

# WE ALL NEED A SAFE SPACE TO CALL HOME



There are currently at least 6,104 people living in metro Denver without housing



People become homeless for a variety of reasons beyond their direct control



Homeless sweeps do not offer a humane pathway to employment or housing



Recent survey results highlight that 8 out of 10 respondents support new approaches to supporting the unhoused, like temporary Safe Outdoor Spaces.

Source: Safe Outdoor Space and Homelessness in Denver Survey Results | June 2020 | Colorado Village Collaborative and Interfaith Alliance



Many people choose not to utilize overnight shelter accommodations as it can feel unsafe and intimidating



Those camping face the threat of violence, lack of access to sanitary facilities, and police sweeps



Temporary Safe Outdoor Spaces are a steppingstone on a pathway to healthcare, housing, and employment

Formerly unsheltered homeless people who later found stable housing through supportive services.

The lack of a long-term plan to address homelessness is leading to increased conflict between housed and unhoused populations



The continual need to relocate is not beneficial to public health



## Neighborhood and Business District Partners



## Scale of Homelessness in Denver

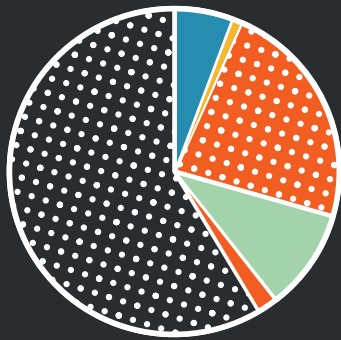
There are currently **6,104** people living in metro Denver without housing. Of these:



- 627 identify as military veterans
- 278 are unaccompanied youth
- 759 are fleeing domestic violence
- 420 families are without permanent shelter

The overall unsheltered population is:

- 6% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 1% Asian
- 23% Black/African American
- 10% Multi-Racial
- 2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 59% White

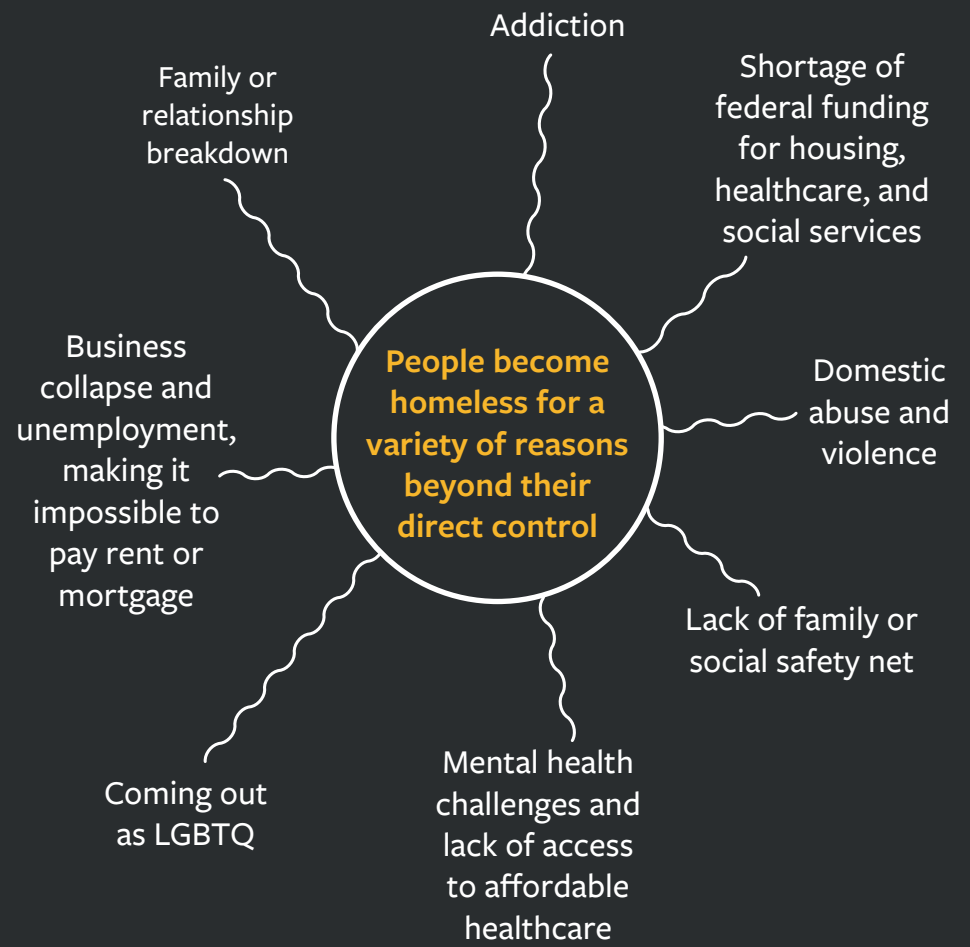


24% Hispanic 76% Non-Hispanic

The average homeless person costs the state **\$43,000** a year, while housing that person would cost just **\$17,000**

Ref: The New Yorker (Sept 2014)

## How People Come to Be Without Housing



## Temporary Safe Outdoor Spaces and Tiny Homes Villages are a Viable Solution for Denver's Unhoused

### Current Reality for Those Without Housing

Overnight beds are available in emergency shelters, but these are not suitable for many because they may

- Not allow couples to stay together
- Not allow pets, often a vital support mechanism
- Not be safe or inclusive for LGBTQ individuals, particularly transgender
- Not provide storage space for vital belongings
- Only be available overnight, not suitable for working nightshift
- Not provide an address, a challenge to seeking employment

Those camping in Denver face several challenges, including

- The threat of violence
- Lack of access to welfare and sanitary facilities
- Constant threat of police sweeps
- Continual relocation prevents service providers from accessing those who need support

Safe Outdoor Spaces will

- Accommodate people in organized tent structures
- Provide welfare and sanitary facilities
- Allow occupants to remain throughout the day
- Provide food to occupants
- Implement quiet hours from 10pm to 6am



Safe Outdoor Spaces offer a bridge to employment and shelter by

- Providing electricity and internet access to enable employment searches
- Staff will offer employment referrals and references
- Providing outreach to hostels and hotels to support occupants in finding more sustainable accommodation
- Offering mental health care services



If you are interesting in supporting the Safe Outdoor Spaces initiative, please text the word "Tent" to 31996. If you would like to learn more or have any queries, please contact Cuica (Kweeka) Montoya, Safe Outdoor Space Manager, at (720) 987-8099 or email [cuica@covillageco.org](mailto:cuica@covillageco.org)

