

Denver HCWP Overview

Program

Denver provides for a comprehensive program for highway career awareness, recruitment, training, and placement through the Colorado Resource (CORE) Partners and its WORKNOW employment platform. WORKNOW connects prospective workers to job training, coaching, and placement assistance, as well as family support services like childcare, transportation, or the purchase of construction tools. Trade Skills Match (TSM), a hiring platform for employers and workers, uses the TSM app or website that outlines worker skills and experience. Employers can search the TSM database for potential workers and invite candidates to apply, or employers may create job postings that will match employers to candidates.

Partners

The Community College of Denver coordinates the WORKNOW program. Partners organizations include the Colorado Department of Transportation, Denver Office of Economic Development, Associated General Contractors, Colorado Homebuilding Academy, Colorado Contractors Association, Community College of Aurora, Construction Careers Now, Denver Office of Economic Development, Denver Area Labor Federation, Denver Housing Authority, Focus Points Family Resource Center, Mi Casa Resource Center, the Master's Apprentice, Mile High Youth Corps, and WorkLife Partnership.

Results

Since the beginning of the Denver I-70 workforce development initiative and the advent of WORKNOW, 923 individuals have been trained and 744 have been placed into highway and vertical construction jobs (including 156 specifically on Central 70). The partnership has expanded on additional public and private projects.

Funding

Support for WORKNOW services includes foundation dollars, \$975,000; project investment, \$969,000; individual employers, \$100,000; and funding from partners, including Housing and Urban Development, Community Services Block Grant, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act dollars. An FHWA Ladders of Opportunity grant provided \$400,000.

Future

The Advisory Group will continue to focus on workforce needs for the Central 70 project until its expected completion date in late 2022. The Central 70 HCWP partners are working to expand the Central 70 partnerships and WORKNOW program to other major Colorado highway projects.

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