

# Aurora Community Connection

Vision

Foster healthy, interdependent communities by recognizing and engaging people's capacities.

Mission

Develop the capacities of under-served families, increase access to resources and promote social equity.

2007  
Established

Serving  
Adams/Arapahoe  
Counties

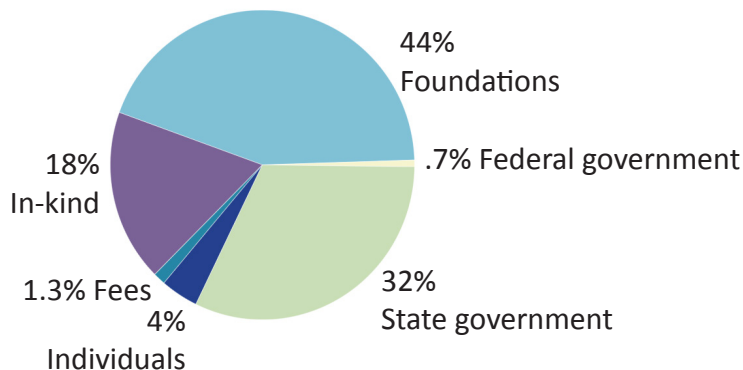
14  
Staff

3834  
families served annually

501(c)3  
Org structure

\$630,365  
2017-2018 Budget

## Types of Funding



## Key Programs

- ABC's of Parenting
- Citizenship Preparation
- Cooking and Nutrition Classes
- Diabetes Prevention Program
- Early Childhood Education
- English as a Second Language
- Exercise Classes for Children and Adults
- Family Development and Goal Setting
- Health Advocacy
- Health Insurance Application Assistance
- Youth Academic Tutoring
- Youth Service Learning

Serving Our Community

The Aurora Community Connection (ACC) Family Resource Center was founded in 2007 in order to address a gap in services for families in north Aurora. ACC is open to all families, but emphasizes support for low-income families who are marginalized by language and culture.

In response to community interest, ACC offers 22 different programs, each focusing on access to education or access to health. ACC's education programs include academic tutoring for children, early childhood education, parenting classes and English as a second language (ESL) classes. The ACC improves access to health through exercise and nutrition classes, chronic disease prevention classes, Medicaid and health insurance application assistance and resource and referral services.

A core value that distinguishes ACC from other non-profits is a commitment to strategically leverage community resources through partnerships and engaging the talents of community residents. ACC staff have cultivated a strong degree of trust with local residents, which contributes to a particularly successful approach to community outreach. As a result, groups such as Aurora Public Schools, Aurora Mental Health, Cooking Matters and the City of Aurora turn to ACC to connect program resources to families in Aurora. For this reason, many of ACC's programs are collaborative efforts using existing community resources, with ACC responsible for program outreach and participant recruitment and community agencies funding program staff, evaluation and materials. ACC also extends limited financial resources through volunteer commitments from program participants.

Highlights

In 2017, the ACC supported increased access to education by providing year-round academic tutoring to 171 low-income English-language learners ages 5-11 and guided 46 at-risk teens to volunteer as tutors 1- 4 times a week, intentionally focusing on leadership development, positive school engagement and drug-abuse prevention. ACC also offered weekly English as a Second Language classes to 119 adults and Citizenship classes to 33 adults. ACC supported increased access to health in by helping 1011 low-income, uninsured individuals obtain health insurance and providing 609 referrals to low-cost medical services. ACC also provided on-going exercise classes to 442 low-income Latino children and adults—twice the numbers served in this program area in 2016. ACC also provided nutrition instruction to 349 low-income Latino adults and children—dramatically increasing 2016 participation by embedding nutrition instruction into most exercise programs and ECE classes. In collaboration with the American Diabetes Association, ACC also worked with 89 low-income women in a year-long program aimed at the prevention of diabetes. In 2017, ACC also added mental health support, in the form of wellness classes for parents and children. 125 adults and children engaged in some form of on-going Wellness/ Mental Health programming.



Family Success Story

Ivana, age five, began in our tutoring program this summer without a firm grasp of letter recognition in either Spanish and English. Quiet and determined, Ivana worked closely with one of our bilingual youth tutors and slowly mastered the letters of the alphabet through repeated and varied practice. She is now ready to start kindergarten at the expected level of learning for children her age.

Naomi, age ten, began our tutoring program totally apathetic about reading and writing. She was clear about her reluctance to show any enthusiasm for program activities, and was easily distracted and off task. However, slowly and surely, thanks to her repeated pairing with a particularly engaging youth tutor, Naomi began to take pleasure in the act of reading for its own sake. She realized there is a whole world of books in our program library she could connect with on a personal level. We quickly saw that these connections were a spark that helped Naomi to move from short picture books to increasingly complex chapter books. Naomi also comes from a difficult family situation, and told me she felt very welcome and comfortable in the program. Towards the end, she even started coming for tutoring every single day!



**How You Can Help**

- Tutors for elementary-aged children
- Board members
- Volunteers for summer sports programs (soccer or cycling)
- Children-youth sized bicycles

