

# CITY OF THORNTON

# 2024 Community Connections At a Glance



## ENHANCING LIVES THROUGH CONNECTION

Community Connections is Thornton's Neighborhood Resource Center.



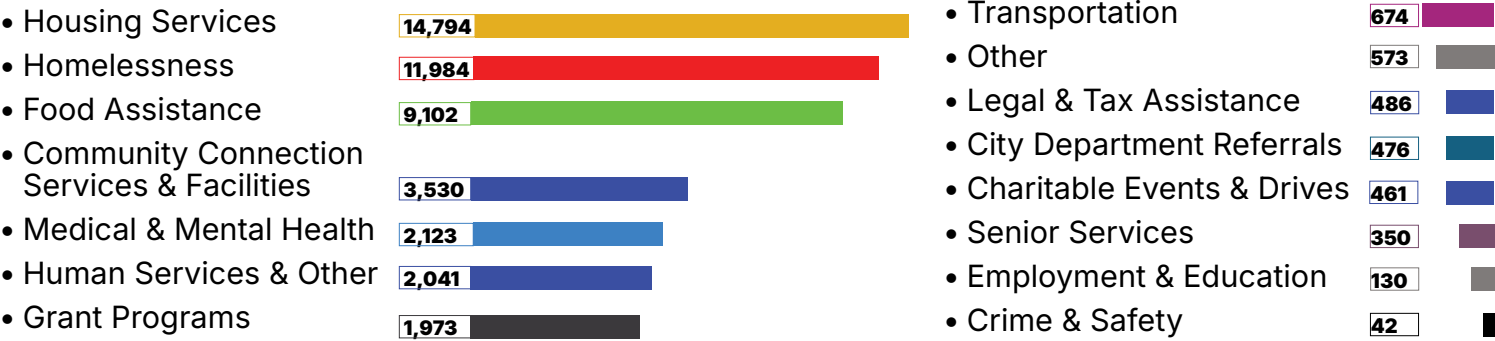
Unique **contacts** requesting assistance: **6,275**, a **19% increase** from 2023

**13,842 Connections** with contacts via phone calls, in-person, email

**Referrals** to life-enhancing services **\*48,739**, a **73% increase** from 2023

*\*1 Referral = information about a single services provider*

### REFERRAL BY CATEGORIES Source: C<sup>2</sup> Connection Services & Outreach Referrals 2024 Records



**Outreach & Meetings** (Site Visits, Presentations, Booths) **528**

**Total in person visitors** from January-December **32,540** (7% increase from 2023)

*Source: Door counter at two main entrances measuring building exits.*

### MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Our monthly newsletter is sent to our nonprofit partners, Thornton businesses, residents, faith-based community, surrounding schools, and city staff to inform them of the latest Thornton-based events, programs, and services that are available to all in the surrounding area.

**429** Total **Contacts** in 2024, a **12% increase** from 2023

Email **Open Rate: 53%**

### FAITH BASED COMMUNITY ALLIANCE (FBCA)

Staff started the FBCA to unite churches and government around identifying solutions to community needs.

Membership includes **24 individuals** from **20 faith-based groups**.



## GRANTS



### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

**\$1,198,989** went to **11 organizations** to fund **14 activities**. Activities including emergency rent/mortgage, minor home repair assistance, roof top solar installation, neighborhood park improvements, code compliance assistance, sidewalk improvements, and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

### THORNTON ASSISTANCE FUNDS

**\$300,000** was distributed to **28** nonprofit organizations that provide food, housing, health and human services to Thornton residents.



## HOUSING



### THORNTON WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**849 applications** were reviewed in 2023. A **increase of 37% over 2023**. A total of **\$228,960** in **water assistance** was provided to **650** Thornton households.

### CODE COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CODECAP)

CodeCAP received **56** applications for assistance.

#### 38 Households Served

- **17** hazardous tree removals
- **24** fence replacements
- **3** junk/haul services
- **2** code/safety landscape mitigations

### CODECAP NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UPS

Completed **3** neighborhood **clean-ups**, serving residents in **17 homes** through the help of **42 volunteers** who donated **235 hours**

**11 homes** served through one-on-one support with **5 volunteers** donating **136 hours**

### THORNTON HOUSING UNIVERSITY

Community Connections partnered with multiple non-profit organizations, to provide **693 homebuyers** with educational workshops in both English and Spanish.



**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 **\$104,972.40** worth of **projects**.

**PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND** of **\$9,041,551** was awarded to Maiker Housing Partners to help pay for a new **80-unit** apartment **development** on Claude Court which is available to residents earning **\$100,800** or less per year.



## 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.

Individuals served : **1,430** | Volunteers : **18** | Volunteer hours : Over **1,700**



## FOOD ASSISTANCE



**THE HEALTHY FARMERS MARKETS (HFM)** bring fresh, locally grown produce to community members each harvest season, June-October, at an affordable cost thanks to collaborations with Adams County Health Department, Adams County Human Services, and the American Heart Association.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

HFM program **expanded** from **1 to 3 produce vendors**

**8,464 people** attended the 2024 HFM season, a **27% attendance increase** from 2023

Participants redeemed **7,493 \$25 HFM vouchers** for fresh produce

**1,025** supplemental **\$5 vouchers** were redeemed by Women, Infants & Children (WIC) recipients through the Farmers Market Nutrition Program

**\$192,450** in free fresh food distributed, a **160%** increase from 2023.

**47%** of **participants** reported being from historically marginalized race and ethnic communities, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and **40.3%** of **participants** reported being Latine.

**22 volunteers** donated **308 hours**

### RESOURCES PROVIDED AT CHECK-IN

**1,032** COVID-19 tests

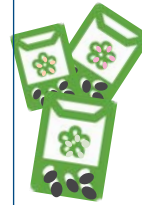
**Harm Reduction Supplies:**

**246** Naloxone nasal sprays | **247** fentanyl testing strips  
**188** locking pill vials

**990 RTD transportation vouchers** were distributed to **265 people**, helping them access the markets.

### NEW SUB-PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), **28 people** experiencing homelessness participated in a HFM pilot sub-program and received kits containing tailored nutrition information, a reusable grocery bag, a HOT resource brochure, and on-site resource navigation to transition care to aid in transition of care to HOT.



### COMMUNITY GARDENS

Gardens that contribute at least **20%** of their harvest to local food banks are eligible for water reimbursement.

**5** community **gardens** participated

**211,000** gallons of water were reimbursed

**3,010** pounds of produce equal to **12,040** servings were donated to area food banks, a **29.3% increase** from 2023.

### COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVES

**3** community drives

**5,374** pounds of food donated to food banks serving Thornton



## YOUTH & EDUCATION

### BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

**350 backpacks**, filled with school supplies, were given to Thornton students.

**800** walk-in visitors attended.

**25 organizations** shared resources and services.

**48 volunteers** contributed over **175** hours by assembling and organizing backpacks and assisting with event set up and tear down.



### PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT (PHG)

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



Staff partnered with **27 Case Managers** that referred **100 families (528 Individuals)**.

All families were adopted thanks to the **80** generous **Donors**.

**20 Volunteers**, donated a total of **160 Hours** to receive, organize and distribute **1,590 Gifts** and **149 Grocery Gift Cards**.



# HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) is a group dedicated to building relationships with people experiencing homelessness, providing them with resources, investigating encampments and connecting with community members to educate them about homelessness and supports.



**5,033** Hotline calls, a **107% increase** from 2023

Individuals call the HOTline to report encampments and request outreach, information about HOT services, and resources  
*Source - Call Volume Report*

**10,962 Referrals** to life-enhancing services, a **601% increase** from 2023

**3,382 Connections** made in person, by phone and email, a **226% increase** from 2023

**850 Total Clients Served**, a **145% increase** from 2023

*Source - C2 Connection Services & Outreach Referrals & HOT Engagement Tracker*

## STREET OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

**Volunteers: 51**

**Volunteer hours: 458.5**

## ARC THRIFT STORES PARTNERSHIP

The Homeless Outreach Team received **\$1,000** for Arc Thrift Stores. When HOT is unable to provide clothing based on the donations we receive, a voucher is provided.

## HOUSED

The Homeless Outreach Team successfully housed **17 unique individuals**, including **4 children**.

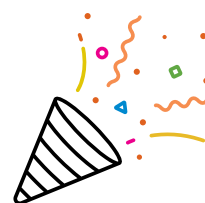
## THORNTON'S EMPOWERMENT EXPO: SERVING OUR UNHOUSED COMMUNITY

Launched in October 2024, **64 clients** were served through our first three monthly resource fairs. Clients connect with vital supports such as employment services, substance use counseling, and other essential services, all located in one convenient location.



## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, the Homeless Outreach Team doubled in size from two staff to four. This allowed HOT to expand outreach hours, increase the number of clients receiving case management, expedite service delivery, and overall permit more meaningful client engagement.



## SUCCESS STORY

The Homeless Outreach Team connected with a single father of 3 kids (ages 3, 5 and 6) in early August 2025 while the family was living in their vehicle. The team added the family to the region's housing waitlist that is prioritized by vulnerability and connected them to shelters, vital document repossession, and other services.

After a couple of months of working together, staff was notified that the family was matched with a three-bedroom Permanent Supportive Housing voucher in Denver.