

The Mayor's Challenge to Leadership Denver

The Leadership Denver Class of 2017 is comprised of 65 community leaders who are poised to take their community engagement to the next level. Responding to a challenge from Denver's Mayor Michael B. Hancock, the class will identify initiatives to create measurable change on the challenges most pressing in our community.

Timeline:

Announcement: Oct. 7: Mayor Hancock announces the challenge objectives to the Leadership Denver class including a brief discussion of the target issues outlined below.

Team Formation: Week of Oct. 10: Class participants prioritize target issues and are divided into teams. Minimum team size is eight members.

Project Charter: Oct. 17 – Jan. 5: Project teams are established and begin to research the issue, clarify project objectives and complete project statement. Project statement due to Leadership Foundation on Thursday, Jan. 5.

Project Planning: Jan. 6 – June 2: Project teams complete planning process including specific project deliverables, timeframe, challenges and leverage points. Funding and community partnerships are explored.

First Report to Mayor: Friday, June 2: Project teams will present a 10-minute summary of their plan during the final Leadership Denver class day to Mayor Hancock.

Executing: June 2017 – June 2018: Project teams execute on their plans.

Final Reporting: June 2018: Class of 2017 project teams report final outcomes to Mayor Hancock.

Critical Issues:

1. **Affordable Housing** – How do we encourage a vibrant flow of incoming residents while not forcing established residents out of their homes?
2. **Homelessness** – What are unique solutions for homeless families, children, women and those who will not use the existing shelters?
3. **Mobility** – As the region grows, how do we bridge the gap between increased congestion and technological solutions that will be available in the near future?
4. **Race Relations** – What strategies will help alleviate the growing polarity between ethnic groups?
5. **Behavioral Health** (mental illness and substance abuse) – What partnerships would provide a measurable improvement in a state where marijuana is legal?

Notes:

- **Funding:** Teams are expected to partner with an existing organization or identify fundraising options to support their projects. Neither the City of Denver nor the Leadership Foundation are funding sources, though the Leadership Foundation can act as a temporary fiscal agent, if needed.
- **Resources:** On an as-needed basis, the Leadership Foundation can access expertise on metrics, team process, content experts, facilitation, etc., to support the team's progress.
- **Sustainability matters:** Teams should consider the legacy of their projects. Who will continue this work after June 2018?
- **Partnerships:** Working with existing organizations is encouraged. Starting a new nonprofit is strongly discouraged.
- **Scope:** Sometimes small can be incredibly impactful. Your team will determine the parameters for your project.
- **Selection:** On the survey for the October 7 session, you will be asked to identify your first and second choices of the issue you would most like to work on. You will be partnered with seven to 10 other class members who share your interest in the topic. Team assignments will be announced by Oct. 17.