CVC plans to move Safe Outdoor Space at Denver Health

New SOS location will be in Montbello neighborhood

DENVER—Colorado Village Collaborative (CVC) and Denver Health Medical Center jointly announce their plans to close the Safe Outdoor Space (SOS) at 780 Elati St. on the Denver Health campus by the end of the year.

The SOS program provides humane shelter for people needing temporary, emergency housing.

This SOS – the first to be designated Native American-Inclusive with many services provided by Native American partnering agencies – opened at Denver Health in the La Alma Lincoln Park neighborhood early last December. While CVC’s one-year lease ends in early November, Denver Health is providing a two-month extension to accommodate the non-profit’s move timeline.

“Denver Health is proud to have partnered with CVC on hosting an SOS,” said Denver Health CEO Robin Wittenstein. “The partnership provided a good opportunity to connect individuals to shelter and community resources in a safe and dignified way. Denver Health continues to support the goal of helping
people who experience homelessness and will continue our involvement as the SOS program evolves in sites around the city.”

To date, the Native American-Inclusive (NAI) SOS at Denver Health has served 95 people, including 53 Native Americans, providing well over 10,000 nights of safe, dignified shelter. At least 24 residents have moved into longer-term housing. Additionally, more than 300 meals for at least 45 people have been served at the site by 44 volunteers amounting to more than 200 volunteer hours.

“We are so grateful to the leadership and support of Denver Health for opening its campus to our work and supporting us as we served so many people,” said CVC’s Interim CEO Shay-La Romney. “Denver Health has been a wonderful partner and we look forward to continuing our partnership in a way that serves all parties and specifically our unhoused neighbors.”

With the support of the City and County of Denver, CVC is moving the NAI SOS to 4685 Peoria St. in the Montbello neighborhood. This project will be active from Dec. 1, 2022, to Nov. 30, 2023. It will be the eighth SOS built by CVC since the program was launched in 2020 with the support of the Denver Mayor’s office. The city increased funding for the SOS program in 2022.

The SOS program offers an individualized, outdoor sheltering model. In addition to providing people with private sleeping quarters, daily meals, bathrooms, handwashing stations and access to health care and many other services, these sites provide daily wellness screenings, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 vaccinations for our unsheltered neighbors.

In addition to the NAI SOS, CVC manages an SOS at Denver Human Services East in the Clayton neighborhood and co-manages an SOS with St. Francis Center in the Barnum neighborhood. For more information about the SOS program and to learn how you can get involved, visit the SOS program pages at the CVC website.

**Denver Health** is a comprehensive health and hospital system that provides high-quality care for all people, regardless of their ability to pay. We deliver medical care to one-third of Denver’s population, proudly serving as the city’s safety-net hospital and providing preventative, primary and acute care services.

For more than 160 years, Denver Health has been deeply rooted in the health and well-being of the community, providing high-quality clinical care, top-notch education and training for health care workers, and furthering critical research to benefit our patients. We are guided by our mission to serve our community with excellence, compassion, and stewardship as we work to ensure all people have access to the care and programs they need to be happy, healthy and successful. Visit [DenverHealth.org](http://www.denverhealth.org) for more information.

**Colorado Village Collaborative (CVC)** exists to bridge the gap between the streets and stable housing. CVC is working to advance dignified solutions that significantly reduce Denver’s unsheltered homelessness population. Since its founding in 2017, CVC has launched five transformational housing projects, including two Tiny Home Villages and three Safe Outdoor Spaces that have provided more than 77,000 nights of safe, dignified shelter in partnership with people coming from homelessness. Visit [www.coloradovillagecollaborative.org](http://www.coloradovillagecollaborative.org) for more information.

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