



2022 - 2023 Annual Report

**DENVER INNER
CITY PARISH**

MEETING OUR COMMUNITY WHERE THEY ARE

DICP
Community



Individuals • Families • Seniors • Youth



VeggieRx Care Navigation Mobile Food Pantry Greens N Grains



Senior Transportation to:
Doctors
Pharmacy
Grocery
Local Attractions



"Together, we stand as a powerful force in the fight against poverty, as we continue to strengthen our impact within the community and beyond."



Dear Valued Donors and Community Members,

We are excited to release our Annual Report once again this year. My name is Oscar, and it is with much excitement and gratitude that I hold in my heart as the current Board Chair of the Denver Inner City Parish (DICP). Having once been a resident of the South Lincoln Housing Projects and a recipient of the invaluable services provided by DICP, I can attest to the profound impact this organization has on the lives of those in need. It is with great pride and a sense of duty that I now have the privilege to give back to this incredible organization that once supported my family in times of hardship.

Click here or scan the QR code to unlock the story of our community impact last year.



DICP has been a beacon of hope for the greater Denver community, serving and empowering lower-income families and the most vulnerable individuals to break the cycle of generational poverty. With your generous support, we have been able to create and sustain programs that have a lasting impact on those we serve. Each program was strategically designed to complement one another, maximizing the use of resources and ensuring we fulfill our mission at the highest level possible.

A major focus for all of our programs over the last year was to address the challenge faced by many of our clients related to access to reliable transportation. Inside, you will learn how each of our programs have incorporated the lack of transportation access into their programs by "Going Mobile". By going to where the community is located, we alleviate transportation barriers and ensure convenient access to essential resources. Our commitment remains steadfast in finding innovative solutions to the multifaceted challenges faced by our community members.

Among the various programs we offer, Greens-N-Grains provides healthy meals to youth and seniors, while our Veggie Rx program educates families about the importance of nutritious foods. Our Food Pantry operates on a client-choice model, allowing community members to select items that best suit their needs, and our Mobile Pantry extends our reach to 12 additional locations. Furthermore, our Parish Seniors program offers vital services like transportation, food box delivery, social events, and educational classes, catering to the needs of our most vulnerable community members. Lastly, our Care Navigation initiative serves as a one-stop shop, connecting individuals with the resources they require to meet their basic needs.

None of this would be possible without your continuous support. As a donor and a member of our community, your commitment to DICP's mission has been instrumental in transforming lives and fostering positive change. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your contributions, and we are dedicated to ensuring that every penny received goes toward making a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Together, we stand as a powerful force in the fight against poverty, and I am humbled to represent DICP as we continue to strengthen our impact within the community and beyond. Your partnership fuels our drive to create a brighter, more equitable future for all. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Oscar M. Olivas
Board Chair, Denver Inner City Parish

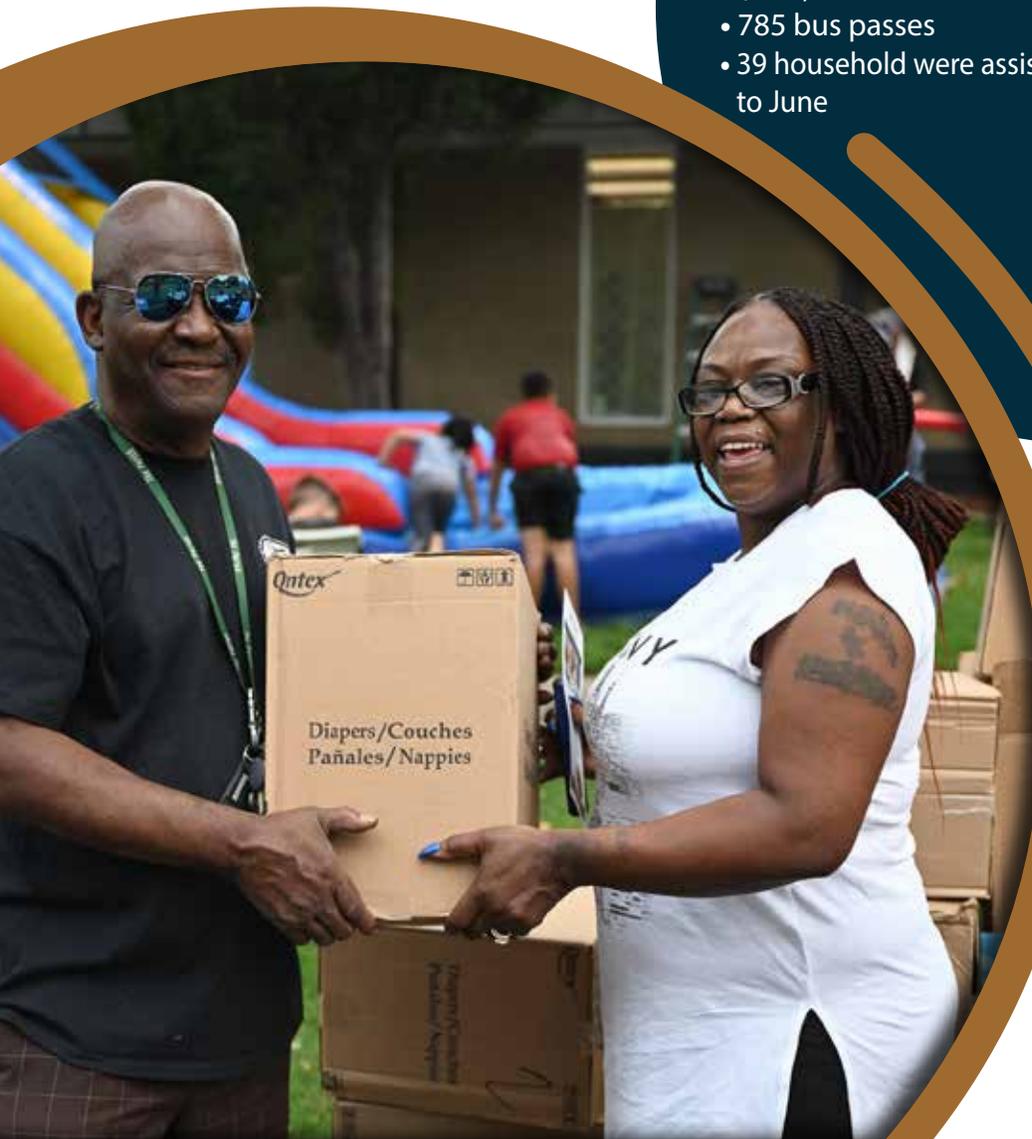
CARE NAVIGATION

DICP's Care Navigation program has experienced tremendous growth this year. We've witnessed many challenges in the community, like reductions in SNAP benefits, rising electricity costs and increased difficulty in finding healthy food and diapers for families. Despite these obstacles, the Care Navigation program has offered support and innovative solutions. Our services have empowered individuals to find long-lasting solutions that positively impact their lives, such as securing transportation for employment interviews, securing housing, paying for utilities, and providing essential household items not covered by SNAP.

Our growth has enabled us to extend our services to our mobile food pantry sites and collaborate with other community organizations for pop-up services. Our services now also include participant support for enrollment in SNAP benefits and how to manage those benefits effectively. As our team has grown, we strive to engage with community members by living up to our motto, "We are the community we serve." These enhancements will undoubtedly improve the quantity and quality of services we provide to our participants for years to come.

2022-2023 Care Navigation Services at a Glance:

- We distributed 117,789 diapers to 479 families
- 882 hygiene kits distributed to almost 400 households
- 247 of households kept their electricity running with assistance from DICP through Energy Outreach Colorado - \$171,940
- 785 bus passes
- 39 household were assisted with SNAP enrollment from April to June





We were able to support members of our community through various community focused events throughout the year, from back to school and a return to our long standing, in-person holiday events. This year marked the return of our longest DICP tradition, our Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

2022-2023 Community Events at a Glance:

Back-to-School

- 252 backpacks provided for school-aged children

Thanksgiving

- 100 individuals attended our in-person dinner
- 50 Thanksgiving meal baskets distributed to families

Christmas / Adopt-a-Family

- Over 80 families served - representing over 400 individuals

Easter

- 10 families with a total of 31 children received Easter baskets



Click here or scan this QR code to unlock the story of Care Navigation's impact last year.

EDUCATION

STEVE JOHNSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Thousands of students attended La Academia during its 47-year history. Graduates have continued their education in certificate programs, trade schools, community colleges, and universities. To continue supporting those students and their families, DICP offers the Steve Johnsen Scholarship twice yearly to provide financial support to recipients pursuing post-secondary education.



2022-23 Steve Johnsen Scholarship at a Glance:

- 7 Scholarship Recipients
- Provided over \$13,000 worth of scholarships

IMMIGRANT CENTER

Our non-citizen neighbors face significant challenges in creating self-sustaining lives for themselves and their families. The Immigrant Center at DICP addresses critical needs such as rental assistance, immigration-related legal services and state documentation. We are the only provider of rental assistance for immigrants in Denver and offer no-cost legal help for work permits, asylum and citizenship.

In 2022-23, we supported 45 families with rental assistance, provided counseling for ID and driver's license issues, and offered crucial legal aid services. Community support enables us to make a tangible impact, helping our immigrant neighbors overcome obstacles and thrive in our community.

2022-2023 Immigrant Center at a Glance:

- \$50,000 housing assistance to 45 families
- Over 600 hours of volunteer work divided between rental assistance, ID/Licenses, asylum legal services, and general immigrant-related assistance services



HUNGER RELIEF



FOOD PANTRY

Despite challenges with inflation, supply chain issues and access to quality transportation options, many participants of DICP's food pantry program have benefited from the launch of over 15 new mobile food pantry locations, strategically located throughout the Denver Metro area, while still offering one day a week of service at our main location on Denver's West side.

Our pantry has become a vital resource for those facing food insecurity in Denver. The launch of the new mobile sites has truly been a community effort, finding partners such as Denver Housing Authority and local schools wanting to increase the resources they offer to students, families and older adults.

We have continued to offer our client-choice model as we have gone mobile, which is unique to other pantries in Denver. Unlike traditional distributions, we let individuals select items based on their preferences, dietary needs, and personal circumstances. This option gives them a sense of dignity and reduces food waste.

In 2023, our mobile pantry served a record number of people by prioritizing a reliable supply of nutritious food with local partners and minimizing waste. By eliminating transportation barriers and fostering a sense of community, we will continue to make a lasting impact on members of our community.



2022-23 Food Pantry at a Glance:

- 15,294 community members reached through a total of 13,800 visits
- One-third of food pantry participants visited multiple times over the course of the years provided
- 50% increase in produce provided at pantry sites over last year
- 15 community partner mobile sites added for food distributions



Click here or scan this QR code to unlock the story of the Food Pantry's impact last year.



GREENS-N-GRAINS

Access to healthy food and child obesity rates are major issues in Colorado, with 16 percent of children lacking proper nutrition due to financial constraints, resulting in limited access to affordable, nutritious meals; however, the Greens-N-Grains program aims to address these challenges by providing free, healthy, nutrient-dense meals as a direct intervention for youth at the places they frequent the most - school, community centers, and parks!

Greens-N-Grains aims to offer culturally relevant and nutritious menu items to food desert communities, customizing recipes based on traditional ingredient preferences to demonstrate that favorite foods can be enjoyed in a healthy and balanced way that reduces caloric intake and is still full of flavor.

Greens-N-Grains initially faced challenges in introducing a healthy food program and serving unfamiliar meals to kids. However, through proactive promotion and direct communication with the community, we successfully increased interest and consistent attendance. Notably, one kindergartner initially became upset when his preferred foods weren't available, but by the end of the school year, he eagerly awaited the food truck and embraced trying new foods.

Over time, Greens-N-Grains has evolved into a sought-after experience for children and families, providing them with both nutritious, tasty foods and valuable, ongoing nutrition education.



Click here or scan this QR code to unlock the story of Greens-N-Grains' impact last year.



2022-2023 Greens-N-Grains at a Glance:

- Over 50,893 meals were served to an average of 1,250 kids monthly
 - ◆ 13,587 snack bags
 - ◆ 9,220 recipe bags
 - ◆ 3,983 summer meals
 - ◆ 26,431 snacks at schools
 - ◆ 610 holiday boxes
 - ◆ 4,367 fruit stand bags
- Supported 15 partners and attended 10+ community sponsored events
- Rolled out interactive resources - website recipes blog

VEGGIE RX

Low-income communities often face heart disease, diabetes, and other food-related illnesses. To address this, VeggieRx engages the whole family in our preventative program through hands-on activities. We teach participants how to grow their own food and understand proper portion sizes, making their home kitchens fun, healthy, and safe. Our curriculum offers a diverse range of skills, recipes, and tips for healthy living.

Our mission is to improve education and access to healthy foods for Denver youth, older adults and families. This year, the VeggieRx program partnered with Denver schools, out-of-school clubs, and community programs, offering classes to 25 cohorts of children, adults, families, and older adults. Each cohort learned about local food resources, kitchen safety, balanced meals, home gardening, exercise, and oral health. Our goal is to involve the entire family in nutrition education and healthy choices.

Over the next year, VeggieRx will continue to promote nutrition education throughout the Denver Metro area offering family, school-based and community cohorts, resources and snacks at our mobile food pantry sites, as well as participate at community partner events.



Click here or scan this QR code to unlock the story of VeggieRx's impact last year.

2022-2023 VeggieRx at a Glance:

- Reached over 850 individuals
- 82% being school aged children
- Partnered with 14 community organizations and schools
- 35 cohorts were conducted for kids, families and seniors
- Over 2,250 meals prepared in sessions



PARISH SENIORS

The Parish Seniors program in post-pandemic Denver is thriving once again. DICP has witnessed its highest program enrollment ever, with over 200 older adults participating in programming over the last year. Working closely with the participant-led Senior Advisory Council, the program has successfully brought relevant topics, activities and outings to seniors, resulting in increased attendance for congregate meals, classes and day trips.

This year, the Seniors Program partnered with DICP's nutrition education program, Veggie Rx, to offer nutrition education classes specifically designed to meet the challenges seniors face related to health and wellness. We also introduced Steppin' On, a fall prevention and mobility class. Alongside these additions, the program continues its traditions of holiday celebrations and day trips. Participants have enjoyed visits to the Colorado History Museum, Denver Botanical Gardens and axe throwing.

Looking forward, the program aims to keep older adults healthy, active and socially connected. It provides a safe space for trying new things and exploring previously inaccessible parts of Colorado. By prioritizing their well-being and reducing social isolation, the Parish Seniors program continues to focus on making a meaningful impact in the lives of older community members.



Click here or scan this QR code to unlock the story of the Parish Seniors' impact last year.



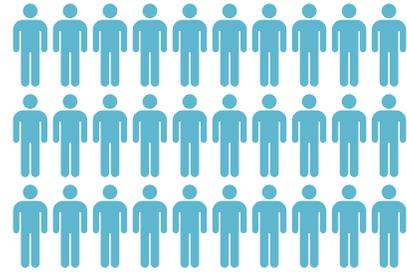


2022-2023 Parish Seniors at a Glance:

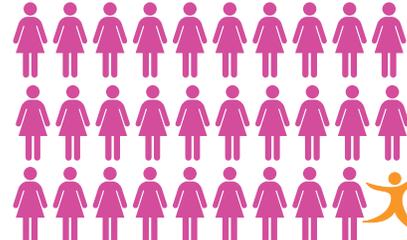
- Over 265 older adults received services and/or participated in programming
- 1,057 hot meals
- 1,842 food boxes
- 1,651 one-way trips
- Two overnight trips
- 230 senior focused sessions and had 109 older adults participate



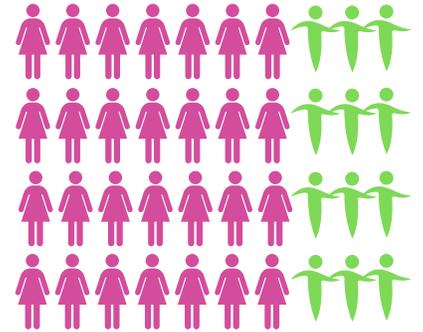
OUR COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS



30%
IDENTIFY AS
MALE



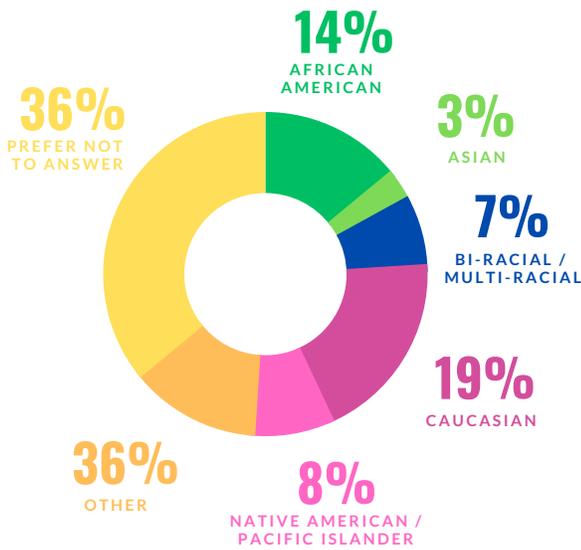
57%
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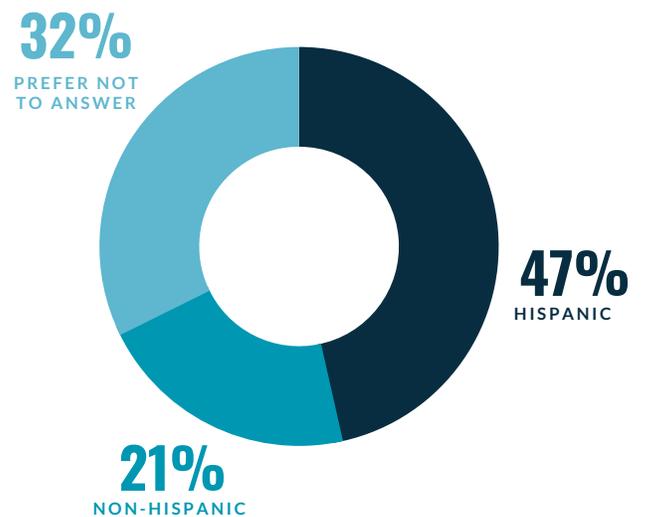
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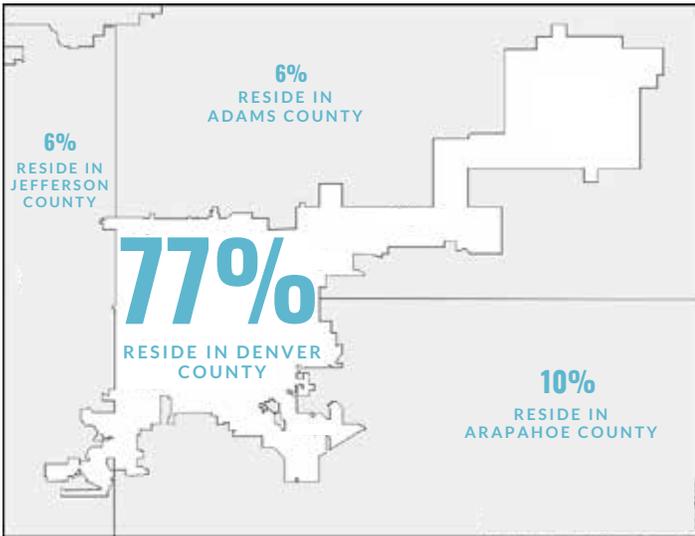
Participants by gender



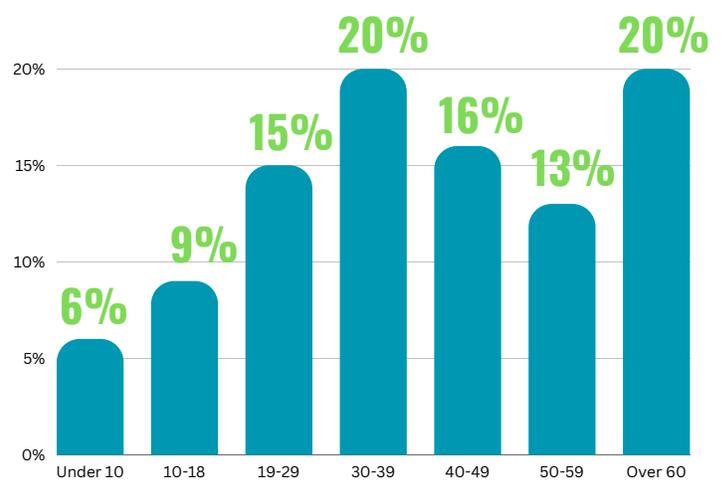
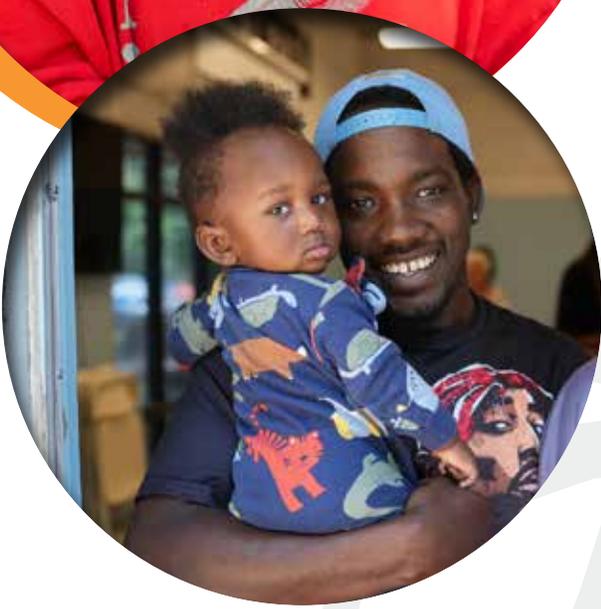
Participants by race



Participants by ethnicity



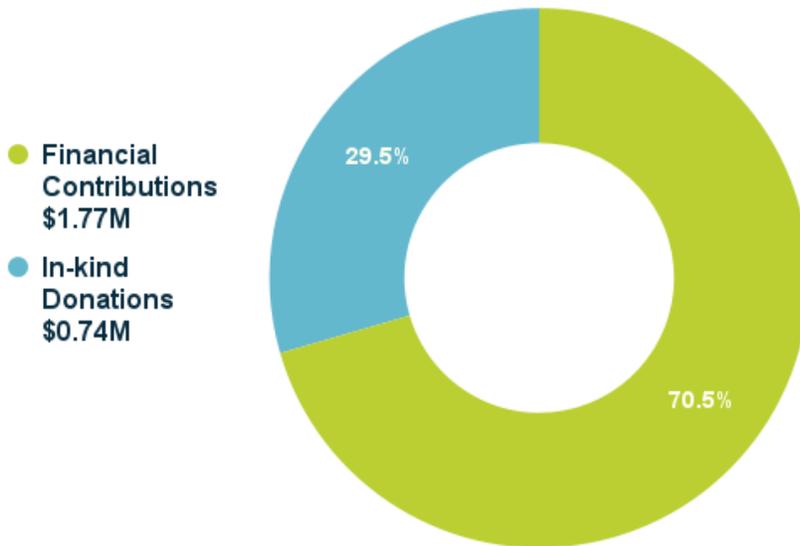
Participants location by county



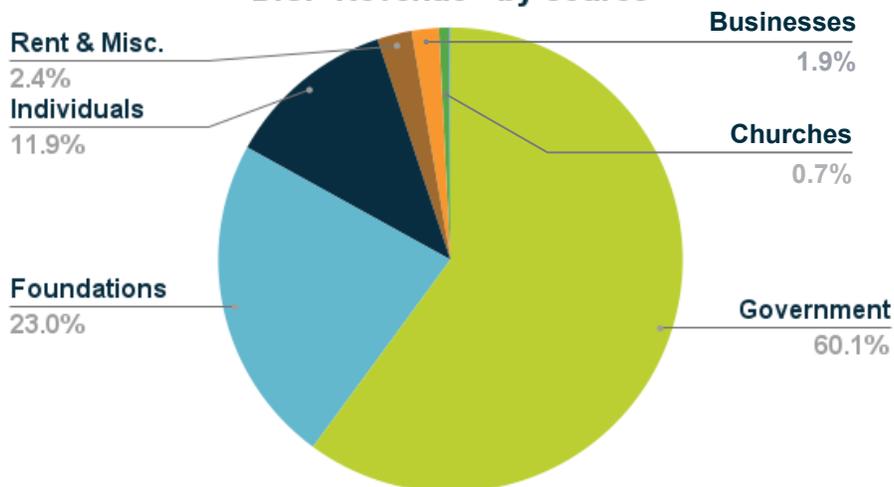
Participants by age

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

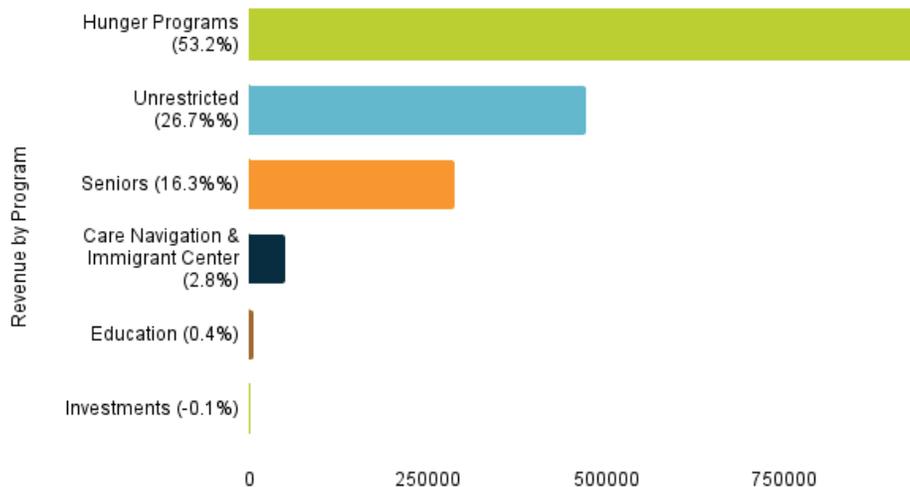
DICP Overall Revenue - financial v. in-kind



DICP Revenue - by source



DICP Revenue - by program



WE ARE THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE

Denver Inner City Parish (DICP) is participant driven and has worked in the community since 1960. DICP believes that inclusion is our strength and incorporates the perspectives of our participants to inform our programs. We are a community of diverse ages, gender identities, races, sexual orientations, physical and mental abilities, ethnicities, and perspectives. We are a community committed to environmental sustainability and justice.

Many of our staff and board members are previous participants because it is vital for DICP's work to reflect the experiences of those we serve. DICP believes diversity is essential to world-building and serving our community. DICP offers programming to individuals and families who are marginalized. There is power in the margin. Together, we build community through social justice, anti-racism, and cultural responsiveness. We help all. We welcome all.

STAFF

Larry Martinez - Executive Director
Jason Torrez - Programs Director & Interim Executive Director
Emmitt Milton - Controller
Jordan Burkett - Office Manager & Executive Assistant
Alex Romberg - Lead Care Navigator
Rita Jaramillo - Care Navigator
Tyler Blankstein - Food Pantry Manager
Kyle Walton - Food Pantry Assistant
Brandon Abeyta - Greens-N-Grains Program Director
Genesis Orozco-Najarro - Greens-N-Grains Program Assistant

George Delrio - Greens-N-Grains Program Assistant
Esmeralda Martinez - Veggie Rx Program Director
James Thompson - Veggie Rx Program Assistant
Sadie Valdez - Veggie Rx Program Assistant
Veronica Byrne - Seniors Program Director
Kimberly George Watson - Seniors Outreach & Box Delivery
Anne Kleinkopf - Immigrant Center Co-Director
Dave Kleinkopf - Immigrant Center Co-Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrea Barela --- Director
Adrian Castro --- Director
Marion Kalb --- Director
Larry Martinez --- Executive Director
Annie Nestor --- Director
Oscar Olivas --- Board Chair
Steve Stutzman --- Director
Michael Bruno --- Director





DENVER INNER CITY PARISH

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