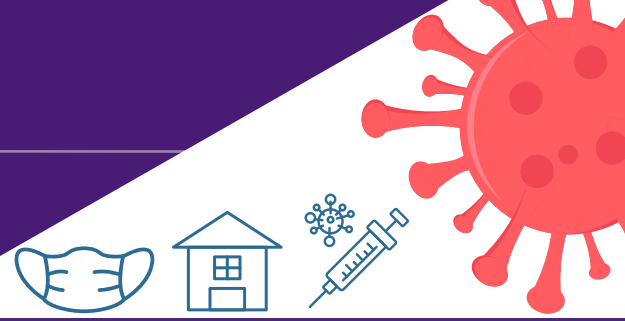# DENVER
HOUSING STABILITY

COVID-19 Response:
One Year Summary March 2021

The effect of COVID-19 on the City and County of Denver has been overwhelming, especially for people with the fewest resources.

The economic impact of public health-related business closures has left thousands with reduced income, leading to an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Persons experiencing homelessness who contract the virus may be at higher risk for complications due to age and underlying health conditions, and face additional challenges isolating while residing in congregate shelter settings.

The Department of Housing Stability (HOST) has provided the following services and supports to assist people with staying in their homes, to provide temporary shelter, and to resolve homelessness during the year since the COVID-19 pandemic began in Denver.

Housing Stability Programs

- Provided 2,500 households with rent and utility assistance to stay stably housed through Temporary Rent and Utility Assistance (TRUA) program.

- Demand for rent and utility support continued to spike by more than 60% in January 2021 over prior month.

- Another $22 million in emergency rental assistance funds from federal government will continue to support growing need; city spent $13 million in federal and local funds since March 2020.

- Mortgage assistance helped 40 households stay stably housed and avoid foreclosure.

Homelessness Resolution Programs

- Rehousing support launched in response to the pandemic is providing rental assistance and services to resolve episodes of homelessness.

- More than 160 people received assistance through the housing voucher program, and 106 were rehoused as of December 2020.

- Through a system-wide focus on housing outcomes, HOST partners helped more than 1,000 households regain and maintain permanent housing upon leaving shelter, outreach or rehousing programs in 2020.
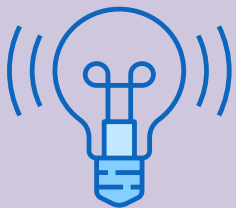
2,500 households served with rental and utility assistance

40 households served with mortgage assistance

160 households received rehousing assistance set up in response to pandemic

1,000 households regained and maintained permanent housing under other housing assistance programs

Emergency Shelter

The pandemic initially reduced shelter capacity by more than 50% due to physical distancing requirements (from 2,134 beds to 935).

Together with sheltering partners, the city deployed a range of tactics to increase system capacity and keep individuals safe from virus spread:

- Existing shelters transitioned from serving guests overnight to around-the-clock sheltering
- Opened 24/7 auxiliary emergency shelters, with screening and testing of guests
- 800+ hotel rooms to protect vulnerable individuals, and those medically referred for isolation
- 200+ hotel rooms to meet capacity needs in non-congregate shelter
- Temporary managed campsites that will help 100 households safely shelter outside
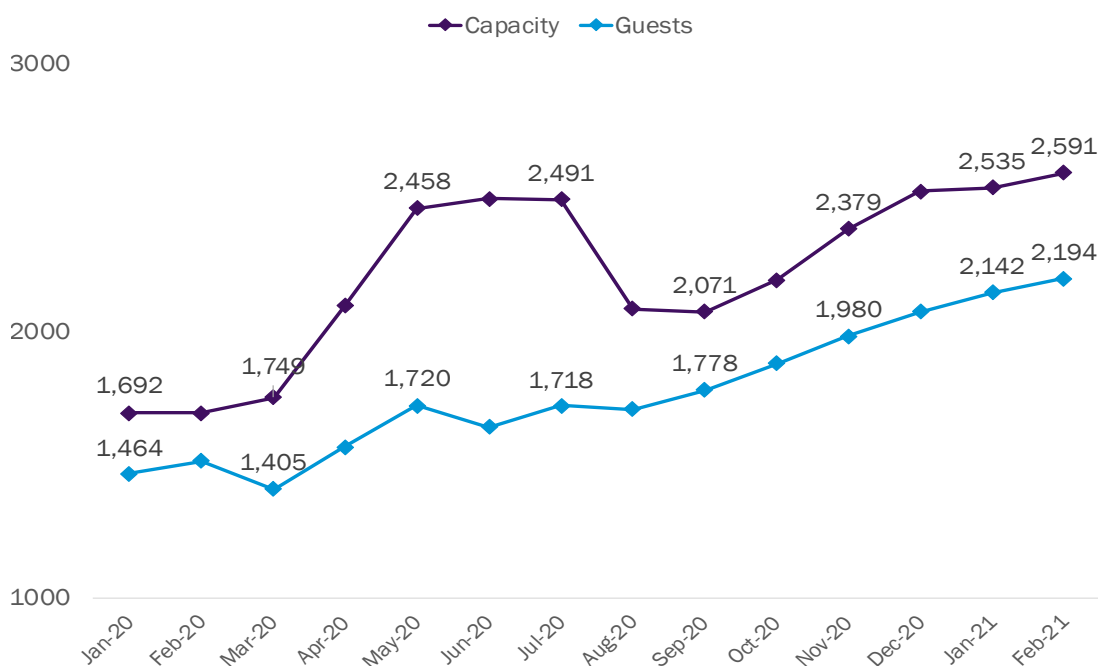

$56,805,195 in emergency spending supported shelter services/supplies
(March 2020 through March 10, 2021)

12,524 unique households served through shelter and services

- **8,204 households** used day shelter services
- **7,729 households** used overnight and 24-hour congregate shelter services
- **3,016 unique hotel guests** (through 2/28/21)
- **1,384 households** used street outreach services
- **1,831 households** participated in housing programs (e.g., rapid resolution, rapid re-housing, supportive housing, transitional housing, bridge housing, etc.)

(NOTE: Some households accessed multiple program types, thus the sum of these bullets exceeds the total figure of 12,524. Additionally, there are some programs, including domestic violence services and employments services, which are not included in this roundup of data.)

Average Monthly Shelter Capacity and Nightly Guests

— Capacity — Guests

Month	Capacity	Guests
Jan-20	1,692	1,464
Feb-20		
Mar-20	1,749	1,405
Apr-20		
May-20	2,458	1,720
Jun-20		
Jul-20	2,491	1,718
Aug-20	2,071	
Sep-20		1,778
Oct-20		
Nov-20	2,379	1,980
Dec-20		
Jan-21	2,535	2,142
Feb-21	2,591	2,194

The city's network of shelters now accommodates nearly 2,200 people nightly, a 60% increase from the 1,350 people the network served per night, on average, during the two weeks prior to the pandemic.