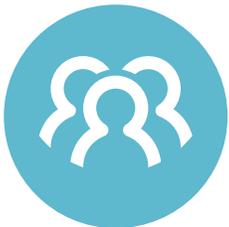
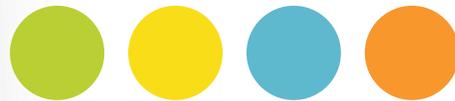




DENVER INNER CITY PARISH



2023 | Annual 2024 | Report





Dear Friends and Supporters,

As Chair of the Board of Directors, I am honored to reflect on the past year at Denver Inner City Parish (DICP). It has been a year marked by both challenges and triumphs, and our journey has been nothing short of impactful for the community we serve.

Our dedicated staff members have described this year with a variety of words—rewarding, strengthening, and community-focused. These words capture the essence of what we do at DICP. From providing nourishment to families in need, to fostering growth in our programs, we have continued to be a vibrant, bustling hub of support and connection for those who rely on us. Our commitment to charitable work, coupled with the fun and vibrancy that come from serving others, has allowed us to expand our reach and deepen our impact.

Speaking of vibrancy, we refreshed our website to better reflect what we do, who we serve and how our partners can join us in our enduring mission to break the cycle of poverty.

However, the work is far from over. As we look ahead to 2024 and beyond, the need for our services remains critical. To continue offering the programs that so many Denver residents depend on, we need the unwavering support of our community—our supporters, donors, volunteers, and funders. Your contributions enable us to push forward, sustain our services, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

We invite you to join us in this mission. Together, we can ensure that DICP continues to be a beacon of hope and a source of strength for our community. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and support. With deep gratitude,

Michael Bruno
Chair of the Board of Directors
Denver Inner City Parish



Scan this QR code to visit our new website.

Connectivity is important to us. At the beginning of July, we refreshed our website to help our community learn about the services we provide. We have incorporated icons throughout the new website and this report to help everyone navigate more easily to the information they need.



Scan this QR code to watch our annual report video.

Care Navigation ●●●●

DICP's Care Navigation program provides comprehensive and integrated support to help participants navigate state and federal benefits and assistance programs. From Monday through Friday, between 9 am and 3 pm, participants can visit our office to pick up essential items such as diapers, wipes, baby formula, hygiene products, feminine care items, and transportation vouchers.

This year, the rising costs of basic necessities like food and utilities have significantly increased the demand for our services. Food prices rose by 5.8 % in 2023, and this upward trend has continued into 2024. In response, DICP has excelled in coordinating resources for benefits enrollment, notably through our partnerships with Healthy Food for Denver's Kids and Hunger Free Colorado's SNAP PEAS program. Together, we have supported hundreds of households in navigating the often daunting SNAP application process.

The demand for Energy Outreach Colorado bill pay assistance also surged, with many Xcel customers turning to us for help in keeping their utilities on or restoring service after disconnection. This need is expected to persist, especially as utility costs are projected to increase by 29% in winter 2024 compared to winter 2019–2020.

Overall, DICP's Care Navigation program has been instrumental in providing critical support to families during these challenging times, ensuring that essential needs are met and that households can access the resources necessary for stability and well-being.

Source: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings/#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20food%20prices%20increased,prices%20increased%20by%207.1%20percent.>



Community Events ●●●●

Throughout the year, DICP is committed to supporting community members during times of increased need, such as year-end holidays, back-to-school season, and other challenging periods when extra expenses can strain household budgets. By offering resources like holiday meals, school supplies, and other essential support, we help families navigate these tough times and alleviate some of the financial pressure, ensuring that everyone has access to the assistance they need.



Care Navigation 2023-24 Impact:

- We distributed 73,671 diapers and 151,342 pull-ups to 567 families
- 716 hygiene kits distributed to almost 410 households
- 335 households kept their electricity running with \$307,789 in assistance from DICP through Energy Outreach Colorado
- 1,464 bus passes utilized
- 271 household enrollments for SNAP



Community Events 2023-24 Impact: Denver Days

- 154 food boxes distributed
- 369 Greens-N-Grains meals
- 200 VeggieRx Eat the Rainbow snacks
- 49 backpacks provided for school-aged children
- 14 community partner booths

Thanksgiving

- 250 meals prepared and served

Adopt-a-Family

- 55 families served - representing over 270 individuals

Easter Baskets

- 7 baskets distributed

Tequila & Quesadillas Fundraising Event

On October 5th, 2023 we launched a new fundraising event, Tequila & Quesadillas. With 120 enthusiastic guests, six generous sponsors, and an incredible atmosphere, the evening was a smashing success!

Attendees indulged in delicious food and tequila pairings, enjoyed lively games and loteria, and mingled with friends old and new, all while grooving to the fantastic tunes of the Colorado AllStarz. A ton of fun was had by all, and we couldn't have asked for a better way to celebrate our vibrant community. We look forward to making this event an annual tradition.

Education ●●●●

Twice a year, DICP awards scholarships to participants pursuing degrees, certificates, and licenses. These scholarships are specifically designed for individuals who are current or past participants in DICP programs and have demonstrated financial need. The awarded funds can be used to cover a range of education-related expenses, including books, school supplies, and living costs.

The financial burden on our scholarship recipients is significant, as Denver's housing costs are 36% higher than the national average. For students who don't live at home, the average monthly rent is approximately \$1,500 for a studio, \$1,700 for a one-bedroom, and \$2,200 for a two-bedroom apartment. Additionally, college textbook prices have surged by 7% from 2020 to 2023, far outpacing inflation, with costs rising by over 1,041 percent since 1977.

Thankfully, the Steven Johnsen Scholarship provides flexible funding that can be applied to any education-related expense, easing some of the financial strain. Through these scholarships, DICP continues to empower students to pursue their educational goals despite the rising costs of living and learning.

Steve Johnsen Scholarship 2023-24 Impact:

- 5 scholarship recipients
- \$26,000 provided in scholarships to pay for rent, tuition, fees, technology or textbooks.



Source:*<https://www.apartments.com/rent-market-trends/denver-co/>



Immigrant Center ●●●●

The Immigrant Center at DICP is dedicated to helping immigrants integrate into the community and build self-sustaining lives. Our services are available Monday through Wednesday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the DICP office, providing essential support and guidance to our immigrant neighbors.

Navigating the complexities of daily life can be challenging for immigrants, who often face hurdles such as affording costly work permits, enrolling their children in local schools, finding safe housing, and overcoming language barriers and discriminatory practices without legal recourse. To address these challenges, we offer a range of services, including in-person translation, assistance with applying and paying for basic immigration services and documentation like TPS (Temporary Protected Status), work permits, and asylum applications. We also help with obtaining driver's licenses, Colorado IDs, ITINs, DACA, green cards, and naturalization, and connect clients with immigrant-centered resources in the Denver area. Additionally, we provide Xcel bill assistance through our partnership with Energy Outreach Colorado.

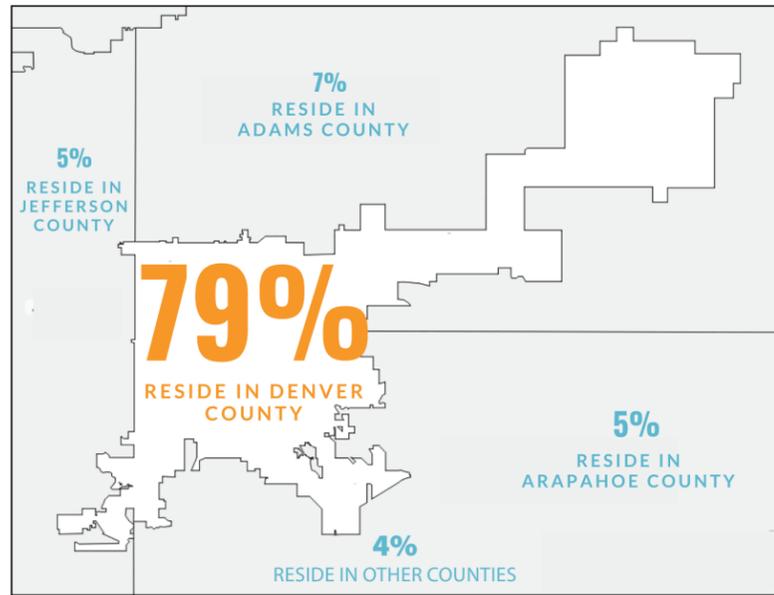
Through these efforts, the Immigrant Center empowers individuals to overcome barriers, access vital resources, and find the support they need to thrive in their new community.

Immigrant Center 2023-24 Impact:

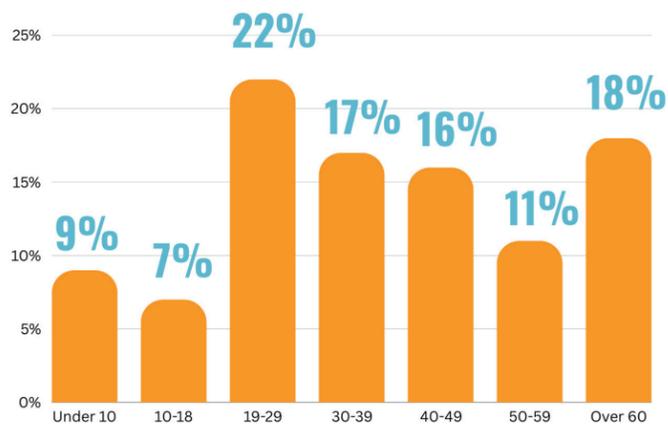
- 150 individuals served
- 850+ volunteer hours



Community Demographics



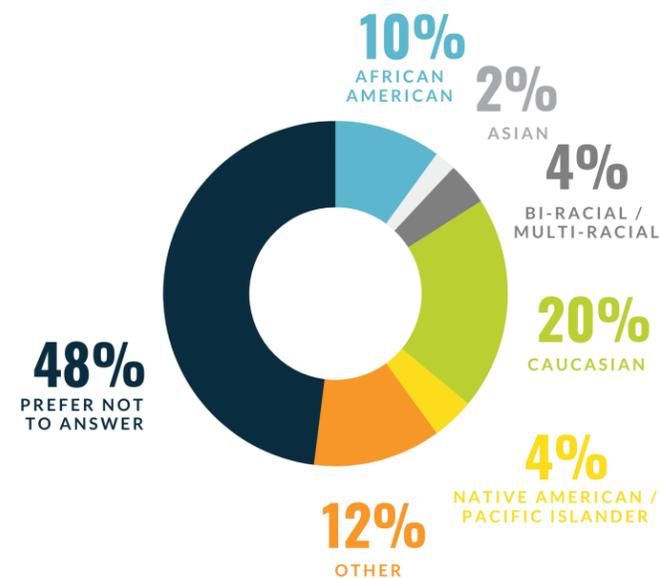
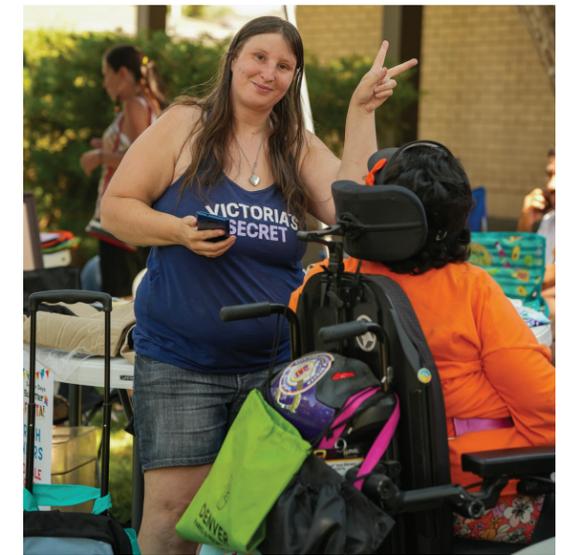
Participants location by county



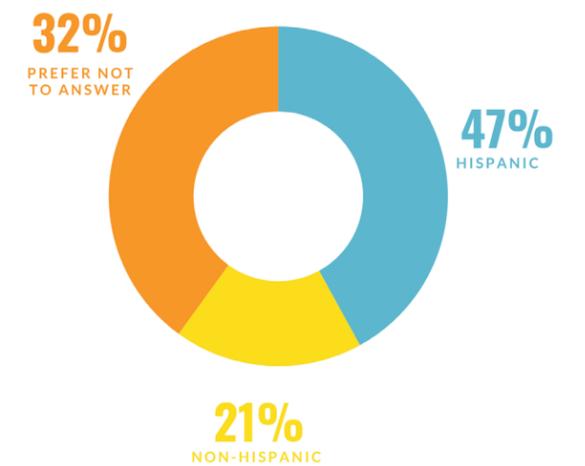
Participants by age



Participants by gender



Participants by race



Participants by ethnicity

Food Pantry ●●●●

DICP hosts a weekly food pantry every Saturday at our main building, serving up to 160 people, and also brings essential food resources to designated locations near low-income apartments and schools across metro Denver on other days each month. Operating on a client-choice model, we prioritize providing fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole foods, empowering visitors to select the items that best meet their needs and those of their families. We do not require ID or impose eligibility guidelines, making our services accessible to everyone.

Our food pantry is largely stocked through generous donations from partners like Food Bank of the Rockies, We Don't Waste, Parker Task Force, and many others. Many of our visitors live within a five-mile radius of Denver Inner City Parish and often walk, bike, or use public transportation to reach us. Our mobile food pantry sites are also strategically placed within five miles of our office, targeting neighborhoods that are classified as food deserts and have household incomes below the national average.

Through our food pantry program, DICP is committed to providing accessible, nutritious food options and supporting the well-being of our community by reaching those most in need where they live.

Food Pantry 2023-24 Impact:

- 15,290+ individuals served
- Over 200 days with food pantry distributions
- 207,062 pounds of food distributed



Source: https://bestneighborhood.org/household-income-lincoln-park-denver-co/#google_vignette



Greens-N-Grains ●●●●

Greens-N-Grains is our food truck dedicated to distributing healthy meals to youth in Denver's food deserts and neighborhoods with high food insecurity. Partnering with schools and after-school programs during the academic year, we provide snacks and meals at times when kids are most likely to consume unhealthy foods. During the summer, we bring the USDA Breakfast and Summer Lunch programs to various partner sites throughout the metro area, offering nutritious and culturally relevant meals.

A major milestone for the 2023-2024 school year was securing commitments from multiple Denver Public School locations to host our food truck, allowing us to expand our reach. Our menu features healthy, accessible options like three-ingredient chicken tacos and baked veggie ziti, with a focus on recipes that kids and parents can easily recreate at home.

Additionally, our Greens-N-Grains mission includes self-serve snack stations in schools, which empower youth by allowing them to explore a variety of healthy food options. This model lets kids see the range of nutritious foods available and gives them the freedom to choose what suits their tastes; if they don't like one item, there are plenty of other healthy choices to pick from.

Through Greens-N-Grains, DICP is committed to combating food insecurity, improving access to healthy food options, and fostering better eating habits among Denver's youth.



Greens-N-Grains 2023-24 Impact:

- We've served over 53,000 meals to more than 1,650 youth
- Catholic Workers Soup Kitchen - 9,091
- Food Truck Meals - 9,074
- GNG Event Meals - 3,436
- Holiday boxes - 112
- Seniors meals - 65
- Snack bags - 25,784
- Summer Meals - 25,784

Supported 14 partners over the course of the year.



Seniors

Our Parish Seniors program offers comprehensive support to individuals aged 60 and over, providing food boxes, socialization opportunities, educational classes, and transportation services to our events and medical appointments.

Isolation and loneliness are common challenges for older adults, particularly for low-income individuals who face limited access to transportation and technology. To address these needs, our program offers group day trips and shared meals that encourage connections and joyful moments.

This year, participation has grown significantly, with the number of individuals participating increasing from 170 last year to 280—a 39% increase.

The Parish Seniors program offers four days of sessions a week, along with a weekly field trip. In addition to our regular programming, we launched mobile initiatives in collaboration with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the local Vietnamese American community, and nearby older adult housing locations. To ensure our services continue to meet our participants' needs, we conducted listening sessions that empower older adults by giving them a voice in shaping the program offerings.

Our transportation services, now equipped with a new ADA van and dedicated driver, have expanded to accommodate transportation requests from partner organizations' referrals, including last-minute ride requests for medical appointments. Despite facing funding challenges, we have successfully bridged gaps without compromising our services.

We are committed to continuing our mission of providing community, connection, and client-centered support for our older adult neighbors, ensuring they have access to the resources and companionship they need to thrive.

Seniors Program 2023-24 Impact:

- Over 280 older adults received services and/or participated in programming
- 2,588 food boxes delivered
- 3,168 total referrals/resource interactions provided to clients
- 2,622 One-way trips
- 250 senior focused sessions with 97 older adults participating



VeggieRx Program 2023-24 Impact:

- 3,708 meals served
- 713 Individuals participated
- 87% of program participants are school aged children
- 37 8-week sessions conducted for kids, families and seniors.

- 2 year-long whole-school partners
- 342 CMS total school aged children served
 - 172 KIPP total school aged children served

VeggieRx

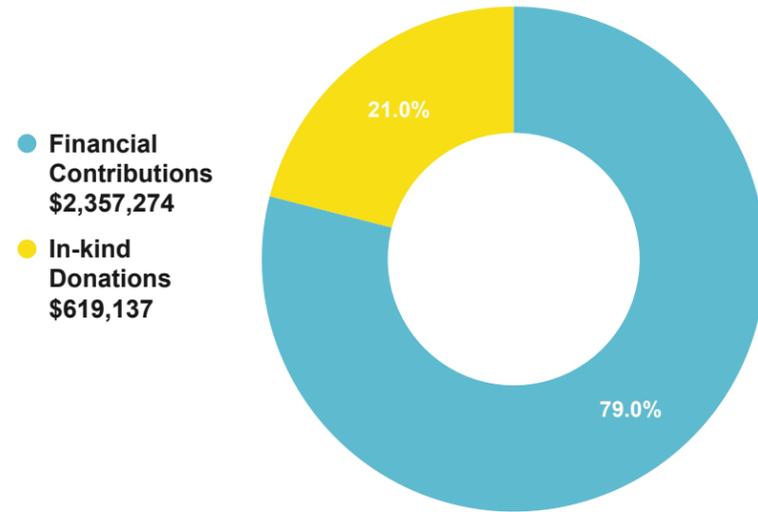
Veggie Rx is an eight-session program offering hands-on education about healthy foods, food preparation, knife skills, and engaging in healthy activities. Participants learn how to shop for nutritious food on a budget and discover local resources for accessing healthier options. Throughout the course, participants receive incentives, including a grocery store gift card at the end of the program, along with access to DICP's Food Pantry and Care Navigation resources.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Veggie Rx partnered with two Denver Public elementary schools to create a school nutrition partnership, reaching over 450 students. Our monthly lessons covered topics such as "Eat the Rainbow," "Healthy Portion Sizes," "Oral Health," and "Gardening in Colorado." Students took home a corn tortilla recipe to cook with their families and seed packets to start their own home gardens.

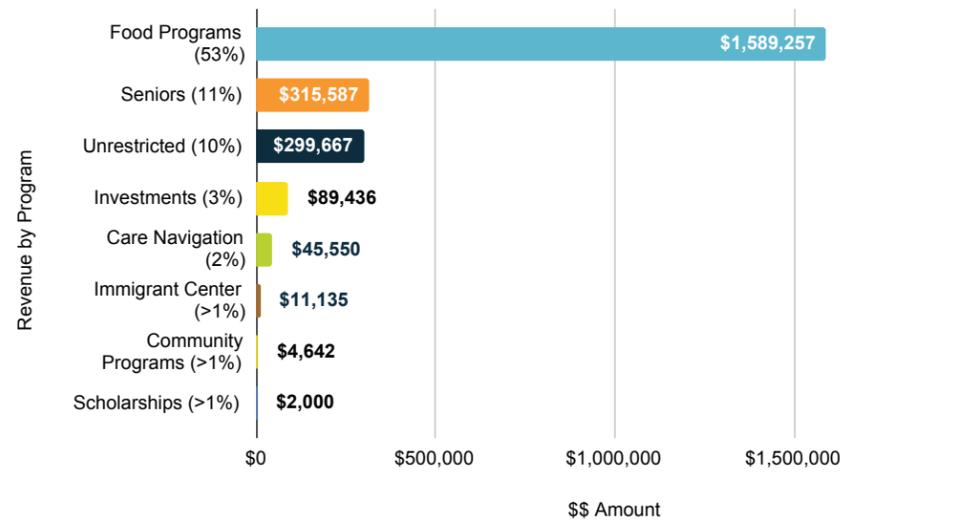
Veggie Rx empowers young people and adults with practical skills and resources to make healthier food choices, fostering better nutrition for individuals and families alike.

Financials

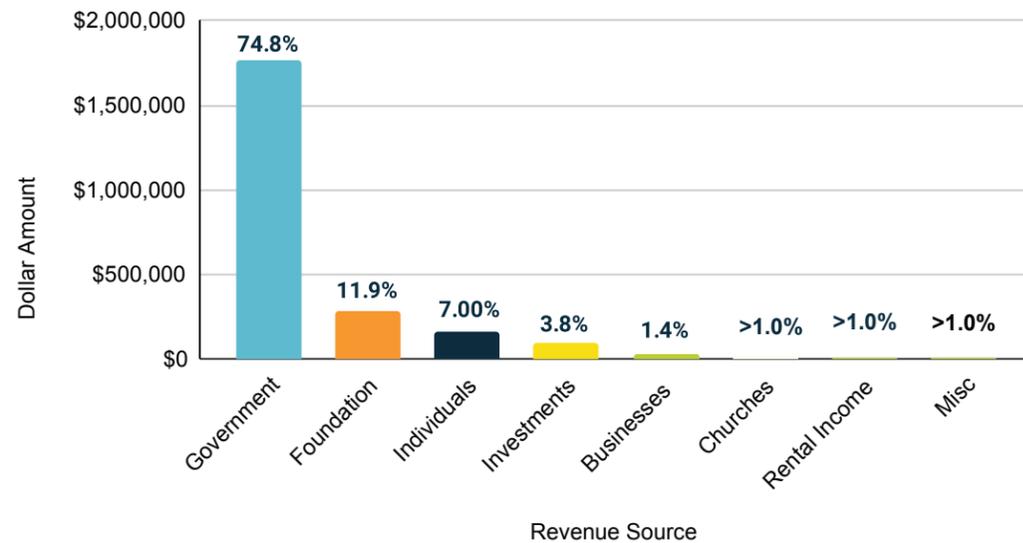
DICP Overall Revenue - Financial v. In-Kind



DICP Revenue by Program



DICP Revenue Sources - Total \$\$ Revenue



Board of Directors & Staff

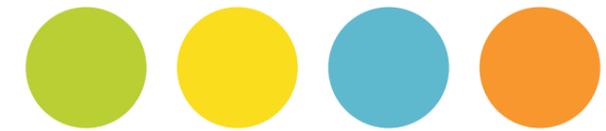
Staff

Brandon Abeyta, Greens-N-Grains Food Truck Manager
 Veronica Byrne, Interim Development Director
 Tynisha Doakes, Parish Seniors Outreach & Box Delivery Coordinator
 Joe Gomez, Greens-N-Grains Kitchen Manager
 Raymundo Gonzalez, Parish Seniors Transportation Coordinator
 Reuben Gregory, Programs Director
 Rita Jaramillo, Care Navigation Coordinator
 Anne Kleinkopf, Immigrant Center Director
 Esmeralda Martinez, VeggieRx Program Director
 Maria Mendoza, Food Pantry Assistant
 Emmitt Milton, Controller
 Alex Romberg, Lead Care Navigator
 Jason Torrez, Interim Executive Director
 Esther Winner, Food Pantry Manager

And the ongoing support of our AARP, SER and other group and individual volunteers.

Board of Directors

- Michael Bruno, Board Chair
- Tammy Mulligan
- Annie Nestor
- Steve Stutzman





**DENVER INNER
CITY PARISH**



**Denver Inner City Parish
1212 Mariposa Street
Denver, CO 80204**

www.dicp.org