



June 2019  
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Photo courtesy of Re:Vision

## CO4F METRICS

AS OF MARCH 2019

**\$8,300,000**  
Total Capitalization

**\$2,991,307**  
Funds Available

**\$5,308,693**  
Total Funded and Committed

## Re:Vision Strengthens Community with Opportunities Built Around Fresh Food

The largest community-owned urban agriculture program in the United States is right here in Colorado. Rooted in Denver's Westwood neighborhood, [Re:Vision](#) is a nonprofit organization that works to cultivate thriving, resilient communities. Re:Vision focuses on leadership development, food systems, and community wealth building--interdependent strategies that are central to the organization's mission.



Photo courtesy of Re:Vision

According to Joseph Teipel, Re:Vision Co-Founder and Executive Director, food plays a catalytic role in a community.

"We identified how food leads to wealth building and community development, and it's the basis of many of our programs, the largest of which is our backyard garden program. This has led to

Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund (CO4F) improves access to healthy food in underserved Colorado communities by financing grocery stores and other forms of healthy food retail.

## PARTNERS



over 2,000 residential gardens in southwest Denver, producing half a million pounds of organic produce, and saving families over \$1 million in groceries. Our [Promotoras](#) play a significant role in not only that program, but in implementing all of what Re:Vision has to offer. We train and hire Promotoras to help the community establish and maintain their gardens, in addition to carrying out our other programs, which include cooking and nutrition education, and referrals to other services. We are also a grassroots distributor of fresh food, distributed through a number of ways including retail," he said.

In 2015, CO4F supported Re:Vision in the development phases of the Westwood Food Cooperative's [pilot market](#). Open six days a week, the pilot market offers fresh food, both organic and local, as well as a variety of other grocery staples, and represents the only option for fresh food in the Westwood community. Due to the success of the pilot program, Teipel says the Westwood Food Co-op is moving toward its goal of becoming a full-service grocery store, which would be first grocery store available to Westwood residents since the 90s.

The Westwood neighborhood has seen several positive changes in recent years, and Teipel knows first-hand how Re:Vision has impacted residents.

"People are feeling a new sense of community and connection, not just to food but to family, friends, and neighbors. The Re:Vision property is a visual reflection of changes in the neighborhood, going from a junkyard to a thriving, urban farm and multi-use campus-but most importantly, a general feeling of empowerment for residents to get involved in the community," said Teipel. He also observes local collaboration and applauds other organizations for investing in Westwood. "We were one of the first organizations working here and now we're one of many. Here, residents and organizations come together, and we're honored to be among others that are making residents the focus."

Re:Vision owns 1.8 acres of property along Morrison Road in Westwood, and has been evolving in more ways to serve the community. The Colorado Growth and Revitalization Community Impact Fund, administered by CHFA, recently helped support renovations to develop Re:Vision's new community arts and culture center. The new facility will include gallery space for low-income artists, an outdoor plaza for community events, a commercial kitchen featuring nutrition and cooking classes, and a small business incubator program. Teipel says they plan to open the center in August.

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## Quick Facts on Hunger and Health in Colorado

Fighting hunger and improving food access are primary goals of CO4F. In Colorado, many are struggling with these issues we hope to address.

Did You Know?

- Nearly 1 in 11 Coloradans struggle with hunger, not always having enough money to buy food.<sup>1</sup>
- 1 in 4 kids in Colorado is



- overweight or obese.<sup>2</sup>
- 1 in 6 Denver households live in low-income areas with no access to fresh food.<sup>3</sup>
- The Colorado Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reaches 459,000 Colorado residents, or 1 in 12.<sup>4</sup>
- Healthcare costs of food insecurity in Colorado are estimated at up to \$2.1 billion annually.<sup>5</sup>



Sources:

1 (U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Household Food Security in the United States](#) in 2017, September 2018) - [hungerfreecolorado.org](#)

2 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "[Colorado Child Health Survey 2014 Snapshot Report](#)." - [liveellcolorado.org](#)

3 <https://uncharted.org/program/food-access/>

4 [SNAP Fact Sheet, December 2018](#)

5 "[Tackling Hunger to Improve Health in America: Economic Burden Study](#)," Public Health Institute, 2016. - Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger Report

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