

Community Connections

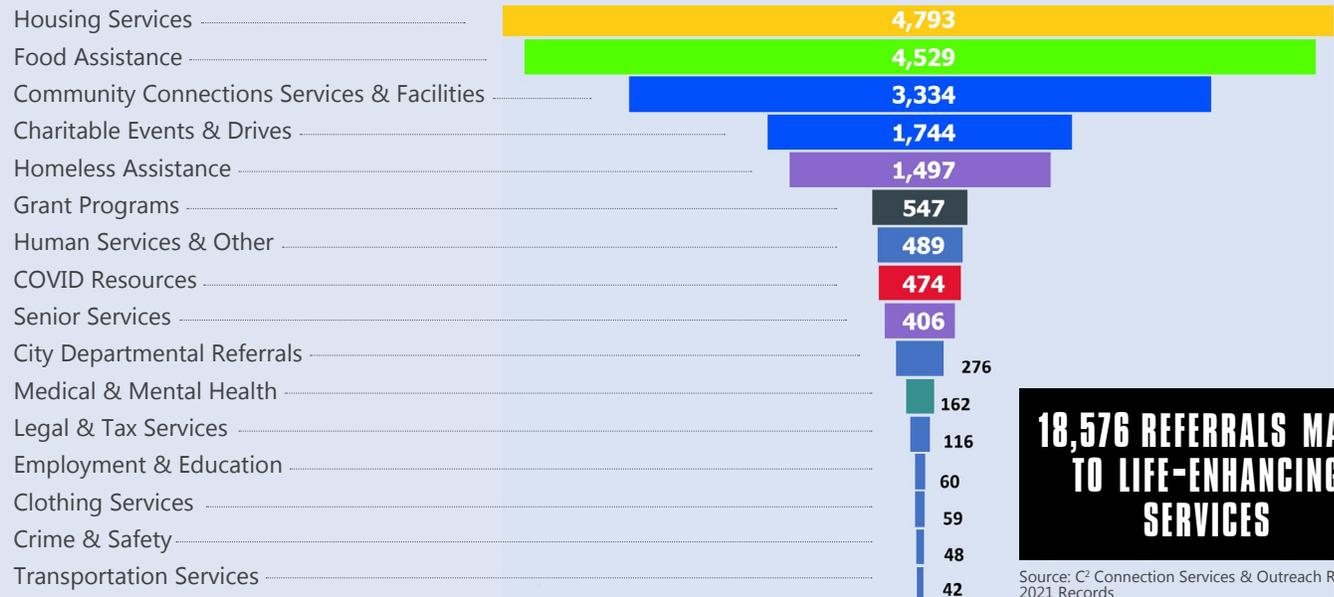
9471 Dorothy Blvd., 720-977-5800, Connections@ThorntonCO.gov



ENHANCING LIVES THROUGH CONNECTION

2021 AT A GLANCE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 2021 REFERRALS BY CATEGORY



18,576 REFERRALS MADE TO LIFE-ENHANCING SERVICES

Source: C² Connection Services & Outreach Referrals 2021 Records

4,375 Points of contact

Referrals increased **171%** from the previous year.

In an effort to provide residents and partners with information about resources and services, we kicked off quarterly Community Connections meetings.



HOLIDAY SUPPORT

Joyful Journeys SANTA SHOP at Community Connections served over **500 families** including **149 Thornton residents**.

PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT (PHG)

This program connects our neighbors in need with generous donors that provide presents and meals through partnering with local agencies.

2021 PHG Program at a glance:

19 case managers/community partners referred **107 families (508 individuals)** that received meals and gifts from over **98 donors** that consisted of community; individuals, groups, businesses and churches.

With the help of **10 community volunteers**, who donated **50 hours of time**, we received, organized and distributed over **1,530 gifts** and **206 Holiday Meal Bags**.

6,355 web page views on **THORNTONCARES.COM**.
This web page allows residents to self-select resources.

COVID resource web page total views **27,348**

Presentations, meetings, site visits and other outreach **1,405**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS opened at 9471 Dorothy Blvd. in April 2021 to serve our community from their new **neighborhood resource center**.

Our lending library launched, providing free WI-FI and use of laptops, iPads and office space.

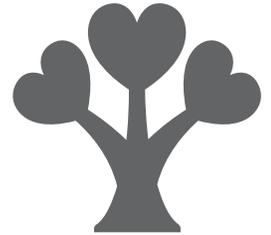


GRANTS



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT \$1,280,813 went to **16 organizations** to fund **23 activities** including support services for at risk youth, emergency rent/mortgage and utility assistance payments, food and basic needs for seniors, support for domestic violence victims and their families, medical services, drug rehabilitation, audio services for those with visual impairments, and homeless supportive services.

THORNTON ASSISTANCE FUNDS \$150,000 was distributed to **19 nonprofit organizations** that provide food, housing, health and human services to **35,409** Thornton residents.



HOUSING

THORNTON WATER ASSISTANCE
Reviewed **497 applications** in 2021. A total of **\$155,160** was credited to **432 homes**.

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP) Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, provided **\$23,945 in assistance** for **40 Thornton homes** in November and December of 2021.



Through the **CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT** funding, the city provided an additional **\$148,500 in water assistance credits** providing relief to **594 homes**.



200 XCEL ENERGY Saving Kits containing LED light-bulbs and efficient shower heads were distributed.

The **Fall Breeze and Vaccines campaign** provided **186 COVID-19 vaccines** and **121 flu vaccines** at two Thornton mobile home communities during four Sunday events.

HELP FOR HOMES assists low-income Thornton homeowners with minor home repair projects that address health, safety, accessibility and energy efficiency. **10 households** were assisted with **\$49,875.61** worth of **minor home repair projects**.



Community Connections partnered with **COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP. (CRHDC)** and **BROTHERS REDEVELOPMENT INC. (BRI)** to provide **100 homebuyers** with education workshops in both English and Spanish.

Thornton's **HOME allocation** of **\$213,969** was awarded to **MAIKER HOUSING PARTNERS** to assist with the development of Crossing Pointe South, an **affordable housing development**, of **142 units** located near our RTD light rail station by 104th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard.

Thornton's Private Activity Bond allocation was **\$7,906,511** and was awarded to the **COLORADO HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY (CHFA)** to assist income eligible first time homebuyers. In 2021, **66** households were provided funding for down payment assistance to purchase a home in Thornton.





FOOD COLLECTED
from community drives
8,120 pounds.

Worked with partners
North Metro Church and
Grace Fellowship Church
to distribute **215 food
boxes** to the Sierra Vista
Apartments.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

6 gardens received
credits on their utility
billing account for
276,000 gallons of
water.

Gardners donated
**9,683 pounds of
produce** to area food
banks.



The **HEALTHY FARMER'S MARKET** brings **fresh produce to an underserved community** each harvest season, July-September, for an affordable cost. Partners: Tri-County Health Department, Anythink Libraries, The American Heart Association and Lulu's Farm.



5,863 Participants
attended **26 Farmer's
Markets**



1,956, \$10 vouchers were provided
to Farmer's Market attendees with
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
(SNAP), Women, Infant and Children (WIC) benefits,
and seniors to increase healthy food access.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

313 Backpacks were provided to Thornton students.

5,150 School supply items were contributed to Thornton students during a back to school giveaway at Community Connections.

2,200 Pounds of food donated for the
FILL A BELLY, FILL A BACKPACK DRIVE.



HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM (HOT)



ESTABLISHMENT OF HOTLINE (HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM LINE)

The Homeless Outreach team received a total of **674** calls.

The HOTline was created for anyone who would like to report an encampment, get resources to individuals suspected to be without homes, or to receive more information about the Homeless Outreach Team.



HOT DECALS

The Homeless Outreach Team printed **500** decals to promote the hotline. They were **posted** in all city of Thornton parks in order to connect unhoused individuals to HOT and services.



Number of **clients** met **257**

Total number of **referrals** to life enhancing services **642**

The Homeless Outreach Team completed outreach to schools, **250** **businesses** and homeowner associations.

The Homeless Outreach Team connected **22** unique **individuals** to a permanent housing voucher.



PHONE DRIVE

The Homeless Outreach Team collected **19** used **phones** to forward to clients.

Having a phone can help individuals keep and maintain their appointments, make lifesaving calls to 9-1-1 and much more.



VULNERABILITY SURVEY

25 **individuals** were enrolled in a vulnerability survey (Vulnerability Index-Service Assessment Decision Tool - VI-SPDAT). This tool is the first step into placing clients in housing voucher pool.

CUTS, FOOD AND OPPORTUNITIES
25 **clients** were connected to different **services** such as haircuts, transportation services, employment information and much more.

151.03 miles traveled



SUCCESS STORY

The Homeless Outreach Team first met with a client called "CM" in early December of 2020. In May of 2021, we completed a vulnerability assessment which is the first stepping stone into getting people the opportunity for housing. Because of his vulnerability status CM was matched to a Permanent Supportive Housing voucher. In late November 2021, CM signed a lease to his new apartment! CM stated, "Thank you for everything you all have done! I can't believe it!"

