



**TRI-CITIES POLICY TASK
FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS**

PESTEL ANALYSIS

JULY 2020



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ABOUT

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Founded in the Fall of 2018, the Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Committee is made up of officials from the following organizations that share a goal of understanding and addressing issues surrounding homelessness within the Englewood/Littleton/Sheridan Tri-Cities area.

- Mayors and City Council-members
- Police Chiefs
- City Managers
- City Attorneys
- Change the Trend non-profit network.
- AllHealth Network.
- Housing Authorities.
- County Commissioner



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POLITICAL FACTORS

SUMMARY

The City of Englewood, Sheridan, and Littleton currently indicate overall a strong commitment to addressing homelessness. This commitment is consistent and reflects each City's long-term vision to offer high-quality housing that is affordable for a range of income levels and meets a variety of needs. Each City and housing authority operate several housing assistance programs and application-based grants and have taken strides to collaborate and gain an additional understanding of the drivers of homelessness in the community. Most recently, each City following the recommendation of the Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Group, approved an intergovernmental agreement to contract the Center for Housing and Homelessness for an Assessment of Chronic Homelessness and Family Homelessness.

Efforts on advancing communities' solutions are furthered by the work of local service providers and networks including Change the Trend, South Platte Communities, and the City of Englewood, Sheridan, and Littleton's Co-Responder partnership with All Health Network. To advance existing efforts and develop new initiatives, it would be beneficial to tap into funding sources not tapped into from Metro Denver Homelessness Initiative (MDHI) and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

KEY ISSUE AREA #1: GOVERNMENT CONSISTENCY

The City of Englewood, Sheridan, and Littleton City Councils operate under a council-manager form of government, where its seven members are elected by their community districts and the City Manager operates the City on a day-to-day basis. In the City of Englewood and Sheridan, City Council members are elected to four-year staggered terms. In Littleton, that is also the case, except for one-at-large council member who is elected to a two-year term. This system of City government combines the leadership of an elected governing body, with the strong experience of an administrative official, appointed at the discretion of the City Council. Sheridan's City Manager, Devin Granbery, was selected in December 2011, and Englewood's City Manager, J. Shawn Lewis, was chosen in August 2019. City Manager, Mark Relph, former Deputy City Manager, Randy Young, and current Deputy City Manager, Samma Fox represent the City of Littleton. The staggered nature of the Council's term's and the fact that the [average tenure of chief administrative officers is 6.1 years](#) provides consistency for the purposes of establishing and furthering community priorities.

Recent Mayoral statements indicate a strong resolve to alleviate housing challenges, and each City has a long-term vision and community-informed plan that calls for building safe, quality neighborhoods and communities with diverse housing choices:

- *The City of Englewood* in December 2016 adopted a 10-year [Englewood Forward Comprehensive Plan](#) laying out the goal of creating vibrant neighborhood areas all connected to the region by a leading-edge transit system. The report recognizes the need for providing high quality housing, a range of housing, and the need to accommodate vulnerable populations (pg. 8).
- *The City of Littleton* details [Envision Littleton](#) as a comprehensive plan to guide community action until 2040. Its goals include H&N 1 “a quantity and diversity of housing options that makes living in Littleton attainable for a wide range of age groups and income levels” and H&N 3 “neighborhoods that are safe and comfortable for all residents” (pg. 6).
- *The City of Sheridan’s Comprehensive Plan*, created in 2015 calls for ensuring an appropriate supply of housing in Sheridan at all density and affordability levels.

KEY ISSUE AREA #2: ADVOCACY

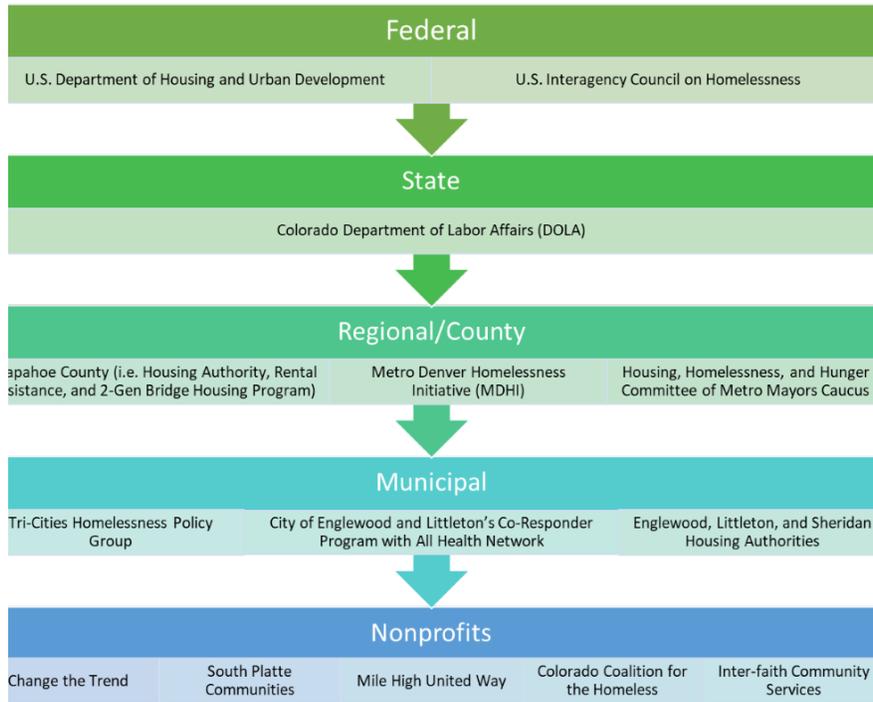
Addressing homelessness requires concerted advocacy, efforts, and partnerships. The two main data sources on the extent of homelessness are the Point-in-Time Survey and data collected by School Districts, as required by the McKinney-Vento Act. While it is difficult to ascertain the number of people experiencing homelessness, the 2019 Point in Time Survey for [Arapahoe County](#) counts 228 literally homeless people and the 2017-2018 [McKinney-Vento Act](#) data indicates the following for a select sample of districts:

District	Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care	Doubled-up due to economic hardship	Unsheltered	Hotels/Motels	Total	Of the total, number of unaccompanied youth
BENNETT 29J	0	36	0	0	36	0
STRASBURG 31J	0	30	0	0	30	0
ENGLEWOOD 1	23	166	8	20	217	22
SHERIDAN 2	75	317	6	25	423	16
CHERRY CREEK 5	8	50	2	24	84	2
LITTLETON 6	1	119	0	13	133	8
DEER TRAIL 26J	0	1	0	0	1	1
BYERS 32J	24	38	4	2	68	5
Total	131	757	20	84	992	54

Table 1. 2017-2018 USDE Data Submission for McKinney-Vento Education of Children and Youth Program - Provides the number of homeless children and youth by primary night time residence enrolled and/or served in public school (including pre-school) in district at any time during the 2017-2018 regular school year.

Advocacy groups have a strong commitment to addressing homelessness. In Fall 2018, Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan convened a Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Group, consisting of council members, city managers, service providers, and police representation to collaborate monthly on addressing homelessness. The group often features participation from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and Arapahoe County. Among its current initiatives, the group successfully recommended, with the support of Arapahoe County, contracting with the now-called

Center for Housing and Homelessness Research to assess Chronic Homelessness and Family Homelessness through interviews. As a result of COVID-19, those studies are now expected to be completed in October 2020. Additionally, Change the Trend is an innovative collaboration of local government, faith communities, and local nonprofits that meets weekly. Other essential stakeholders include:



KEY ISSUE AREA #3: INTERNAL & EXTERNAL FUNDING CONSIDERATION

CITY OF SHERIDAN 2020 ADOPTED BUDGET			CITY OF LITTLETON 2020 ADOPTED BUDGET			CITY OF ENGLEWOOD 2020 ADOPTED BUDGET		
GENERAL FUND			GENERAL FUND			GENERAL FUND		
	\$	%		\$	%		\$	%
Revenues	\$ 11,892,690		Revenues	\$ 79,698,450		Revenues	\$ 52,962,675	
Taxes	\$ 7,180,352	60.38%	Taxes	\$ 40,200,650	50.44%	Taxes	\$ 37,978,281	47.65%
Permits & Licenses	\$ 447,877	3.77%	Permits & Licenses	\$ 1,462,540	1.84%	Permits & Licenses	\$ 1,461,943	1.83%
Intergovernmental	\$ 61,155	0.51%	Intergovernmental	\$ 6,747,640	8.47%	Intergovernmental	\$ 1,234,353	1.53%
Charges for Services	\$ 283,122	2.38%	Charges for Services	\$ 25,932,350	32.54%	Charges for Services	\$ 3,008,811	3.78%
Other Revenue	\$ 3,920,184	32.96%	Other Revenue	\$ 5,355,270	6.72%	Other Revenue	\$ 9,279,287	11.64%
Expenditures	\$ 11,892,601		Expenditures	\$ 89,299,525		Expenditures	\$ 53,089,689	
General Government	\$ 2,191,424	18.43%	General Government	\$ 28,665,310	31.00%	General Government	\$ 21,033,904	31.00%
Public Safety	\$ 7,605,945	63.96%	Public Safety	\$ 15,002,560	16.80%	Police	\$ 14,646,315	16.40%
Community Development	\$ 521,427	4.38%	Highway & Streets	\$ 12,528,505	14.03%	Public Works	\$ 7,169,062	8.03%
Public Works	\$ 878,136	7.38%	Cost of Service Charges & Fees	\$ 19,667,510	22.02%	Debt Service	\$ 1,566,112	1.75%
Transfer to Capital	\$ 695,669	5.85%	Other Expenses	\$ 13,435,640	15.05%	Other Expenses	\$ 8,674,296	9.71%
Fund Balance - Beginning	\$ 5,883,971		Fund Balance - Beginning	\$ 53,766,950		Fund Balance - Beginning	\$ 19,240,667	
Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 5,884,060		Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 44,165,875		Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 19,240,667	

Note: The 2020 Budget Request includes a request for Homeless Camp Abatement at \$30,000 and from Enterprise Fund a request for \$397,800 for Housing Rehabilitation.

Each City establishes an Annual Balanced Budget at the beginning of the fiscal year in January, with input from City Staff, input from Council, and a public hearing. These budgets ([Sheridan](#), [Littleton](#), and [Englewood](#)) appropriate the use of funds for the fiscal year. COVID-19 will have adverse implications. The Cities also support and have the support of numerous initiatives:

Housing Authorities:

- *Englewood & Sheridan:* [Innovative Housing Concepts](#) is the name of Englewood’s Housing Authority. It was established in 1972 and is governed by a five-member board. Each member is appointed by the Mayor of Englewood for five-year term. Currently, only having a waitlist, Innovative Housing operates Orchard Place, Simon Center, and Family Public Housing Duplexes, and administers Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for the City of Englewood and Sheridan.
- *Littleton:* [South Metro Housing Options](#) (SMHO), or Littleton’s Housing Authority, was established in 1971 and is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners selected by the Mayor of Littleton and approved by Littleton’s City Council. Managing 1500 units, they offer a range of affordable properties for individuals, families, elderly and persons with disability and administer a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, assisted living center, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LITHC). Their applications are currently on a waitlist.
- *Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA):* The Colorado Housing Finance Authority provides home purchase loans, grants and second mortgage loans for down payment and closing cost assistance, rental loans and tax credits, and business lending. In 2019, CHFA invested \$2.8 billion in first mortgage loans, \$324.2 million in multifamily loans, and \$69.4 million in businesses, and awarded \$64.5 million in federal and state Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Several Cities provide funding from their Private Activity Bond.

FY 2020 Income Limit Area	Median Family Income Explanation	FY 2020 Income Limit Category	Persons in Family							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO MSA	\$100,000	Very Low (50%) Income Limits (\$) Explanation	35,000	40,000	45,000	50,000	54,000	58,000	62,000	66,000
		Extremely Low Income Limits (\$)* Explanation	21,000	24,000	27,000	30,000	32,400	35,160	39,640	44,120
		Low (80%) Income Limits (\$) Explanation	54,950	62,800	70,650	78,500	84,800	91,100	97,350	103,650

A. 2020 Income Guidelines for Housing Vouchers established by HUD

- **Tri-Cities Assessments:** Following the recommendation of the Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Group, in 2019, each City Council approved an intergovernmental agreement to support and split the cost of the Assessments of Chronic Homelessness (\$17,181.67 each City). Each City expected contribution, subsequently, was reduced by the addition of other funding partners. The Assessment of Family Homelessness was covered in full (\$55,596) by Arapahoe County.
- **Community and Homeowner Improvement Programs:**
 - The [City of Englewood](#) offers a Home Energy Grant through the Energy Efficiency Englewood (E3) program and Home Repair and Improvement Plan for qualified City of Englewood homeowners. Englewood also sponsors for first-time homebuyers' workshops that meet requirements for CHFA and Arapahoe County Homebuying programs and hosts a Neighborhood Rehabilitation day-of-service program annually on September 10th. While not offered in 2019, historically, Englewood also has offered small grants to local-nonprofits known as Aid to Other Agencies.
 - The [City of Littleton](#) offers a Revitalization Incentive Grant for private property investment and improvements, a Main Street Historic District Grant, local partnership funding for nonprofit organizations, and Small and Large community grants.
 - The [City of Sheridan](#) Help for Homes program allows eligible homeowners to apply for grants for up to \$3,500 for Mobile Homes and \$5,000 for Single Family Homes for minor home repairs.
 - [Arapahoe County](#) has a designated housing specialist, who provides Housing Assistance, helps with searches and referrals, and provides resources to all residents of Arapahoe County of all ages at no cost. The County's Housing and Community Development Service Division also administers HOME Investment Partnership Funds given by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which community organizations can apply to for affordable housing, rehabilitative housing efforts, or if providing assistance with down payment and closing costs for first time home buyers.

- As additional resources, the [Colorado Department of Local Affairs](#) details the Family Unification Program, the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, State Housing Voucher Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids, Housing Choice Vouchers, and Colorado Choice Transitions. They also provide an Emergency Solutions Grant, Homeless Prevention Activities Program, Next Step 2-Gen Rapid-Rehousing, Colorado Rapid Re-Housing for Re-Entry, and Fort-Lyon’s Supportive Housing Residential Community. DOLA also accepts [applications](#) for affordable housing development, homelessness prevention, or rental assistance program and from [Community Housing Development Organizations](#).

Deadline	Project Type/Program
First of every month:	Rental acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction, including homeownership subdivision development
July 1:	Single-family Owner-occupied (SFOO) housing rehabilitation programs
September 1:	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) operating funds
December 1:	Down payment assistance (DPA) programs

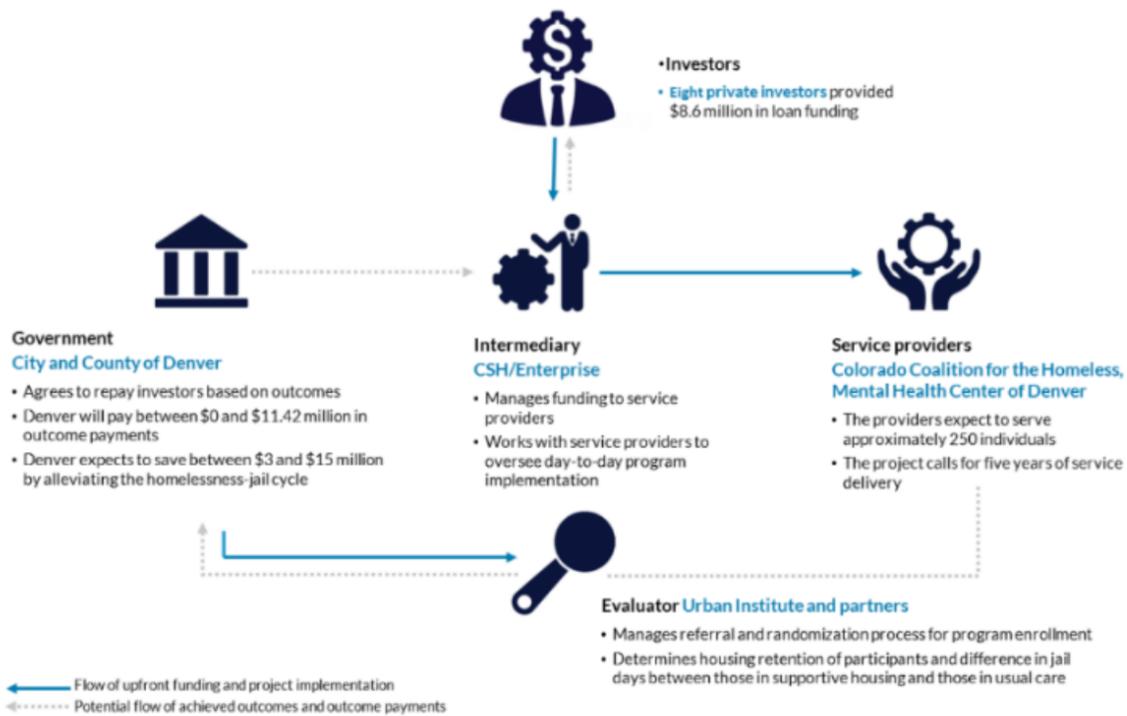
There are also many other external funding sources available. For the purposes of this report, we focused on normal funding streams, but there are also several existing relief funds specific to COVID-19, which [Philanthropy Colorado](#) lists and were previously listed in a transmitted Policy report for the Cities under [Emergency Assistance Funding](#). In normal circumstances, numerous funding options exist:

- *The Denver Foundation* supports community partners via basic human needs grants and supports the creation of programs to meet community needs. The Foundation offers Resident Community Grants for nonprofits with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. For those grants, deadlines are listed on their website and are traditionally are February and August of each year.
- *Metro Denver Homelessness Initiative* accepts applications for [Emergency Solutions Grants](#) (for agencies that provide stabilization services, short-term to medium-term rental assistance, and housing relocation) and for the [Housing Stability Flexible Fund](#), where individuals and families can apply up to \$3,000 for landlord mitigation, move-in expenses, or prevention. MDHI also applies for funding from HUD as the Continuum of Care for the seven-county Metro Denver region.

- The City and County of Denver closed on the [Denver Social Impact Bond in 2016](#). Overall, it created an \$8.6 million investment fund for supportive housing programs for individuals experiencing homeless and frequent users of the criminal justice programs. [The Colorado Coalition For The Homeless](#) notes that the program aims to avoid the economic costs through prevention and operates under a unique model where lenders are only paid based on evaluation of meeting an objective.

FIGURE 1

Denver Supportive Housing Social Impact Bond Initiative Framework



URBAN INSTITUTE

Source: Adapted from GAO-15-646 "Pay for Success" and the Urban Institute Pay for Success Initiative.

ECONOMIC FACTORS

SUMMARY

Rising living costs --and COVID-19's adverse economic trends in the unemployment rate -- reinforce the need for creating affordable housing models in each of the three Cities. Beyond housing being a component of each of the Cities long-term goals, there is convincing evidence that addressing homelessness makes sense economically, reducing direct and indirect costs. While services exist, information about the services that are available for people experiencing homelessness are hard-to-find, often taking the form of searching and calling several different lists. Access to transit and knowledge of access to clothing resources can be also expanded. In this section, select nonprofits financials were also examined.

KEY ISSUE AREA #1: ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT & THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

	City of Englewood	City of Sheridan	City of Littleton
<i>Population – est. July 2019</i>	34,917	6,183	48,065
<i>Median Rent Price</i>	\$2000	\$1836	\$1950
<i>Unit Vacancy Rate for all Rental Prices</i>	1.0%	3.3%	4.9%
<i>Median Property Value (MPV)</i>	\$404,037	\$342,337	\$470,343
<i>Year Over Year Increase/Decrease</i>	3.1%	5.2%	3.2%
<i>Median List Price per Square Foot</i>	\$347	\$347	\$328
<i>Capita income in Past 12 months from 2014-2018 (in 2018 Dollars)</i>	\$25,689	\$35,321	\$44,581
<i>Median Household Income from 2014-2018 (in 2018 Dollars)</i>	\$42,061	\$56,586	\$73,185
<i>% Homeownership</i>	52%	53%	60%
<i>Poverty Rate</i>	15.5%	21.5%	7.9%

Data Sourced from U.S. [Census Data](#), the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Zillow.

A recurring theme highlighted in the City of Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan’s long-term City Plans was providing high-quality housing at an affordable price for all income levels and in various types. These reports and subsequent reports underscored how diversified housing stock is essential to maintaining each City’s quality living offerings.

- *The City of Englewood* explored existing housing options available thoroughly in page 28-32 of the City’s 2016 [Englewood Forward Plan](#). Among the City’s key findings is that homes built prior to 1949 represent 43% of Englewood’s Housing Stock, the median housing price is \$249,164, and that housing is comparatively affordable but costs are rising.
- *The City of Littleton* in 2017 contracted BBC Research and Consulting to conduct a [Housing Study](#). The report indicates a 2016 median sale price for homes at \$370,000, a lack of supply for homes under \$300,000, and a concern on home prices rising faster than income.
- *The City of Sheridan* in 2015 conducted a [Comprehensive Plan Health Impact Assessment Full Report](#) that identified in their community survey that the number one reason people moved to Sheridan was affordable housing, among English Speakers, or access to schools, among Spanish Speakers. The report raises an expressed need for more affordable housing and housing for elderly. And, the report indicates concerns that properties are not being maintained, that there is a large population of children in Sheridan School District Homeless, and that there were higher disorderly conduct violations 2011 through 2013 than in nearby cities, Englewood and Littleton.

This report raises similar concern. As living costs outpace income growth, it creates increased housing challenges, with costs both higher in terms of rent and the percentage of income necessary to cover housing costs. In responding to how the City of Englewood can address homelessness, the attendees of [Englewood’s Homelessness Forum](#) on February 6th, 2020 raised:

- “Housing first model with permanent supportive housing”
- “Housing options. Better use of public and private facilities to provide daytime shelter.”
- “Offer affordable housing” (5 responses indicated affordable housing)
- “Offer affordable housing. Property for campers and RV’s.”
- “City and County Funding for Shelters”

COVID-19 exacerbates the need for assistance programs and diverse housing options. Economically, Colorado's unemployment rose from 5.2% in March to 11.3% in April 2020, the highest since the state began tracking. Subsequently, it can be reasonably concluded that the unemployment rate of the three Cities has risen as well, as many workers have been furloughed, small businesses have had to close their doors, and rents and bills come due. Jobs are also rarer, adding to already significant barriers to employment. These barriers include ones that may not easily come to mind, such as one individual experiencing homelessness who was unable to make it to job interview as they did not have a watch for timekeeping.

People experiencing homelessness are now more vulnerable than ever. As COVID-19 unfolded, a University collaborative [estimate](#) highlighted the immediate need of 400,000 additional emergency accommodation beds in the U.S.; a capacity that would cost \$11.5 billion. Additionally, as people became more at-risk of becoming homelessness, many local service providers and many shelters including Severe Weather Network had to close or reduce their operations. Thus, those who become homeless or are at-risk put a strain on an already strained system. The compassion and continued efforts of organizations on-the-ground and innovative partnerships and housing structures provide hope.

Beyond, simply, our shared humanity and COVID-19, there is an additional economic case for addressing homelessness in the form of preventive and responsive services. Doing so, provides City budgetary relief from reducing direct and indirect costs, and leaves room for Cities to invest in services that address the roots cause and further community economic development. Salient economic points underscored in research include:

- “A chronically homeless person costs the taxpayer an average of \$35,578 per year. This study shows how costs on average are reduced by 49.5% when they are placed in supportive housing. Supportive housing costs on average \$12,800, making the net savings roughly \$4,800 per year.” - [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#), 2017
- “Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Durango, Fort Collins, and Grand Junction combined in 2014 spent a minimum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) enforcing fourteen anti-homeless ordinances over a five-year period.” - [University of Denver Sturm College of Law Homeless Advocacy Policy Project](#), 2016
- “Some studies have found that leaving a person to remain chronically homeless costs taxpayers as much as \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year.” - [U.S. Interagency Council for Homelessness](#), 2017

KEY ISSUE AREA 2: GIVING / PHILANTHROPY

Key nonprofit financials were examined in each of the three Cities using the GuideStar Database:

Family Tree, FY 19		Net Gain: \$3,223,635	
Total Revenue: \$10,158,691		Total Expenses: \$6,935,056	
Contributions: \$4,340,182		Program Services: \$5,727,701	
Gov't Grants: \$3,625,552		Administration: \$671,472	
Program Services: \$1,866,219		Fundraising: \$535,883	
Investments: \$18,131			
Special Events: -\$36,576			
Sales: \$324,960			
Other: \$20,223			
One Good Turn (which Café 180, Good Turn Cycles, and Shyft at Mile High is a part of), FY 18		Net Loss: -\$219,788	
Total Revenue: \$873,998		Total Expenses: \$1,093,786	
Contributions: \$751,032		Program Services: \$946,924	
Gov't Grants: \$0		Administration: \$96,234	
Program Services: \$122,952		Fundraising: \$50,628	
Investments: \$14			
Special Events: \$0			
Sales: \$0			
Other: \$0			

Integrated Family Community Services, FY 18		Net Loss: -\$124,561	
Total Revenue: \$1,395,550		Total Expenses: \$1,520,211	
Contributions: \$884,185		Program Services: \$1,284,818	
Gov't Grants: \$324,026		Administration: \$7,479	
Program Services: \$0		Fundraising: \$227,914	
Investments: \$5,047			
Special Events: \$176,439			
Sales: \$1,900			
Other: \$3,953			
Breaking Bread, FY 18		Net Gain: \$25,351	
Total Revenue: \$135,135		Total Expenses: \$109,784	
Contributions: \$135,135		Program Services: \$100,795	
Gov't Grants: \$0		Administration: \$8,989	
Program Services: \$0		Fundraising: \$0	
Investments: \$0		**Note: Top Funding Sources are Rocky Mountain Conference of United Methodist Church (\$30,000), Morgan Family Foundation (\$10,000), and Littleton United Methodist Church (\$5,220)**	
Special Events: \$0			
Sales: \$0			
Other: \$0			

KEY ISSUE AREA #3: ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Access to Transit

- RTD operates several [Discounted Fare Programs](#) at 70% for youth ages 6-19, 50% for seniors ages 54+ on all regular bus and train service, 50% for individuals with disabilities, and 40% for 20-64 at or below 185% percent of Federal Poverty Level (LiVE Application). Application forms are available online, and must be emailed, mailed, or delivered in-person. Proof of participation programs are IDs.
- Changes were made to RTD fares, as the half-off program previously put a strain on RTD's resources. In FY 2018, \$6.8 M worth of passes were sold to nonprofits for just \$3.4 M. There are [anecdotal concerns](#), however, that the LiVE program makes it harder for those in need, as they have led to nonprofits only being able to give fares at a discount to those who have completed an application, it requires those experiencing homelessness to fill out an application, and those who are in the program have to always carry ID.
- Denver Human Services [Family Reunification program](#) offers transportation support.

Access to Clothing/Hygiene Resources

- Englewood, Sheridan, and Littleton: Giving Heart
- Denver-Aurora Based: Integrated Family Community Service, Dress for Success (Women Only, Clothes to Kids of Denver, Centennial Church of Christ, Friends of Man

Access to Medical Resources

- All Health Network
- The Well
- Sheridan Health Services
- Stride
- A Stronger Cord (exercise/social)

Access to Food Resources

- Café 180
- Graceful Café
- The Well
- Life Center
- Movement 5280
- All Souls Church
- St. Mary's Church
- The Sacred Grace
- Englewood Schools (Meals <18 yo)
- Integrated Faith Community Services
- Sheridan Rec Center
- Meals on Wheels (>60 or disabled)

SOCIAL FACTORS

SUMMARY

The following visual, informed by data provided by City Manager offices, describes the housing resources available in the Tri-Cities area. These resources are directly tied to the social realities of homelessness. One can notice lack of resources with permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and affordable housing authority units available.

	Englewood	Sheridan	Littleton	Notes
Total # of LIHTC units	443*	50**	347	
# of LIHTC units available	0	0	0	
# of housing authority affordable units available	214	0	0	
# of naturally occurring affordable housing units	IHS	IHS	102	At minimum wage, rent needs to be around \$600 in Arapahoe County; for those on SSI, rent should be around \$250.
Number of Section 8/HCV vouchers	421	177	633	Budget authority does not allow for all vouchers to be utilized.
Vouchers earmarked for homeless	0	0	0	
Income threshold for HCV vouchers	50% AMI	50% AMI	50% AMI	4 person's family income at 50% AMI is \$47,400; effective April 24, 2019.
Number of Permanent Supportive Housing Units	0	0	0	
Units available for rapid rehousing	0	0	0	
Percentage of Rental Households paying 30% or more of income on housing	54.3%	52.1%	47.2%	
Percentage of Rental Households paying 30-49% of income on housing	31.5%	27.2%	27.5%	
Percentage of Rental Households paying 50% or more of income on housing	22.9%	24.9%	19.8%	

ENGLEWOOD LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT UNITS

- Canterbury - 43
- Terraces on Penn - 62
- Presidential Arms - 33
- Broadway Lofts - 111
- The Foundry - 70
- Renaissance at Loretto Heights - 76

SHERIDAN LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT UNITS

- King's Point - 50
- Sheridan Gardens - 48
- South Lowell Apartments - 96

LITTLETON LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT UNITS

- Power's Circle - 69
- Main Street - 50
- Lara Lea - 36
- Libby Bortz - 111
- South Creek - 18
- Littleton Crossing - 63

More information about LIHTC units in the Tri-Cities-Cities area available [here](#).

TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS

SUMMARY

Communities around the country are implementing effective solutions toward homelessness, using data to monitor, manage, and evaluate impact. For example, a new initiative called [Built for Zero](#) has used their data leveraging approach in 80 US communities and have since eliminated homelessness for veterans in 6 communities. In the Tri-Cities, there is room for growth in data tracking. Regional databases also are being developed in the Tri-Cities Area to give comprehensive access to updated community resources specific to individuals experiencing homelessness.

ACCESS TO REGIONAL DATABASES

The Tri-Cities area has access to the following regional databases on homelessness. These platforms, ArapaSource and 2-1-1 Colorado, are updated daily, and can help individuals locate services based on their location.

- [ArapaSOURCE](#): Available through phone application, tablet, and computer, and allows user to browse categories of resources nearby. The website also offers online workshops and classes including legal and financial literacy, and parenting classes.
- [2-1-1 Colorado](#): Operates as a call center to connect individuals with services, however, resources specific to the Tri-Cities area are limited on the platform. This service can be utilized via online chat or phone call. Recently, and especially with COVID-19, 2-1-1 has expanded.
- The following platforms contains resource guides to services in the Metro Denver area, as well as the Tri-Cities region. For instance, the Metro Denver Homelessness Initiative houses the PIT databases and resulting annual reports, and the Change the Trend website contains information and links to network organization platforms.
 - [MDHI Community Resources](#)
 - [PIT Survey Data](#)
 - [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless](#)
 - [Change The Trend](#)
 - [Denver Homeless Resource Guide Handout](#)

USING DATA AND TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Communities that have prioritized the centralization of their existing data, as well as adopting new metrics of interest have access to more accurate measurements of housing program outcomes. The following communities serve as examples of current technological methods for addressing homelessness:

- **New Data Collecting Techniques** - *Aurora, CO*
 - Starting in 2017, Aurora recorded its most accurate annual Point-in-Time survey results using a GIS ESRI application, “Survey 123”. This tool streamlined the
 - Click for more information about the process and results of Aurora’s use of [Survey 123](#).
- **Introduction of the “[Street Smart](#)” app, a data collecting platform** - *New York City, NY*
 - A new initiative in which “outreach workers” walk the streets and check in on individuals experiencing homelessness. Information about health, demographics, history in the shelter system, and more is collected and has been merged with existing HMIS data.
 - The purpose was to create a comprehensive case tracking system, to avoid individual boroughs from maintaining individual databases.
- **Homelessness Services Effectiveness Tracking** - *Seattle, WA*
 - City officials and the United way in Seattle are using a “[Data Dashboard](#)” to monitor the performance of its many homelessness outreach programs.
 - Service providing programs and organizations are being asked to track five new data metrics including: exits to permanent housing, average length of stay in shelter, returns to homelessness, entries from homelessness, and the utilization rate of shelters and services.
- **Creating a Single, Consolidated Data Tracking and Resources Platform for Combatting Homelessness** - *San Francisco, CA*
 - San Francisco is adopting the [ONE System](#) (Online Navigation and Entry System), a platform to consolidate the previously isolated efforts of the mayor’s office, the Human Services Agency, the Department of Public Health, and more.
 - This system is a platform that can be implemented in any community interested in streamlining data usage and resource allocation.

In Denver, the [Metro Denver Homeless Initiative System Performance Assessment](#) expresses concern with the lack of community participation in its HMIS data tracking system, citing “significant data quality issues”. The CoC is exploring ways to incentivize the use of the HMIS to increase participation and accuracy of data for future analysis.

Additionally, HDMI cites great success from the past year in certain areas excluding technology. Information and resources to help guide data collection strategies and suggestions is available through the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#).

Although many communities are rushing to adopt new technological systems to improve program performance, initiatives such as Built for Zero with new “data-driven” strategies have been cited for potential [privacy concerns](#) for individuals experiencing homelessness. Systems such as the ONE System collect personal information such as their name, healthcare history, and history of services bringing risks should private information become public.

The following links provide further information about utilizing data and technology for homelessness initiative planning:

- [Metro Denver Homeless Initiative System Performance Assessment](#)
- [Housing First - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- [Concerns with data privacy](#)
- [Reducing and Preventing Homelessness](#)
- [Ending Chronic Homelessness Saves Taxpayers Money](#)
- [Coordinated Entry and Homeless Management Information Systems \(HMIS\) FAQ](#)
- [Coordinated Entry Management and Data Guide](#)
- [Establishing a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System](#)
- [Community-level Responses of Homelessness Assistance Programs to COVID-19](#)
- [State of Homelessness](#)
- [C-Stat Quarterly Reports 2019](#)
- [City of Austin Example of Using Blockchain to Help Homeless](#)

TECHNOLOGY USAGE AND AWARENESS

The Tri-Cities is home to the following libraries with free internet and Wi-Fi access. Due to COVID-19, the libraries are temporarily closed. Free online libraries are still available through each of their websites. Giving Heart in Englewood also has free access to its computers and Wi-Fi.

- [City of Englewood Online Library: Catalog Home](#)
- [Englewood Library Computer Services](#)
- [Sheridan Library Services](#)
- [Littleton Public Library](#)
- [Giving Heart Englewood](#)

RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES

The measurement of homelessness in the Tri-Cities area is primarily sourced from the annual Point in Time survey. The PIT survey in cities across the US underestimates the true amount of unsheltered individuals due to the difficulty of finding and identifying individuals during one of the coldest nights of the year, as well as the difficulty of counting people who are doubled up, substantially changing the number of people considered homeless.

Additionally, research and data collection is impacted by the changing definitions of “homeless”, affecting who is included. For example, HUD includes four specific qualifications for the term, while the Dept. of Education uses a similar [definition](#), plus those who are school aged, living “doubled up”, or those living in “motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.” Over one million children in the education system are doubled up or in transitional arrangements, meaning the numbers of people experiencing homelessness differ greatly within departments on the community level if not taken into consideration.

It is important to note that the increased participation in tracking data in the centralized Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) platform will help strengthen the Continuum of Care program in Colorado and on the community level. Increased data availability will allow the measurement of effectiveness in each homelessness initiative rather than as a whole. It will also lend itself to information that is specific to people, who have different needs.

For more information on strategies toward community homelessness prevention and research, the Poverty Action Lab published a comparative guide to [reducing and preventing homelessness](#), through their studies of randomized evaluations.

The following links provide information on data tracking in the context of COVID-19, research strategies, and evaluation of homelessness initiatives,

- [Reducing and Preventing Homelessness: Research Strategies](#)
- [Community-level Responses of Homelessness Assistance Programs to COVID-19](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

SUMMARY

People experiencing homelessness in the Tri-Cities area are particularly vulnerable to environmental factors such as climate change, air quality, extreme temperatures, access to safe spaces and resources when faced with environmental challenges, and natural disasters or weather events. This has a significant impact in terms of health, life expectancy, and cause of death.

CAMPING AND ILLEGAL SPACES FOR OVERNIGHT STAY

Overnight camping is prohibited in the Tri-Cities area. The camping ban though is lightly enforced in the Metro Denver area. To illustrate, of the 24,000 interactions Denver Police Department have had relating to unauthorized camping, only 33 resulting in arrests or citations. Some oppose the idea of lifting the camping ban due to concern of negative public backlash and its effect on outreach efforts. For example, Brad Meuli, President of the Denver Rescue Mission expressed that eliminating the camping ban might result in fewer people seeking services because they may feel more capable of living on their own, also resulting in fewer supporters and donations from the community toward homelessness.

Those opposed to the camping ban indicated concerns over the “false premise that [those experiencing homelessness] had a choice” when sleeping outdoors and should therefore not be criminalized. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Colorado were surveyed by the University of Colorado Denver, and most [respondents expressed a feeling of a lack of safety and a decrease in quality of life](#) when asked about the camping bans. Some respondents to this survey stated:

[“Nowhere is safe to sleep anymore... so I don’t sleep, I keep moving, I’m more fatigued, and less functional.”](#)

[“I am one of the ‘working’ homeless... but I don’t make enough to afford my own place so I sleep outside. I was too tired to work because the cop wouldn’t leave me alone. Every time I would go to a new spot, the cop would follow me and tell me ‘move along. You can’t stay here.’... and I lost two days of pay as a result.”](#)

Others point out underlying issues in both perspectives including the lack of affordable housing available and utilization of housing resources. In terms of legal outcomes resulting from camping bans in Colorado, 78% of cases involving the camping ban in Boulder County [result in a “not guilty” verdict](#) due to the “necessity of some kind of protection from the elements.”

The Tri-cities' ordinances on camping are stated below:

- Englewood: [City of Englewood Department of Parks and Recreation Parks/Open Space Rules and Regulations](#)
 - “Camping is prohibited in all parks and areas that are designated for usage, this includes parking vehicles, trailers, or campers used for overnight parking.”
- Sheridan: [Sheridan Municipal Code: Camping](#)
 - “It shall be unlawful and constitute a nuisance for any person to camp upon private property without the consent of an authorized official of the entity having ownership, management or control of such property.”
- Littleton: [Littleton Municipal Code: Camping](#)
 - “Overnight camping and open fires are prohibited in any public park or open space.”

SHELTERS AND LEGAL SPACES FOR OVERNIGHT STAY

Sheltering spaces are limited in the Tri-Cities area, however, the following links provide information about housing resources for overnight sheltering. Some shelters serve specific demographics, while others shelter guests depending on weather conditions such as the [Severe Weather Shelter Network](#).

- [Englewood Homeless Shelters and Services - Englewood CO Homeless Shelters](#)
- [Financial, Food, Clothing, Shelter, and Emergency Services in Englewood](#)
- [Shelter List: Littleton](#)
- [Arapahoe County Shelters](#)
- [Colorado Housing Financial Assistance Guide](#)
- [HAAT Force](#)
- [City of Englewood: Community Resources](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOMELESSNESS

According to the Climate Reality Project, “for those struggling to make ends meet, the climate crisis is a [threat multiplier](#).” Climate change continues to drive extreme and unfavorable weather conditions, impacting those experiencing homelessness disproportionately and unequally. The Tri-Cities' close proximity to the Metro Denver area, especially puts individuals experiencing homelessness at risk to unfavorable and hostile environmental conditions, which include decreased air quality, exposure to extreme weather conditions and events, increased potential of illnesses, and the spread of illnesses due to warmer temperatures.

In the US, the life expectancy of a person experiencing homelessness is 30 years below those living in households. In Colorado, the most common cause of death for individuals experiencing homelessness is categorized as “accidental”, which includes exposure to the elements. Prolonged exposure to the increasingly harsh environmental factors in Colorado takes a gradual toll on the health of all people experiencing homelessness in the Tri-Cities area:

- **Air Quality Risks**

- Rising temperatures react to local air pollutants through the formation of ground level ozone. Ozone exposure over time results in [health concerns](#) such as “shortness of breath, chest pain, wheezing and coughing, temporary decreases in lung function, and lower respiratory tract infections.” Children are especially vulnerable to these health effects.

- **Increased Potential for Illnesses**

- Increased risks for water borne illnesses are linked to rising temperatures and extreme weather events such as flooding. [According to the CDC and EPA](#), rising temperatures also increase the suitable breeding grounds for vector (biting warm weather insects) and pathogen populations, especially in places with higher humidity, such as near lakes and rivers. Longer lasting warm weather and milder winter temperatures also extend the breeding cycle for these insects. For example, more mosquito and tick related illnesses such as Lyme disease may occur in these areas. Although these types of illnesses are not common in Colorado, climate change is increasing the geographical spread of Lyme disease and other illnesses. People spending long amounts of time near warmer, humid areas such as people experiencing homelessness camping near local rivers and bodies of water in the Tri-Cities area, will be most at-risk.

- **Extreme Temperature Related Illnesses**

- *Warm Weather-Related Illnesses:* During the summer months, high temperatures and limited-to-no access to water increases a person’s likelihood of experiencing a heat related illness, including symptoms of headaches, nausea, muscle cramps, and vomiting. The [CDC](#) recommends individuals at risk of heat related incidents to contact the local department of health and shelters with air-conditioned spaces available. Although few heat related emergency room visits occur in Arapahoe county, many individuals experiencing homeless may still be subject to symptoms without receiving medical care.

On a hot day, access to clean drinking water is essential. A study from the University of Colorado Denver expresses the growing concern over access to water for those experiencing homelessness. In a survey of Coloradans experiencing homelessness, 63% of respondents claimed that they have been “[denied access to water](#) because they were homeless”. In some cases, such as in Grand Junction, CO, the same study reports “city officials shutting down public bathrooms and turning off water fountains in an effort to ‘reclaim’ downtown parks from the homeless.”

According to the [New York Times](#), the Tri-Cities area should expect an average of 15 “very hot days”, or more than 90 degrees Fahrenheit per year, up from an average of 10 “very hot days” per year 50 years ago. With temperatures predicted to continue rising in the coming years, the Tri-Cities area should expect 30 “very hot days” per year within the next 50 years.

- **Severe Weather Events and Natural Disasters**

- Severe weather events including flooding near local rivers poses an environmental risk to people experiencing homelessness that are present in the area. High risk flood areas have up to a 26% chance of flooding in the next 30 years.
 - [Map of Flood Plains in Sri-Cities Region](#)
- In the event of extremely cold temperatures or snow, the Severe Weather Shelter Network offers nightly sheltering spaces and warm meals for those impacted.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Many individuals experiencing homelessness are already faced with hardships such as physical and mental health concerns, or a lack of access to support and appropriate resources. The harsh environmental conditions in the Tri-Cities area compound these issues.

“People experiencing homelessness need a place to recover from injury, serious illness, and mental illness. Without a place to rest, conduct proper wound care, and manage medications, individuals are often re- hospitalized. This expensive, inhumane cycle perpetuates chronic homelessness.” (CCH)

The following links provide more information on climate change and their impacts on people experiencing homelessness:

- [Climate Reality Project: Homelessness and the Climate Crisis](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency: Climate Change and Children's Health](#)
- [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: Health and Homeless Issue Brief](#)
- [The Dual Crises of Diminishing Affordable Housing and Rising Homelessness](#)
- [University of Colorado: Denver Study on Health and Homelessness](#)

LEGAL FACTORS

SUMMARY

The following visual describes the local ordinances affecting people experiencing homelessness in the Tri-Cities area. Although the cities show consistency in most ordinances, legal outcomes vary mostly in terms of enforcement.

	Englewood	Littleton	Sheridan
Camping Ban	<i>No</i> , but has ordinance against camping in parks and re: conduct in public places.	<i>No</i> , but has ordinance against camping in parks and re: conduct in public places.	<i>Yes</i> , but no one has been cited. Used to move people along.
Sit/Lie Policies!	<i>No</i>	<i>Not specifically</i> , although obstruction of sidewalks is prohibited.	<i>No</i>
Panhandling	<i>Yes</i> , but not enforced per Supreme Court ruling in Reed vs. Town of Gilbert.	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i> , but not enforced per Supreme Court ruling in Reed vs. Town of Gilbert.
Park hours	<i>Yes</i> , 6 am to 11 pm.	<i>Yes</i> , South suburban hours.	<i>Yes</i> , 6 am to 11 pm.
Court/Police policy	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
Warrants/Offense Level Based on Owed	<i>No</i>	Due in part to state law changes, we are going toward a lot of PR bonds. Littleton is working with All Health to address some of the frequent re-appearances.	<i>No</i>
Sheltering in Houses of Worship	<i>Yes</i> , Allowed as of December 16 per Temporary Use Permit.	<i>Yes</i> , Allowed as of December 16 per Temporary Use Permit.	<i>Yes</i> , Allowed as of December 16 per Temporary Use Permit.
Extradition	-	-	-
Bonding Policies	<i>Yes**</i>	-	-

**Typical homeless violations that lack a corresponding state charge are PR bonds but are entered in CCIC statewide. FTA on the PR bond likely turns it into a metro wide extradition. A trespass charge with a frequent subject could result in the judge ordering metro area extradition, just as an example.