

Community Connections

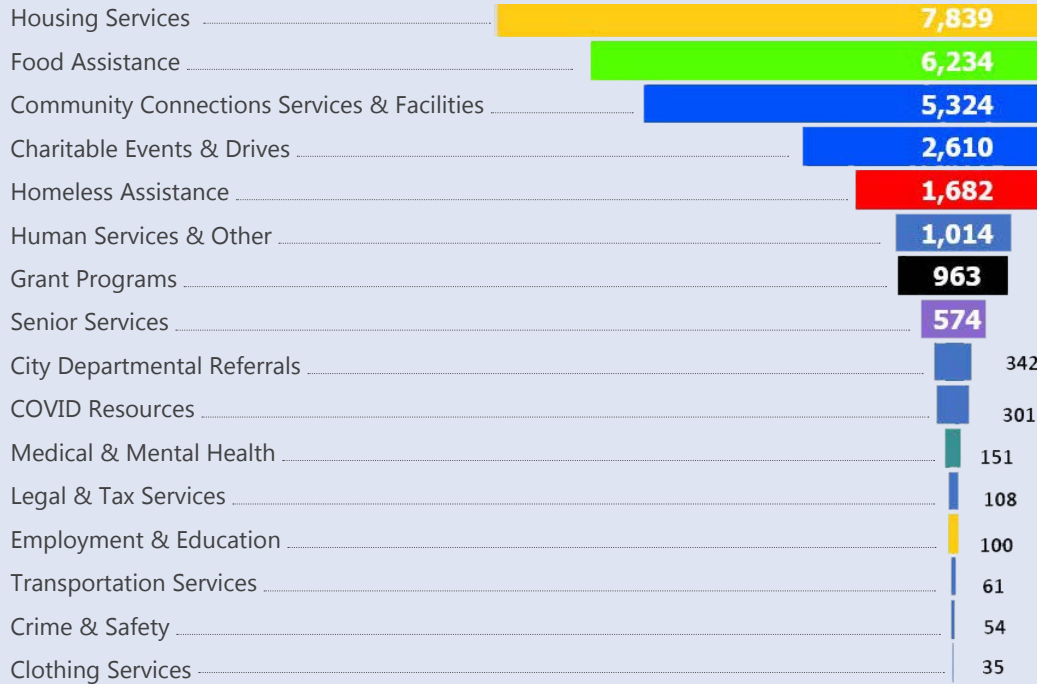
9471 Dorothy Blvd., 720-977-5800, Connections@ThorntonCO.gov



ENHANCING LIVES THROUGH CONNECTION

2022 AT A GLANCE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 2022 REFERRALS BY CATEGORY



27,392
REFERRALS MADE
TO LIFE-ENHANCING
SERVICES

Source: C² Connection Services & Outreach Referrals 2022 Records

Life enhancing service **Referrals** increased **47%** from 2021.

6,303 Points of Contact, a **44%** increase from last year.

Site visits, Presentations, and Other Outreach 2,383, a **69.6%** increase from 2021.

Total in person **visitors** from March-December **20,025**. A **monthly average** of **2,000** visitors.



6,069 web page **views** on THORNTONCARES.COM and the **COVID RESOURCE PAGE**.

These web pages allows residents to self-select resources.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS official grand opening at 9471 Dorothy Blvd. was held **APRIL 2022**, following COVID delays.



HOLIDAY SUPPORT



2022 PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT (PHG)

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

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS partnered with **15 Case Managers** that referred **101 families (456 Individuals)** to our PHG Program.

All families were adopted thanks to the **76** generous **Donors** that provided meals and presents.

With the help of **33 Community Volunteers**, that altogether donated **160 Hours** of their time. We received, organized and distributed **1,699 Gifts** and **301 Holiday Meal Bags**.

Case Managers, donors, volunteers and staff felt the warmth of the holiday season through giving and serving these Thornton families.



GRANTS



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
\$904,063 went to **13 organizations** to fund **18 activities**. Activities include emergency rent/mortgage and utility assistance, food assistance, support for domestic violence victims and their families, sidewalk improvement projects, solar panel installations, audio services for those with visual impairments, homeless support services, and support towards a new affordable housing development project in Thornton.

THORNTON ASSISTANCE FUNDS
\$150,000 was distributed to **23 nonprofit organizations** that provide food, housing, health and human services to **50,550** Thornton residents.



HOUSING



THORNTON WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP)
 Reviewed **605 applications** in 2022. A increase of **21%** over 2021. A total of **\$167,355** in assistance was provided to **467** Thornton households.



HELP FOR HOMES assists low-income Thornton homeowners with minor home repair projects that address health, safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency. **12 households** were assisted with **\$87,682** worth of minor home repairs.

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP) Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, provided **\$60,968.54** in assistance for **174** Thornton homes in 2022.

Community Connections partnered with **COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP. (CRHDC)** and **BROTHERS REDEVELOPMENT INC. (BRI)** to provide **202 homebuyers** with **educational workshops** in both English and Spanish.

The **CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT** provided an additional **\$148,500** in water assistance relief to **594** homes.

Thornton's **CDBG allocation** of **\$200,000** 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 at 104th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard.


THORNTON'S PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND of **\$7,855,899** was awarded to **Maiker Housing Partners** to help pay for a major renovation of the 160-unit Overlook Apartments at 647 W. 91st Ave. The Overlooks' affordable 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments, infrastructure, grounds, and common buildings will be extensively renovated and updated starting in 2024-5.





The **HEALTHY FARMER'S MARKET** brings **fresh produce to an underserved community** each harvest season, July-September, for an affordable cost. Thanks to our partners: Tri-County Health, Anythink Libraries, The American Heart Association and East Denver Food Hub for partnering with us to make this possible.



8,308 participants attended the 2022 Farmer's Markets. A **42%**  increase from 2021.



2,587 participants received **\$15** vouchers totaling **\$34,758** in fresh produce.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

6 gardens received **276,000** gallons of water.

Gardners donated **3,884** pounds of produce equal to **15,524** servings to area food banks.



FOOD COLLECTED from community drives: **4,760** pounds.



EDUCATION

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

565 backpacks and **11,715** school supply items were forwarded to Thornton students giving them the tools needed to start the school year right.

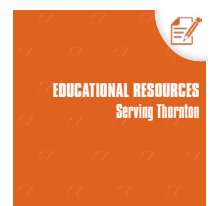


The **FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM** through **Metropolitan State University (MSU) of Denver** offered Adult English Language Learners (ELL) classes with a focus on reading, life skills, and parenting, and technology.

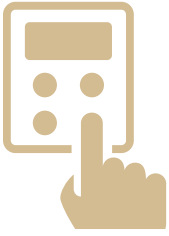
In addition, MSU offered a **Parent to Para Training** to prepare parents for both Student Monitor Paraprofessional roles in Adams 12 School District and Home Care Aide Training, providing the skills and language necessary for the roles.

- English Language Class sessions: **250**
- Parent to Paraprofessional Training sessions: **40**
- Personal Care Aide Home Health Training sessions: **40**

Developed an **Educational Resource Guide** to help navigate supports from early childhood education through graduate school.



EMPLOYMENT



Community Connections hosted the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) **VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) PROGRAM** which offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

Tax returns : **701**

Volunteers : **14**

Volunteer hours : **1,500**

Total refunds : Close to **\$940,000**

Developed an **Employment Resource Guide** to help navigate supports for completing job applications, writing a résumé, and job searching.



HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM (HOT)

HOTLINE
Homeless Outreach Team Line



Neighbors are encouraged to use the **HOTline** to report encampments and request outreach to people experiencing homelessness.

The **Homeless Outreach Team** received a total of **1,696** calls.

720-977-5900 A **152%** increase from 2021.

Number of Unique new individuals met in 2022, **343**. A **33%** increase from 2021. Apart from the **343 unique new individuals** met, HOT engaged with **96** previously met clients from 2021.



People housed with a housing voucher or in a housing search with a confirmed housing voucher, **25 adults** and **14 children**. This is a **77%** increase from 2021.

SUCCESS STORY

An Adams 12 Homelessness Liaison sent the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) a referral for a family experiencing homelessness, (a mother and three boys under the age of 12). The family had been living in their vehicle for over a week and HOT reports they became homeless due to fleeing domestic violence. HOT completed a vulnerability assessment, which is the first step towards housing. In less than a week, we found out that the family was matched to a transitional housing voucher that will provide this family with much-needed stability.

