

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
FALL 2023

# Northern Colorado Intersections



FULL REPORT &  
WEBSITE COMING  
IN EARLY 2024



## It's no secret, Northern Colorado is a magical place to call home.

There is something about Northern Colorado that makes it special. It is likely a combination of recreation spaces, good job opportunities, great schools, beautiful views, and relatively mild weather. It also has something to do with the incredible people who live here.

This magic has spurred significant population growth in our region, and it's only expected to continue. The State of Colorado forecasts that by the year 2050, Larimer County will increase its population by 37% and Weld County will increase by 84%. Due to this growth our systems, communities, schools, and organizations are facing increased pressures.

Pressures differ community by community. They are constantly moving and shifting, and they show up in many ways – housing affordability, access to childcare and healthcare, and public infrastructure gaps.

This growth has also created a strong sense of interdependence among the communities in our region.

**On any given day, upwards of 40% of our population crosses community borders for work, school, recreation, childcare, and connection.** This interdependence presents an opportunity to address our issues as a region.

Growth is also a sign of progress. It has encouraged major tech companies to move into the area and has increased the number of well-paying jobs. Growth has helped fund our schools and pave roads. Growth has expanded opportunities to many things including: the arts, good food, and publicly funded fiber installation that provides access to job searches, educational opportunities, healthcare, and more for our residents.

Our communities are also growing more diverse every day. How do we ensure all residents are welcome, have access to resources, and reach their full potential? How can our Northern Colorado communities set people up for success in the face of change and growth?



## NEW FRAMEWORK - WHERE WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE

The overarching goal of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado is twofold – we are working to ensure that everyone is experiencing well-being now and, in the future, in the midst of growth.

Well-being is a broad concept that includes a wide range of factors that intersect to determine the welfare of our residents.

### **Increasing our regional well-being requires that we build bridges across people, organizations, and communities.**

It requires a shift in our perspective to not only strive to improve our own experience but those around us. The Northern Colorado Intersections report offers a new framework that groups systems together – as intersections. If one of the systems in the intersection is thriving, it is the hope that other systems in the intersection will also thrive; however, that is not always the case. Herein lies the opportunity to work across counties, communities, businesses, local governments, and service providers to identify where we are experiencing pressures, and how we are going to address them for the benefit of all, and for the well-being of our communities.

Creating well-being isn't easy. It's not something that happens overnight, and it certainly won't happen without intention. In early 2024, following the publication of the full report, the Community Foundation will begin to identify leaders and changemakers interested in furthering this work. We will convene meetings and facilitate collaboration to support groups working toward this goal of regional well-being. This work will continue long into the future.

*Let this be your official invitation to join us on this journey. This is not something we can do alone; it will take leaders from the entire region to carry this mission forward. Join us in 2024!*

**Kristin Todd, President & CEO**  
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado



## REGIONAL INTERSECTIONS



### **NOURISHING**

Agriculture, Water, Energy Transitions, Food Security



### **SHELTERING & CARING**

Affordable Housing, Aging Population, Healthcare, Childcare



### **TRANSACTIONING**

Workforce, Rural Economies, Transportation



### **BEAUTIFYING**

Cultural Expression, Music and the Arts



### **CONNECTING**

Education, Social Connectivity/ Belonging, Recreation



### **RENEWING**

Community Contributions, Civic Engagement, Philanthropy



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### THANK YOU TO OUR RESEARCH CONSULTANTS



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