



Mission:

Homeward Alliance (HWA) empowers individuals and families who face homelessness to survive, move forward and thrive.

Organizational History

We were founded in 2008 with a simple mission: collect and distribute life-sustaining supplies to the people who needed them most. In almost 16 years since, that program has helped thousands of people survive and meet basic needs. More importantly, we have applied (and continue to apply) our founding principles: collect data to identify gaps, implement evidence-based solutions to fill those gaps and evaluate our work in terms of outcomes and efficiency, and, simultaneously, lead or participate in system-level efforts to address the issue.

Current Programs:

HWA operates more than a dozen programs that, collectively, provide a continuum of services to people experiencing homelessness:

- Murphy Center for Hope: the hub of services for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Larimer County (HWA operates the building and provides services alongside about 20 nonprofits)
- Resource Navigation (intake into the region's by-name housing list and housing and employment focused navigation services);
- Distribution (gear, hygiene and food);
- Re-Entry (case management for those on parole and at medium to high risk of recidivism)
- Housing First Initiative (housing focused case management);
- Family Services (housing and resource navigation);
- Peer Navigation (behavioral health services for individuals living with substance use disorder);
- Community Programs (all volunteer run Bike Repair and Mobile Laundry); and
- Technical Roles: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency for the Northern Colorado Continuum of Care (NoCO CoC) and Lead Agency for the implementation of a strategic plan to address homeless in Loveland.

Demographics:

People experiencing homelessness represent a broad cross-section of our community, but are disproportionately comprised of people from historically marginalized populations:

- 75% identify as white, 8% Black or African American, 6% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 4% multiple races. 18% identify as Hispanic/Latino;
- 6% are veterans;
- 63% identify themselves as living with a physical disability and 12% identify as living with a development/cognitive disability;
- 51% identify as living with a mental health disorder;
- 24% report experiencing chronic homelessness; and
- 81% report an annual income of \$10,000/less.





Philanthropy:

Revenue: \$4,792,550



- Government Grants: \$2,376,900 | 49.6%
- Foundation Grants: \$912,800 | 19.0%
- In-Kind Contributions: \$592,700 | 12.4%
- Individual Contributions: \$432,900 | 9.0%
- Corporate/Organizational: \$234,900 | 4.9%
- Special Events: \$183,300 | 3.8%
- Investment/Other: \$59,050 | 1.2%

Volunteers:

Volunteers have been the heart and soul of our organization since we were first founded as Homeless Gear in 2008. Today, over 550+ volunteers support all Homeward Alliance programs, including supporting the work of the Murphy Center front desk, Gear Room and Food Pantry, as well as sorting and distributing more than a half million dollars of donated gear and food each year. In 2023, we recorded over 7,000 hours of volunteer hours--the equivalent of over 3 full time staff positions. For volunteer opportunities, visit:

<https://homewardalliance.galaxydigital.com/>

Follow Us on Social Media:

Facebook: Homeward Alliance

Instagram: homeward_alliance

Upcoming Events:

Project Homeless Connect, Friday, April 19th 10 am – 2 pm

Annual Un-Gala, Saturday, May 18th 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Mission to Hope Walk, October 5th 10 am – 12 noon



WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

There are numerous definitions of homelessness, and a variety of ways in which people experience homelessness. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) identifies four categories of homelessness:

- 1. Literally Homeless:** Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- 2. Imminent Risk of Homelessness:** Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence.
- 3. Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence:** Individual or family who is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, has no other residence, and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
- 4. Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes:** Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who meet other criteria that the federal government recognizes as homelessness.

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS?

Homelessness is a national crisis, impacting Northern Colorado and extending across Colorado and all 50 states. The most common causes of homelessness are:

- **Lack of Affordable Housing:** Our current housing system is in an extreme state of housing underproduction, pushing rents to unsustainably high levels. By some estimates, there is a unit gap of 9,755 for households in the extremely low-income bracket and a unit gap of 4,695 for households in the very low-income bracket in Larimer County (Everson 2019).
- **Poverty:** Currently almost 1 in 10 Coloradoans (and Larimer County residents) live in poverty overall; that rate doubles (1 in 5) among Black, Hispanic and Indigenous people.
- **Discrimination:** Low-income renters face income discrimination—namely a shortage of landlords who will accept rental assistance vouchers.
- **Lack of Affordable Health Care:** Poor health is a major cause of homelessness, and once someone is unhoused their health problems worsen.
- **Domestic Violence:** Domestic and sexual violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children.

Local factors impacting homelessness and housing insecurity:

- **Housing costs have exploded in the last ten years.** In 2012 the fair market rent for a 2-bedroom in Larimer County was \$746. Ten years later, the average rent in Northern Colorado is \$1,800 - \$1,900/mo.
- **Wages have not kept pace with rising housing costs.** In Larimer County the hourly living wage for one adult with no children is \$18.97; one adult with one child is \$37.07, and two adults (both working) with two children is \$26.43. Yet, the median income locally is just \$16.22 per hour (<https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/08069>).
- **The majority of renters in our community are housing insecure.** In Larimer County, 56% (over 25,000 households) are cost burdened (spending more than 30% of household gross income toward required housing costs); 27% are severely cost burdened (spending at least half of their income on housing costs). Studies show that communities where households spend more than 32% of their income on housing should expect an rapid increase in homelessness (Zillow Economic Research).