



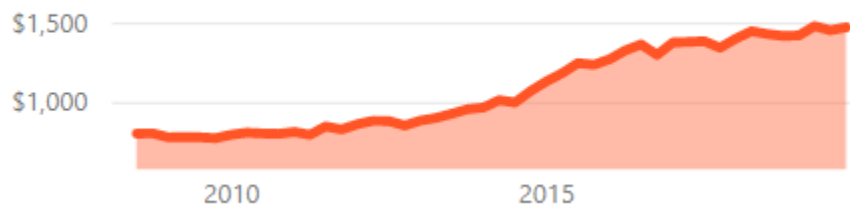
DWC

Denver Women's
Collaborative

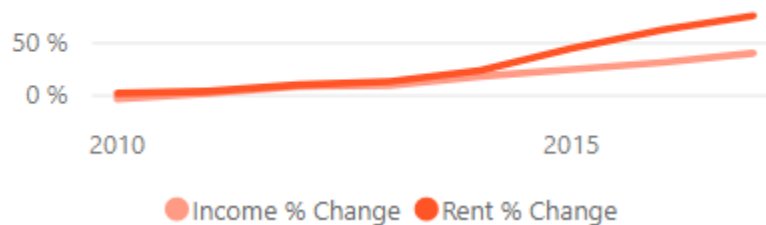
The Denver Women's Collaborative (DWC) is composed of nonprofit organizations in the Denver metro area providing direct services to women, girls, and their families. The DWC works to amplify the voices of the people we serve to promote social change. Each legislative session, we identify and advocate for policies that have the power to eliminate barriers to stability, opportunities, and success for women, girls and their families.

Housing security is a fundamental need. Access to safe and affordable housing is vital to helping women and children in crisis obtain stability and pursue opportunities to improve their life circumstances. Unfortunately, safe and affordable housing in the Denver metro area is increasingly out of reach for the people our organizations serve. Median rents have increased significantly since 2014, but growth in incomes during that same period has not kept up with increases to the cost of rent.

Median Rent



Rent vs Income: Cumulative % Change Since 2010



Data from Denver Department of Housing Stability
(<https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/housing-information.html>)

Because of this, the DWC is focusing its advocacy efforts during the 2020 legislative session on three bills that will provide important common-sense protections to help marginalized and vulnerable individuals obtain and retain housing.

House Bill 20-1009 (Suppressing Court Records of Eviction Proceedings) empowers renters to defend against unfair practices, and removes barriers to obtaining rental housing. Currently, when an eviction is filed in court – even when it is dismissed for being unfounded or retaliatory – it produces a court record. This court record is public, and can be used by landlords to deny a person housing. This bill would prevent court records of dismissed eviction filings from being used by landlords to assess housing applications. This will empower renters to defend their rights against unfair or illegal demands from landlords, and also protect renters who have had baseless evictions filed against them from being denied future housing opportunities because of a dismissed filing.

House Bill 20-1141 (Fees Charged To Tenants By Landlords) strengthens protections for renters against being charged excessive late fees, and also protects renters who have paid their rent in full from being evicted solely because of unpaid late fees. This bill would limit amount and types of fees that can be charged.

House Bill 20 –XXXX (Prohibit Housing Discrimination Source of Income) is a soon-to-be introduced bill that will also add protections for renters from being denied housing based on the source of income they would use to pay their rent. Many people who would pay rent using housing vouchers, disability payments, child support payments, veteran’s benefits, or other government assistance report that they were denied housing because of the source of funds they would use to pay their rent. For some, this has been a primary reason why they have become homeless or struggled to exit homelessness.

The Denver Women’s Collaborative strongly supports all three of these bills, and urges members of the Colorado Legislature to pass these bills as proposed.

The Denver Women's Collaborative member organizations are Center for Work Education and Employment (CWEE), The Delores Project, The Gathering Place, Safehouse Denver, Warren Village, and Work Options for Women. By identifying the common issues that have the greatest impact on our communities, we are able to dismantle the barriers affecting women throughout multiple stages in their lives. We combine our organizations’ data, experience, and the many stories of our participants to help influence policy and promote social change.

Collectively, our organizations serve over 9,200 women and children annually, across five Denver metro area counties. We reach more than 60,000 people each year through our public communication outlets (social media, newsletters, and websites), and have more than 11,500 individuals who support our organizations financially and through volunteering.

For more information about the Denver Women’s Collaborative, visit our website at www.denverwomenscollaborative.org. For more information about our priorities or individual organizations, please connect with us at contact@denverwomenscollaborative.org.