

Downtown Denver Islamic Center

Rooted in Purpose

Supporting our community with a vision towards a vibrant future.



Investing in the Future of our Community

Founded by immigrants in 2022, the Downtown Denver Islamic Center is an inclusive, welcoming hub for the Islamic community in Denver.

We build bridges through humanitarian programs for refugees, immigrants and low-income neighbors of all faiths and backgrounds.



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*“You are holding the hands of strangers.”
- Food Program Recipient*

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is our honor to welcome you to the pages of our first Annual Report. This milestone is more than a document—it's a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Downtown Denver Islamic Center (DDIC) to be a trusted, dependable and community-centered resource. For the past several years, we have worked to meet the needs of immigrants, refugees and our low-income neighbors by offering vital humanitarian services. From combating food insecurity with nutritious, culturally-responsive programs to fostering meaningful connections, we are rooted in purpose with a vision towards a vibrant future for all people, regardless of faith.



Our goal for this report is to share a glimpse into the roots of our purpose and the heart of our mission, while showcasing the progress we've made, and the future we envision. A future where all members of our community have the opportunity to grow and succeed.

As we reflect on this past year, we are humbled and inspired by the challenges and opportunities we've encountered. We are grateful for the creation of new partnerships with community organizations and foundations that have supported our work and expanded our reach. And throughout, we've found that the expansive needs of vulnerable populations in our community have only deepened our resolve to do more. With the goal to strengthen our current programs and continue to meet the needs of our community, this year we developed a five-year strategic plan to help ensure that DDIC can continue to lift up those seeking refuge in our community.

We take pride in the role we play as a helper—often a lifeline providing essential services with cultural understanding. As we evolve, we aim to facilitate even stronger connections and partnerships to create bridges of support to empower our neighbors. We invite you to join us on this journey.

Together, we will flourish.

Naveed Usman
Board Chairman

Muhammad Kolila
Imam

Our Mission

To empower low-income or vulnerable individuals of the Denver Community through equitable access to direct and collaborative services to support their financial, social, spiritual, and personal needs.

Our Vision

Flourishing families attain independence and self-sufficiency as they contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

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THE ROOTS OF OUR PURPOSE



We are investing in the future of our community by providing essential humanitarian services that meet the immediate and long-term needs of our immigrant, refugee and neighbors in low-income households

In 2024, we focused on strengthening our foundation to better serve our community's immediate and long-term needs. These programs are vested in three pillars of support: Spiritual Support, Food Support and Financial Support.



SPIRITUAL

Masjid Al-Shuhada is a gathering place for a diverse and dynamic community, and we open our doors to all who seek to deepen their connection with the community and Islamic faith.

Daily Prayers

Masjid Al-Shuhada is open daily for prayer, with weekly Jummah prayers on Friday. We welcome roughly 1,000 visitors each week in order to foster a culture of tolerance and understanding.

Community Dinners

Our community dinners are a foundational gathering during Ramadan, and throughout the year. Attended by hundreds of individuals and families, these events not-only offer access to culturally-responsive, nutritious meals, but meaningful community connections and listening opportunities.



FOOD

We offer free, culturally-responsive food for our community year-round.

Food Relief Program

We are proud to support our neighbors, refugees and immigrants who may be experiencing hunger through our Food Relief Program. Food packages are distributed to approximately 100 families on the second Saturday of each month, and weekly during Ramadan. Our program is open to anyone regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.

Food Pantry

DDIC's food pantry is open every day to help provide essential support to those facing food insecurity. It is open to take what people need, when they need it. The pantry stocks culturally-responsive, staple food items and other household goods.



FINANCIAL

DDIC Offers Zakat, or emergency financial assistance, of \$250 per qualified family or \$200 per qualified individual to help meet urgent needs related to housing, utilities and other essential expenses.

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In 2024, DDIC provided more than \$13,000 of Zakat assistance.

OUR COMMUNITY

Individuals and families new to the Denver metro area turn to us for culturally-responsive services. Many come from Africa, South Asia and the Middle East, often fleeing war-torn countries. They may face challenges such as limited English skills, caring for large extended families, or being elderly, disabled or mothers of young children. Despite these obstacles, we are committed to treating them with respect, fostering a sense of personal dignity that builds confidence and promotes self-sufficiency for the future.



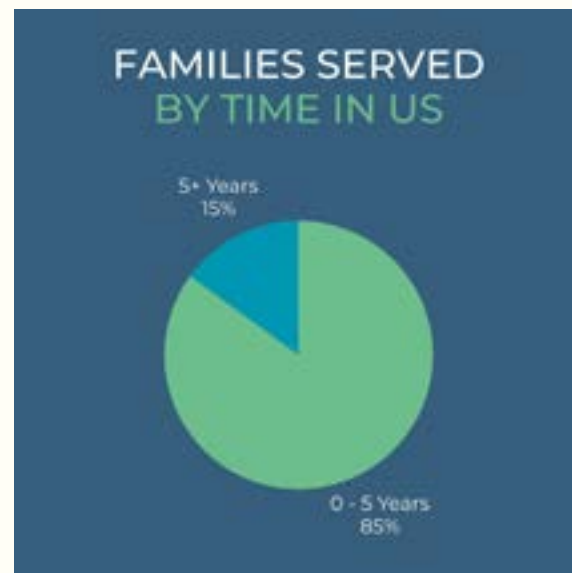
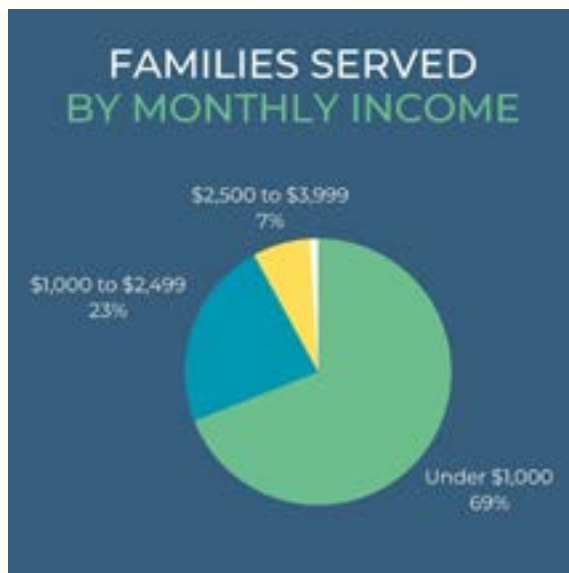
"I am deeply grateful for your food assistance. Thank you for extending a helping hand to us, as we have recently arrived in the United States."

This support means a lot to us. I hope that this assistance program continues for newcomers to the U.S., as it provides the greatest help and cooperation. Once again, thank you very much."

Food Program Recipient



2024 IMPACT



FAMILY NAVIGATION OUTCOMES

- **41** intake interviews and needs assessments
- **30** people provided with **cultural orientation**
- **29** people assisted in obtaining **government identification**
- **24** people provided **interpretation or translation services**
- **10** people moved to **safe, clean, affordable housing**
- **5** kids enrolled in **public school or summer programs**

TOGETHER, WE ACHEIVE MORE THAN WE COULD EVER DO ALONE.

By growing our partnerships and focusing on long-term growth and sustainability, we are strengthening our infrastructure and deepening our community engagement to ensure we are a sustainable and impactful program for years to come.

We are grateful to the following organizations, and several others, who have demonstrated their support and partnership through grant funding. These partnerships are not just collaborations, they are the bonds that amplify our impact. Here are three examples of the partnerships that have, along with several others, made a significant impact on our work and community.



COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION

Support from the Colorado Health Foundation strengthened our organizational capacity to pave the way for our sustainable growth and expanded services. This transformative grant helped us strengthen our infrastructure and deepen our community engagement.

The Colorado Health Foundation helps bring health within reach for all Coloradans by engaging closely with communities across the state through investing, policy advocacy, learning, and capacity building.

HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER KIDS

Thanks to support from the Healthy Food for Denver Kids Commission's Newcomer Micro Grant Program, DDIC is able to expand access to healthy food and food-based education for youth and their families in our community.

With this funding, we'll provide over 2,000 meals to children under 18, and more than 43,000 culturally relevant, nutritious meals through July 2025.

AJL FOUNDATION

DDIC secured additional general operating support from the AJL Foundation, whose mission is to invest in people, programs, and movements that benefit Colorado's youth and families.

This support is helping us implement key humanitarian programs and, in 2024, has specifically allowed us to provide culturally relevant food, family navigation, and cultural integration services for our community members.

COLORADO OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS

DDIC is proud to partner with the Colorado Office of New Americans to be part of a collective, coordinated effort to provide holistic refugee services, including initial resettlement, service navigation, health and mental health support, English Language Acquisition, workforce services, immigration legal services, and youth and older adult services.

ERO FOUNDATION

Thanks to the generous support of the ERO Charitable Foundation, DDIC was able to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to immigrants, refugees, and low-income families in our community.

This support helped us expand access to healthy food options, reinforcing our commitment to holistic, dignified care for every individual we serve.

OUR VISION FOR A VIBRANT FUTURE

Our culturally competent, multi-lingual approach ensures that families receive not only immediate relief but also the tools they need to thrive in the community. With our existing programs as our foundation, we're focused on building stronger connections and partnerships for the future.

Our five-year strategic plan, Flourish 2030, is designed to expand our impact and meet growing demand. Currently, our existing infrastructure limits program capacity, leaving many needs unmet. This plan will guide us in remaining a compassionate advocate while developing a comprehensive range of services to address critical challenges in employment, mental health, education, childcare, and housing.

- Effectively Expand our Programs
- Nurture a Sense of Welcoming Possibility with Empathy and Compassion
- Co-Create Transformative Impact with Individuals, Families and Communities
- Build a Vibrant Community Center
- Invest in Talent, Technology and Infrastructure



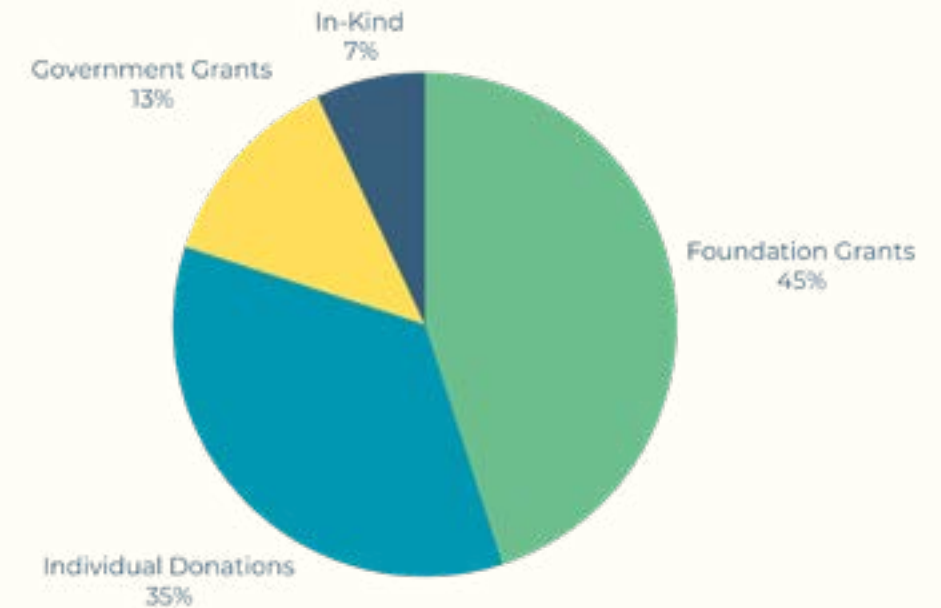
“The Downtown Denver Islamic Center is community, exemplified.”
Jason Hogan
DDIC Volunteer

The demand for our services greatly outpaces our current resources to serve Denver’s growing newcomer population.

2024 FINANCIALS

The Downtown Denver Islamic Center is registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Denver, Colorado.

2024 INCOME: \$ 661,210



2024 EXPENSES: \$ 528,161



Downtown Denver Islamic Center

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