




2025 ANNUAL REPORT

720-975-0147 

auroracommunityconnection.com 

TABLE OF
CONTENTS



3	Message from Leadership
4	Financial Summary
5	Community Leadership
6	Education
8	Physical Wellness Programs
9	Health & Family Services
13	Young Adult Programs
14	Workshops and Community Events
16	Community Engagement and Outreach
17	Closing Remarks

Message from Leadership

Dear friends, families and supporters,

Reflecting on this past year, we are reminded of the resilience and dedication that live within our community. Even in the face of challenges, there has been a steady sense of hope, driven by people who care deeply and act with purpose. We have seen moments of growth, connection, and perseverance that speak to the heart of who we are and what we strive to build.

Our work continues to be rooted in listening and responding, ensuring that programs reflect the voices, strengths, and aspirations of our community members. This year, our Education programs reached more families and individuals across Aurora, with a total of 291 participants across seven programs, including Tutoring, Summer Camp, Citizenship classes, and our newly implemented Nurturing Parenting Program. Each effort reflects our ongoing commitment to meeting people where they are and walking alongside them as they move toward their goals.

Our Family Services Department also made meaningful strides in connecting community members to critical health and wellness resources, supporting over 2,100 individuals through scheduled appointments, enrollment assistance, health fairs, workshops, and wellness events, helping them navigate systems of care that are often complex. We also took an important step forward by beginning to offer one-on-one counseling sessions in partnership with El Consultorio, expanding our support for the overall well-being of our community.

Our volunteers remained a steady source of energy, support, and compassion, contributing 756 hours to community events, programs, and outreach efforts. Their dedication, alongside the support of our partners and donors, has allowed us to continue expanding access to opportunities that strengthen both individuals and families.

While the numbers tell part of the story, it is the sense of connection, trust, and community that truly defines this year. We are honored to do this work alongside such a dedicated and caring community.

Thank you for being part of our community and for your continued belief in our mission.

Cheers!

Chris Gattegno, Executive Director
on behalf of Staff, Volunteers, ACC Leadership, and the Board of Directors

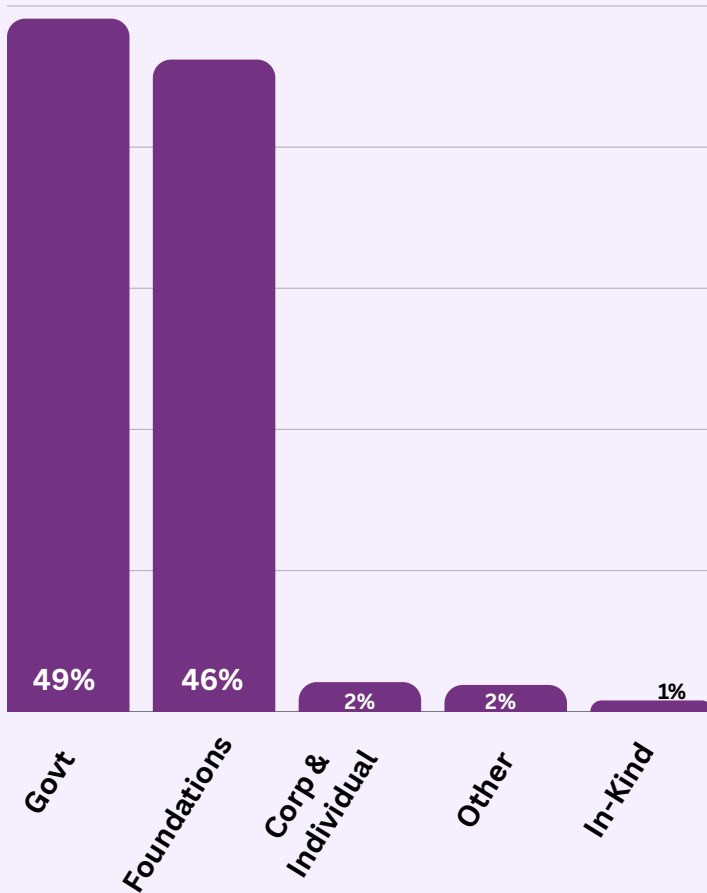


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

\$923,025

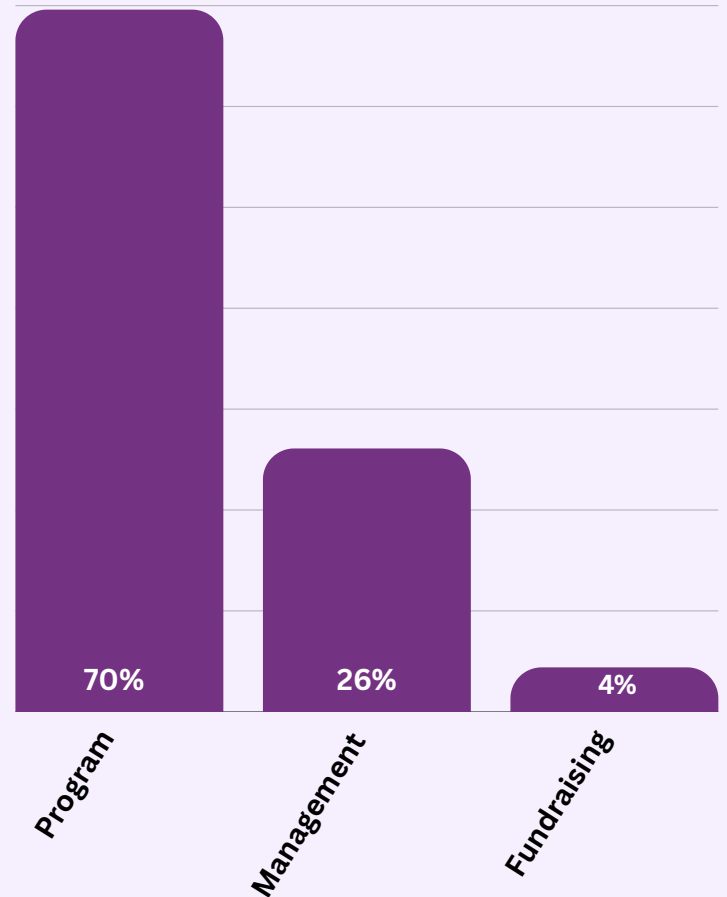
● Revenue



EXPENSES

\$932,755

● Expenses



MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS & FUNDERS

- Tony Grampas Youth Services
- Connect for Health Colorado
- Colorado Health Foundation
- Caring for Colorado Foundation
- Colorado Department of Early Childhood
- Anschutz Foundation
- Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
- The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
- Hunger Free Colorado
- Denver Broncos Foundation
- AidKit
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Denver Foundation
- Anschutz Family Foundation
- Mabel Y Hughes Charitable Trust
- Adams County
- Virginia Hill Foundation

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

ADULT COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

- Lety Palomino
- Jim Lara
- Araceli Suarez
- Noemi Ojendiz
- Susana Martinez
- Walter Ramos
- Veronica Ramos
- Gisela Castillo-Lopez



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Chair: DeAnna Caudillo
- Vice-Chair: Katie Goldman
- Treasurer: Carlos Pullas
- Secretary: Laura Villalpando
- Past Chair & at large Officer: Razz Cortes Maceda
- Board Member: Katia Birge
- Board Member: Susy Osorio-Kinsky

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC TUTORING

This year, we had a total of 64 participants in our Academic Tutoring Program, receiving individualized support in literacy and math. By the end of 2025, 100% of students demonstrated growth to a proficient level in at least one academic area, reflecting the strength of our targeted instruction and consistent progress monitoring.

Tutors provided personalized guidance and encouragement in a supportive and engaging environment, helping students build both academic skills and confidence. This year's results highlight the powerful impact of focused and high-quality support.



SUMMER CAMP

Our Summer Camp served 67 participants in 2025, offering a balance of academic support, enrichment and fun. Students took part in structured learning and hands-on activities that built their confidence, encouraged teamwork and kept them engaged over the summer. The group also enjoyed five field trips, including a visit to Dinosaur Ridge. These field trips added memorable, real-world experiences to their learning. Counselors strengthened their skills through professional development while also fostering a fun and collaborative work environment.



ESCUELITA SUMMER CAMP

In summer 2025, ACC offered its early childhood summer program, serving children ages 2 ½- 5 through an 8-week experience centered on play, exploration, and early learning. Children were introduced to classroom routines through hands-on activities, storytelling, music and social play, building a strong foundation in social-emotional skills, language and early literacy.

This joyful, relationship-centered program helped shape and strengthen our year-round preschool approach. Building on its success, these early learning experiences will now be fully integrated into our broader Summer Camp programming beginning in 2026.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

CONT.

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

In 2025, 36 participants enrolled in our Citizenship classes, with three program cycles offered in response to a growing demand. Classes were held on both Thursdays and Saturdays, increasing accessibility for participants.

Through the program, participants built knowledge and confidence as they prepared for the citizenship exam, reporting a stronger understanding of the process, application requirements, and civics content. In partnership with an Immigration Law Firm, participants also received free legal guidance to support them through their journey.

NURTURING PARENTING PROGRAM

In the fall of 2025, ACC launched the Nurturing Parenting Program with a total of 7 participants! The program supports caregivers by strengthening parenting skills, confidence, and family relationships. NPP plays a key role in reinforcing protective factors for families and strengthening overall family stability.



CITIZENSHIP classes

Classes start March, 14th 2026

- 13-week course
- N400 application support included in the price

\$65.00

Classes available:
Saturday 10am-12pm

LEGAL SESSION WITH A LAWYER
*included in price

The classes will be taught in English. Scan the QR code to be added.

TO REGISTER →



For more information
720-975-0147



LA FILOSOFÍA Y LAS PRÁCTICAS DE LA CRIANZA CON CARIÑO

Vengan a aprender a ser padres cariñosos

Actividades principales:

- Aprender las ideas y los métodos del Programa CCC.
- Aprender las características de la personalidad y cómo se relacionan con el papel de ser padre y madre.
- Disfrutar de la compañía de otros padres.

Para más información:
720-251-2800
emily.juarez-kim@auroracc.org

Regístrate con este Código de QR



Visite nuestro sitio Web:
www.nurturingparenting.com

SOCCER PROGRAM

In 2025, 31 youth participated in ACC's Soccer Program, offered in collaboration with Soccer City. Together, we supported two teams across two full seasons, creating opportunities for youth to stay active, build positive peer relationships and remain connected to ACC. The program's success is clear as families continue to ask for more leagues.



BALLET FOLKLÓRICO

In 2025, 15 participants took part in our folklórico dance program, offered in collaboration with Ballet Folklórico Patria Mexicana. Led by dedicated instructors, the program continued to support advanced youth dancers while expanding to include biweekly Saturday workshops for both youth and adults.

Participants built their skills while celebrating cultural pride in a welcoming, all-levels environment, and performed at events across the Denver metro area and beyond, bringing their learning to a broader community.



HEALTH & FAMILY WELLNESS



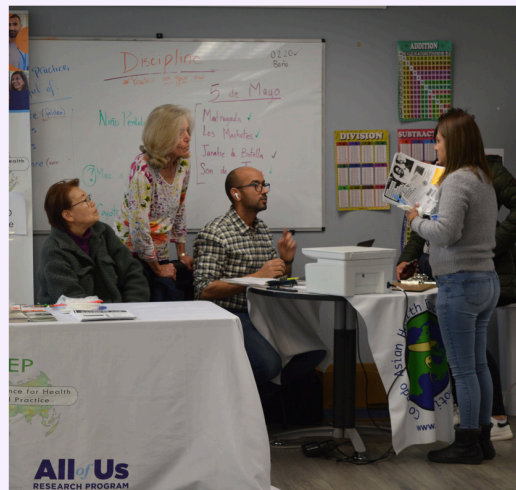
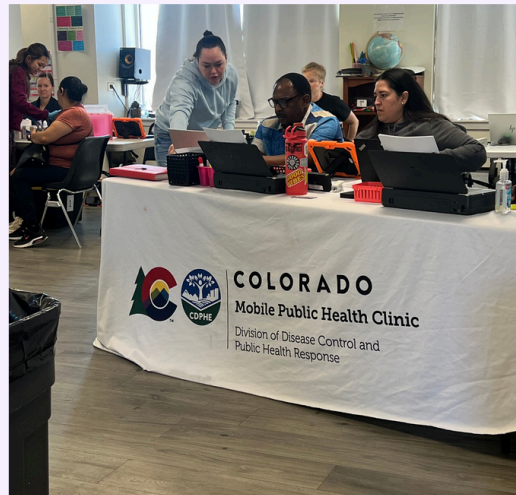
We're proud to share the continued impact of our health and mental health programs this year. In 2025, we supported over 2,100 community members through scheduled appointments, enrollment assistance, health fairs, workshops, and wellness events. Our team helped 150 individuals enroll in Qualified Health Plans, connected 60 community members to OmniSalud coverage, and assisted over 500 people with Medicaid enrollment. In addition, 670 individuals received support accessing SNAP benefits. Through these efforts, we remain committed to expanding access to care, strengthening community wellness, and ensuring families have the resources they need to thrive.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELLNESS

HEALTH FAIRS

Local Health Departments, in collaboration with Aurora Community Connection, hosted and participated in several health fairs and preventive care events to improve access to vaccines, vision care, and general wellness services.

- May 31 – Health Fair: 55 adults received vaccines
- June 15 – Vaccination Event: 44 COVID-19 and adult vaccines administered
- August 16 – Vision Fair: 139 people received eye exams and glasses
- November 13 – Vaccination Event: 30 vaccines administered



HEALTH & FAMILY WELLNESS

TALKING CIRCLES

In 2025, STRIDE Del Mar and Aurora Community Connection hosted two Talking Circles cohorts focused on emotional wellness, peer support, and community connection. With a total of 26 participants, each cohort consisted of a structured 6-session series held every two weeks, and was facilitated by a member of our Community Advisory Board (now current staff member). Demand exceeded available capacity, demonstrating a strong need for continued and expanded programming.

Participants reported reduced social isolation, increased emotional support, and the development of strong peer relationships throughout the series. The program also demonstrated strong cultural relevance and trauma-informed facilitation.



PUBLIC HEALTH ACCESS NAVIGATION

Throughout 2025, our Health Access team provided public health access navigation through one-on-one appointments and enrollment assistance, helping community members connect to essential healthcare coverage and nutrition benefits.

- Scheduled individuals served: 1,388 people
- Qualified Health Plan (QHP) enrollments: 150 people
- Colorado Connect OmniSalud enrollments: 60 people
- Medicaid enrollments: 508 people
- SNAP enrollments: 670 people

HEALTH & FAMILY WELLNESS

LAUNCH OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

In 2025, Aurora Community Connection launched a partnership with El Consultorio to offer one-on-one counseling sessions. This partnership is dedicated to expanding access to mental health care for families by providing bilingual services for children, teens, and adults. El Consultorio is made up of licensed and highly trained bilingual clinicians who support individuals, couples, and families through therapy that respects culture, language, and lived experience. Their work is grounded in culturally responsive and affirming practices, empowering clients as they navigate challenges such as anxiety, depression, trauma, family conflict, relationship concerns, and immigration-related hardships.



MEDITATION WORKSHOPS

During 2025, Aurora Community Connection offered a five-session meditation series to support mental wellness and stress management. Held between October and December, the series engaged a total of 13 participants, providing space to build mindfulness practices and promote overall well-being.



YOUTH SPARK

SERVICE - PASSION - ACTION - REFLECTION - KNOWLEDGE

Aurora Community Connection launched Youth SPARK, evolving from the former Youth Advisory Board into a refreshed youth leadership and service program. Youth SPARK aims to empower local teens through hands-on learning and community volunteering, centering youth voice and creating a supportive space where participants build meaningful relationships, develop practical skills and take action on issues important to them. Through their involvement, youth contribute to projects that strengthen a more connected and resilient community.



AURORA RISE

In 2025, we secured funding for a new youth leadership program, Aurora RISE, set to launch in January 2026. During 2025, the program manager held sessions with local youth that helped develop a comprehensive leadership curriculum grounded in youth voice, agency, and community connection.

The funding process was highly competitive, and youth played a central role in the program's success. Young leaders co-designed key elements of the program and led the grant interview with our funder. Their leadership was instrumental in securing funding and reflects our commitment to authentic youth partnership and shared decision-making.

WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Medicare Education

In October, 15 community members attended a Medicare workshop to learn about coverage options available, along with receiving enrollment guidance.



Health & Wellness Day

In May, 35 community members participated in a full-day Health and Wellness event that focused on physical health, mental well-being and connecting with local resources.

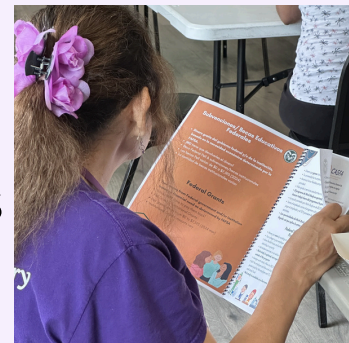
HOLA College Readiness Workshop

In partnership with Arapahoe Community College, Aurora Community Connection hosted HOLA, a college readiness workshop focused on supporting youth and parents as they explore pathways to college, admissions, financial aid and much more.



STEM Activities with CU Anschutz Scientists

During summer camp, scientists from the University of Colorado Anschutz Campus joined ACC to lead fun, hands-on STEM activities. Youth explored science through experiments and interactive learning, sparking curiosity, creativity, and excitement about careers in STEM fields.



Early Detection - Paps and Mammograms

In collaboration with Tepeyac Community Health Center, a workshop was hosted to educate about early detection and how to receive low cost pap smears and mammograms.



WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Breast Cancer Awareness

In collaboration with Spring Institute, ACC hosted a workshop to learn about Breast Cancer, educating about self-exams and warning signs.



Noche Latina (Latin Night)

For National Hispanic Heritage Month, ACC's Community Advisory Board hosted Latin Night, honoring culture, community and connection.



Play-it Forward Annual Fundraiser

In November 2025, Aurora Community Connection hosted its annual fundraiser, Play-it Forward, bringing together community and supporters to raise funds for programs that strengthen our community and support essential services.



Thanksgiving Giveaway

In partnership with St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Village Exchange Center, Aurora Community Connection hosted a Thanksgiving Giveaway, gifting 50 turkeys and 50 chickens, plus accompanying items, to community members.



Christmas Toy and Clothing Giveaway

Thanks to a toy donation made by AJ Ehrle and clothing donations from our staff and advisory board, ACC hosted a drive for the community serving over 50 community members.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Volunteering

In 2025, 125 volunteers contributed a total of 756 hours, supporting programs, events, and initiatives that strengthen our community.



Outreach Events

The Outreach and Marketing team attended a total of 47 outreach events throughout the year, connecting community members to resources, education and wellness opportunities.

Social Media Engagement

Aurora Community Connection's social media presence continued to grow in 2025, with both Facebook and Instagram showing strong increases in views, interactions, and followers. Highlighted posts included program launches, community celebrations, and staff and volunteer spotlights, helping us reach and engage a wider audience than ever before.

LOOKING AHEAD, TOGETHER

As we look ahead, our commitment remains clear: to expand access, deepen impact and stand alongside our community as needs continue to evolve.

The progress we've made together is only the beginning and has only been possible because of the generosity of those who believe in it. With your continued partnership, we can reach more families, deepen our impact and respond to the evolving needs of our community with care, compassion and purpose.

We invite you to stay connected, whether by giving, volunteering or sharing our work with others. Every action, big or small, helps strengthen the foundation we are building together.

With gratitude and optimism we look forward to the year ahead and all that we will accomplish as a community.

Be a part of what comes next! Support our work through online giving.

1. Make a one-time or monthly donation: Every gift helps to provide education, health and wellness resources that empower and strengthen local families.



2. Colorado Gives 365: If you would like to support us beyond Colorado Gives Day, donations are accepted year-round via our partnership with Community First Foundation as a Colorado nonprofit organization. Creating your own fundraisers on our behalf is fun and easy!



3. King Soopers: Did you know that a portion of your purchases at King Soopers could support our work at ACC? Follow this QR Code to choose ACC as your selected nonprofit!



auroracommunityconnectionco



Aurora Community Connection/
La Conexión Comunitaria de Aurora

**It takes our whole community to support our fundraising efforts.
Thank you for being part of the ACC Team!**

