



We all need
a safe place
to call home.

Visit closetohomeco.org to learn more about Coloradans like Dana and his daughter Rene who have experienced homelessness.

Homelessness is Close to Home.

322%

Increase over the past decade of school-aged children known to be homeless in Metro Denver.¹

51%

Families and children make up more than half of homelessness in Metro Denver.²

43%

Metro Denver residents with family members or close friends who have experienced homelessness.³

\$43,240 vs \$11,694

Cost of homelessness Cost of housing

It costs Colorado taxpayers \$43,240 per year for each individual experiencing chronic homelessness to cover costs ranging from emergency health care to legal issues. Providing affordable, supportive housing to these individuals costs \$11,694 per person.⁴

97

Hours a week

The amount of time a minimum wage worker needs to work per week to afford a 2-bedroom rental unit in Colorado.⁵

CLOSE TO HOME is a campaign to raise awareness, increase understanding, and move Coloradans to speak up and take actions that make a meaningful difference in addressing homelessness. To learn more, visit our website at closetohomeco.org.



CLOSE TO HOME
MAKE HOMELESSNESS HISTORY IN COLORADO

Even as these facts and figures are based on reliable sources of data, they are acknowledged as undercounts because there is no comprehensive way to count all individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

- 1 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Programs; Colorado Department of Education; 2014-2015
- 2 2015 Point-In-Time Report: Seven County Metro Denver Region; Metro Denver Homeless Initiative; 2015
- 3 Perspectives on Homelessness in Metro Denver: Public Opinion Poll Findings; The Denver Foundation; 2015
- 4 Denver Housing First Collaborative: Cost-Benefit Analysis; Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; 2012
5. National Low Income Housing Coalition: Low Wages & High Rents Lock Renters Out; 2015.

5 things you can do to make a meaningful difference in addressing homelessness.

1. PLEDGE

Take the CLOSE TO HOME Pledge. Show your interest in learning more, and help to elevate the issue. We'll share your commitment with decision makers to help drive change.

2. LEARN

Toss the stereotypes. Homelessness is closer than you think. Kids in our neighborhood schools, workers in local businesses, and even family members and friends are spending their nights couch surfing, sleeping in cars, or out in the elements. Learn more about who is affected, why, and potential solutions.

3. SPEAK UP

Your words matter. Speak up when you hear people say things about homelessness that are unkind, untrue, or simply not helpful to bringing about change. Change begins when we change the conversation about homelessness.

4. SHARE

Make it viral. Share the stories of those who went from housed to homeless at #CloseToHomeCO through your social channels, in conversations with neighbors and in community forums. Consider what you would do in similar circumstances.

5. ACT

Your actions matter. Seemingly small actions add up – sign the Pledge, post on Facebook or Twitter, volunteer, or donate. Together, we can help today and drive policy changes that make Homelessness History in Colorado.



CLOSE TO HOME
MAKE HOMELESSNESS HISTORY IN COLORADO



closetohomeco.org