

# Families Forward Resource Center

**Vision**

Safe, healthy and prosperous communities in northeast Denver and north Aurora.

**Mission**

Strengthen and enrich families in northeast Denver and north Aurora through comprehensive family support services and collaborative partnerships.

**1995**  
 Established

Serving  
**Denver, Adams,  
 Arapahoe Counties**

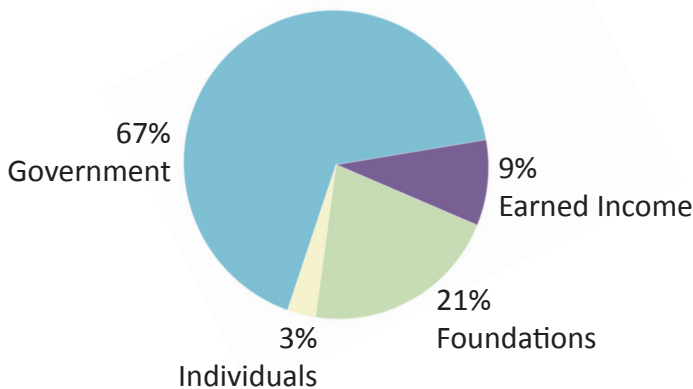
**40**  
 Staff

**\$1,542,135**  
 2017 Budget

**850**  
 families served annually

**501(c)3**  
 Org structure

## Types of Funding



## Key Programs

- Family Advocacy
- Family Leadership Training Institute
- Healthy Babies, Strong Families
- More Black Birthdays Awareness Campaign
- Nurturing Parenting Program
- Summer Enrichment Camp
- Supervised Visitation
- Today's Fathers Program

**Serving Our Community**

Families Forward Resource Center (FFRC) opened as Lowry Family Center in 1995 in response to the closure of the Lowry Air Force Base, which created an economic void in the Denver and Aurora neighborhood surrounding the base. The family center provided family support, workforce development and started a summer camp to support these families. Fast-forward 20 years, and Lowry has changed quite a bit, but the needs of families in the surrounding communities continue. FFRC has offices in north Aurora, and in Denver's Montbello and Green Valley Ranch neighborhoods to continue to serve families.

Skyrocketing housing costs combined with stagnant wages create challenges for many families in these communities, while active refugee re-settlement in the area has resulted in one of the most diverse communities in the State of Colorado. FFRC is a safety net organization for families in "Far" Northeast Denver and Aurora, while also providing a comprehensive array of other wraparound supports including utility assistance, low-cost summer camps, fatherhood education and support, holiday toys and food, and much more.

For families looking to make a difference in the community, FFRC offers the Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI). To combat African American Infant Mortality rates that are 3-5 times higher than Caucasian rates in metro Denver, FFRC offers the Healthy Babies, Strong Families program to support African American families that are pregnant or have children under age 2. Through the Supervised Visitation and Parent Coaching program, parents with children in the child welfare system that have been removed due to child abuse and neglect work with FFRC advocates on parenting skills and positive parent-child interactions in order to successfully reunify with their children.

Highlights

Highlights from 2017 include:

- Awarded the Ascend Nonprofit of the Year Award from the Denver Black Chamber of Commerce
- Awarded the Mayor's Award for Diversity and Inclusiveness from the City and County of Denver
- FFRC Director of Programs Ron Allen received the My Brother's Keeper award from the Denver Mayor's Office of Children's Affairs

Family Success Story



Tony and his son Peter were successfully reunited as a result of Tony's participation in the Today's Fathers program. Tony was referred to FFRC by a local childcare center because of difficulties he was having as an outspoken Native American male, with the local county child welfare department while Peter was in foster care. FFRC supported Tony with some basic fatherhood education and systems navigation. The family advocate attended court with Tony and sat in on some of the staffings with the county caseworkers to ensure that Tony was treated without any cultural or gender bias. FFRC connected Tony to a Native American therapist at the Denver Indian Family Resource Center, who helped Tony identify and understand some of the systemic issues he was experiencing while also vouching for Tony's ability to control his anger and emotions as these were cited by the county as reasons to delay reunification.

After 13 months, Peter was reunified with Tony. FFRC assisted Tony in enrolling in the Child Care Assistance Program and continues to support the father and son with other needs that arise.



**How You Can Help**

FFRC thrives on donations from the community. In-kind support including baby gear, baby clothes, new diapers, event tickets, office supplies, and more, all help support families in our community. Cash donations provide flexible support for programs and services that families need that are not covered under grants or contracts.

