successful ballot questions in Aurora and Denver to increase resources for school districts. We supported the ballot question to support Denver Health, our region's safety net hospital, and its ability to meet the needs of their communities.

### Our recent work:

In 2024, we submitted comments in response to proposed regulations that would change how donor-advised funds are administered. We also participated in local and national philanthropic tables to collaborate and adopt strategies to further philanthropy's response to climate change issues and deploy federal funding locally.

### Our recent work:

In 2024, we supported bills to increase state resources for nonprofits and school districts supporting migrants in Colorado to receive education, housing, employment, and legal representation resources.