

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM  
#16-2021**

**DATE:** May 10, 2021  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members  
**THROUGH:** Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*  
**FROM:** Rupa Venkatesh, Assistant to the City Manager *RV*  
Becky Smith, Planning Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Homelessness Community Task Force Update

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**PURPOSE**

To provide City Council with an update on the Homelessness Community Task Force (HCTF).

**BACKGROUND**

Since the HCTF started meeting in August 2020, they have worked to reduce the barriers that people experiencing homelessness (PEH) face. Some include lack of transportation, identification, a physical address, housing, and community stigma. Through outreach efforts, regional partnerships and Council support, the HCTF is seeing progress.

**Outreach Efforts**

The Community Resource Navigator (CRN) continues to receive referrals through the Police Department, Judge Amanda Bailhache, community partners such as Immaculate Heart of Mary Food Bank, and self-referrals during resource office hours on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. The resource office hours take place on the lower level of City Hall, through the northwest entrance.

In 2021, staff started keeping track of individual interactions to start gaining an understanding of the population served. The interactions by the Police Department are tabulated based on calls for service. The following data is also available in the monthly Police Department reports Council receives.

Month	# of Interactions by CRN	# of Interactions by Police
January 2021	13 (6 individuals)	70
February 2021	29 (16 individuals)	40
March 2021	37 (21 individuals)	60
April 2021	47 (30 individuals)	66

**Regional Partnerships**

- Northglenn is part of the Adams County Built for Zero (BfZ) team. BfZ is a national movement to make homelessness rare, brief, and a one-time occurrence. The current focus of BfZ is veteran homelessness.
- Adams County has provided the opportunity to use a shared storage unit, post office box, RTD transportation passes, and Lyft rides for each municipality. Northglenn is taking advantage of all of these. In addition, they have opportunities for the public to get involved by volunteering through street outreach efforts and donating supplies through Amazon.
- Through Bayaud Enterprises and Adams County Day Works program, Northglenn will start receiving 25 hygiene kits per month to distribute to PEH. This is very much needed as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) does not allow recipients to purchase

hygiene-related products.

- The Municipal Staff Committee on Homelessness includes Northglenn, Adams County, Thornton, Westminster, and Commerce City. The priority areas they have identified include:
  - Public education through a community education series to increase understanding of homelessness and to reduce the stigma, with Adams County as the lead agency
  - Streamline data collected through Colorado Homeless Management Information System, which is a shared database that will further goals to provide resources in an efficient manner and to collect data to inform work and identify gaps
  - Increase capacity for the Severe Weather Activation Plan (SWAP). Adams County reports that over 8,300 nights of homelessness were averted this cold weather season and 59% of users have become homeless in the last year. Attachment 1 contains the SWAP quarterly report from January through March 2021.
- Northglenn has applied for a \$130K, three-year grant through Adams County's Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) opportunity. The grant would allow for Colorado Legal Services (CLS) to provide "boots on the ground" assistance to help Northglenn and Adams County residents apply for their identification. If approved, CLS would also provide a representative to support the resource office hours on Fridays.

### **Council Action**

- Staff continues to work with the Colorado Safe Parking Lots Initiative to identify potential partners in Northglenn.
- Staff continues to work with Adams County to identify a potential regional navigator center, safe outdoor spaces, and tiny homes.
- \$425 has been allocated for 150 RTD passes to connect PEH to resources. So far, \$56 has been spent for 40 passes. Staff will continue to use Adams County resources first before spending from this allocation.
- Allocation of \$10,000 towards an Adams County Intergovernmental Agreement for the SWAP program, approved on April 12, 2021

### **Council Opportunities**

#### **Grocery Cards**

HCTF has identified a gap in services as it relates to food access. Staff recommends purchasing 12 \$20 gift cards, totaling \$240. These will be distributed only to those who need access to food during times other resources are not available. These could include the gap in time for when their electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card arrives or if food banks are closed by the time they are able to get to shelter.

#### **Building Code Amendment**

With the COVID-19 pandemic, shelters and the Cold Weather Care Network were severely hampered in their capacities to provide resources for PEH during severe cold weather last year. In 2020 and 2021, the SWAP program was the only significant resource in Adams County and the pandemic encouraged hotels and motels to participate due to their large number of vacancies. However, as Adams County moves out of the pandemic, there may not be those vacancies.

To help address this issue, the City and County of Broomfield has amended its building code to exempt places of religious worship from certain requirements to allow for overnight housing during the cold weather season of Oct. 1 to May 1. Staff recommends Council consider a similar amendment. In addition, staff would require any places of worship to apply for a Special Use Permit that would trigger notification to surrounding neighbors.

### **Community Involvement**

If members of the community would like to get involved in Task Force efforts, they may visit [www.northglenn.org/homelessness](http://www.northglenn.org/homelessness). Community members will be able to:

- Find a printable list of resources that is provided to PEH in Northglenn
- Link to resources provided by Adams County
- Donate to Adams County street outreach efforts through Amazon. When a need is identified in a municipality, staff can access the shared storage space to distribute the items to the PEH.
- Find information on upcoming quarterly HCTF meetings
- Provide feedback on HCTF efforts

### **BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS**

Staff is requesting Council support of \$240 which would come from the General Fund. If Council recommends staff move forward with the building code amendment, it will be brought back in the next few months.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends City Council provide feedback.

### **STAFF REFERENCE**

If Council members have any questions, please contact Rupa Venkatesh, Assistant to the City Manager, at [rvenkatesh@northglenn.org](mailto:rvenkatesh@northglenn.org) or 720.376.8069.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. SWAP Quarterly Report (January through March 2021)
2. Presentation

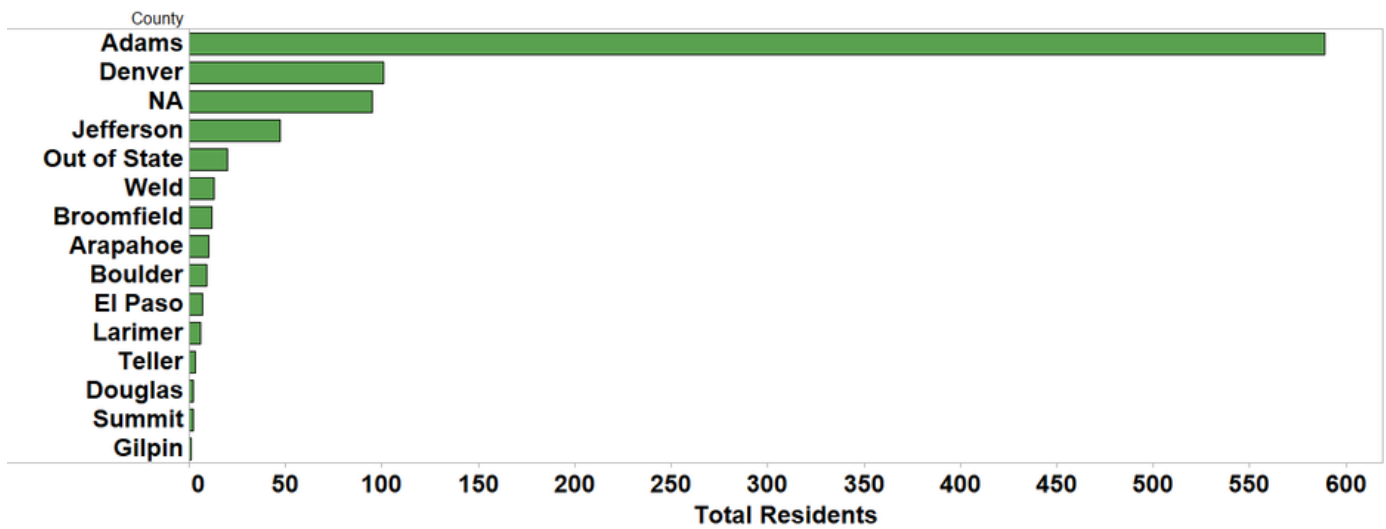
# SEVERE WEATHER ACTIVATION PLAN

QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY - MARCH 2021

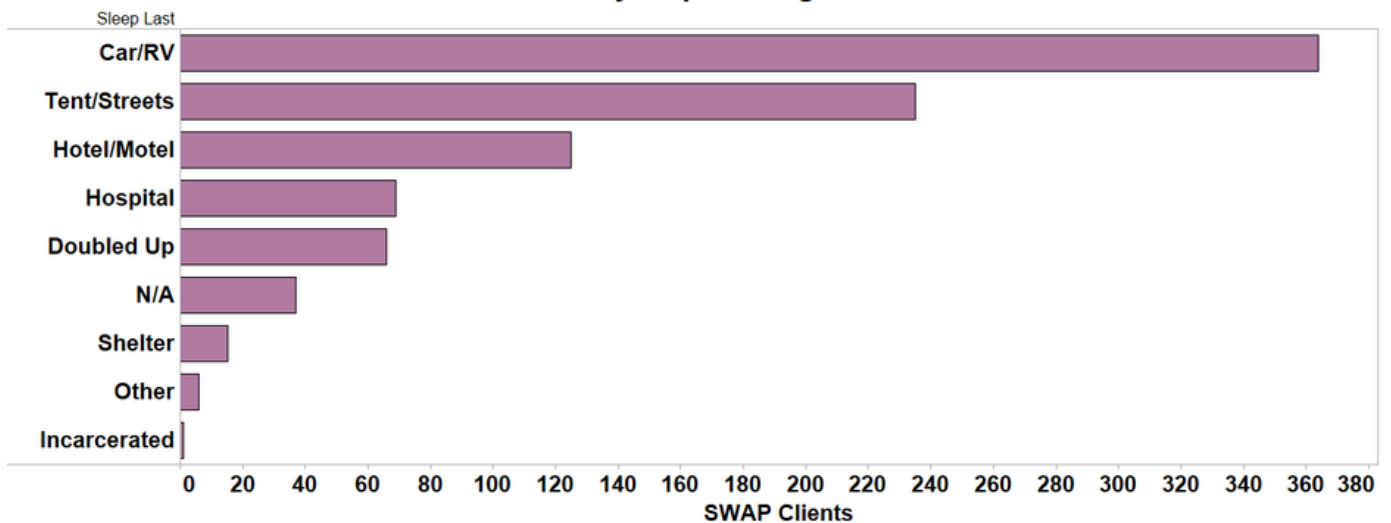


# NOTABLE DATA

County of Last Permanent Residence

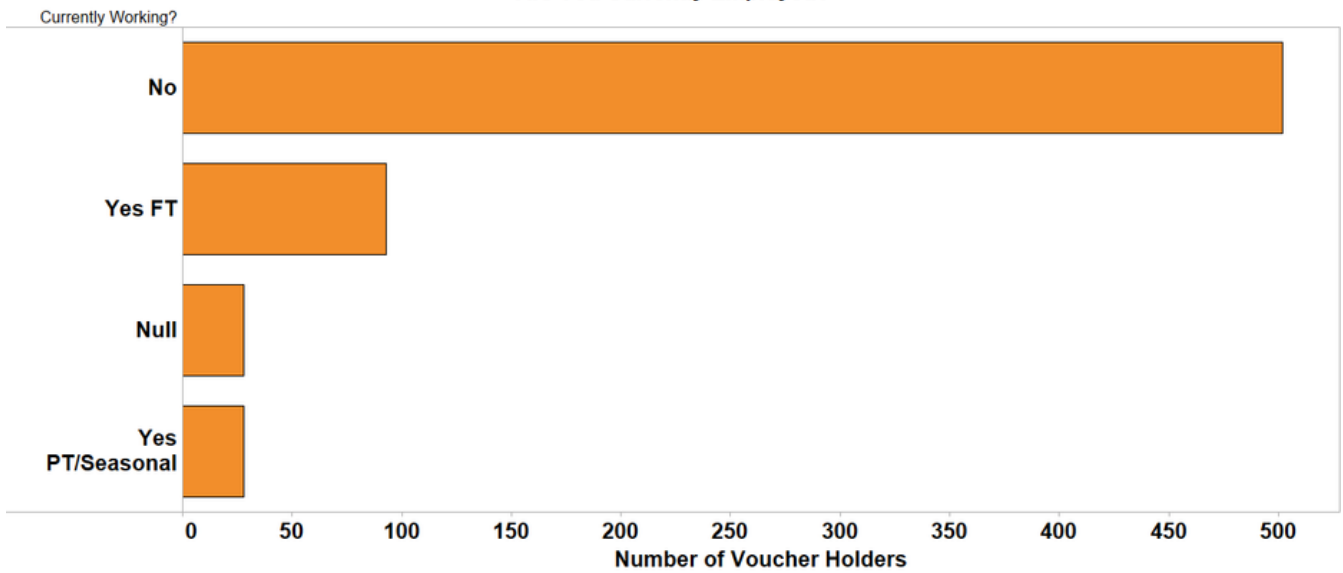


SWAP Clients by Where They Slept the Night Prior

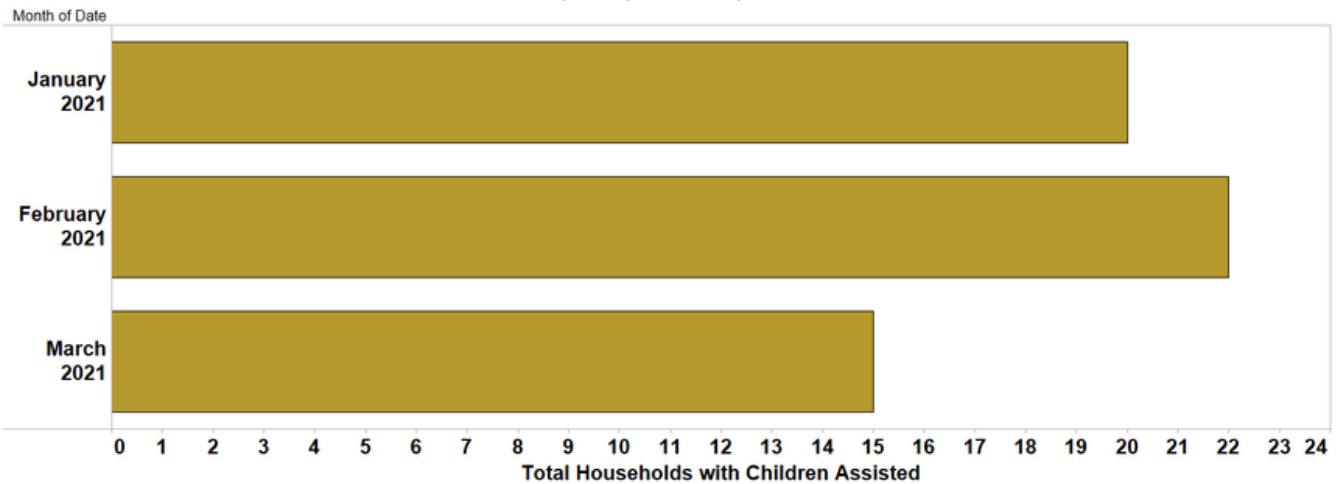


# NOTABLE DATA

### Are You Currently Employed?

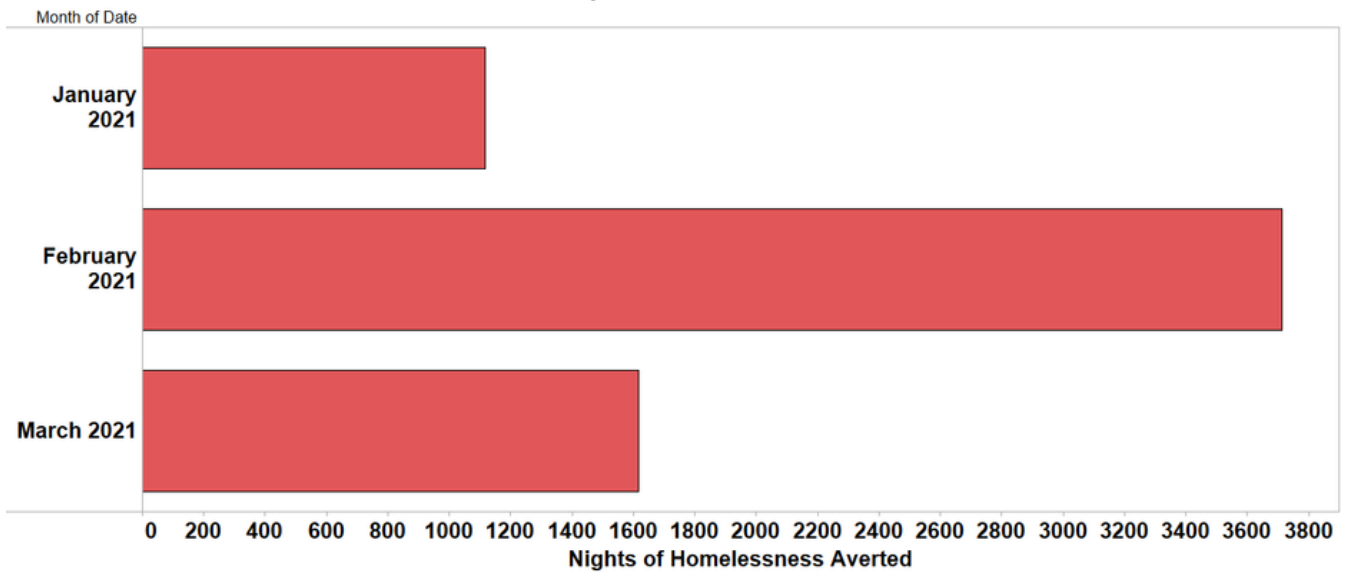


### Households with Children Temporarily Housed by Month

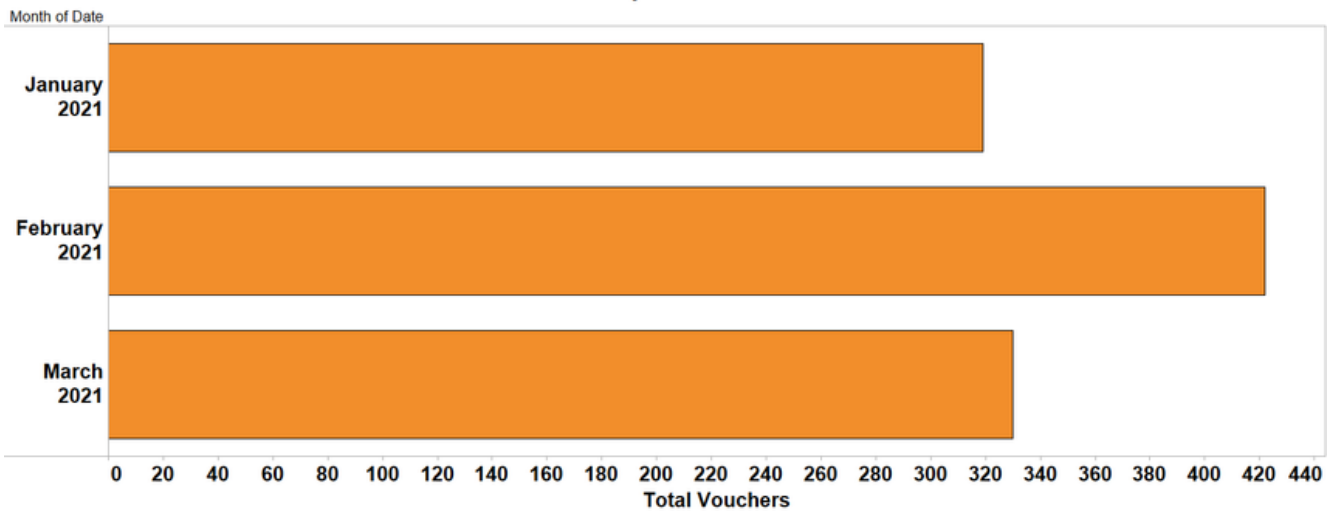


# NOTABLE DATA

**Nights of Homelessness Averted by Activation Date**

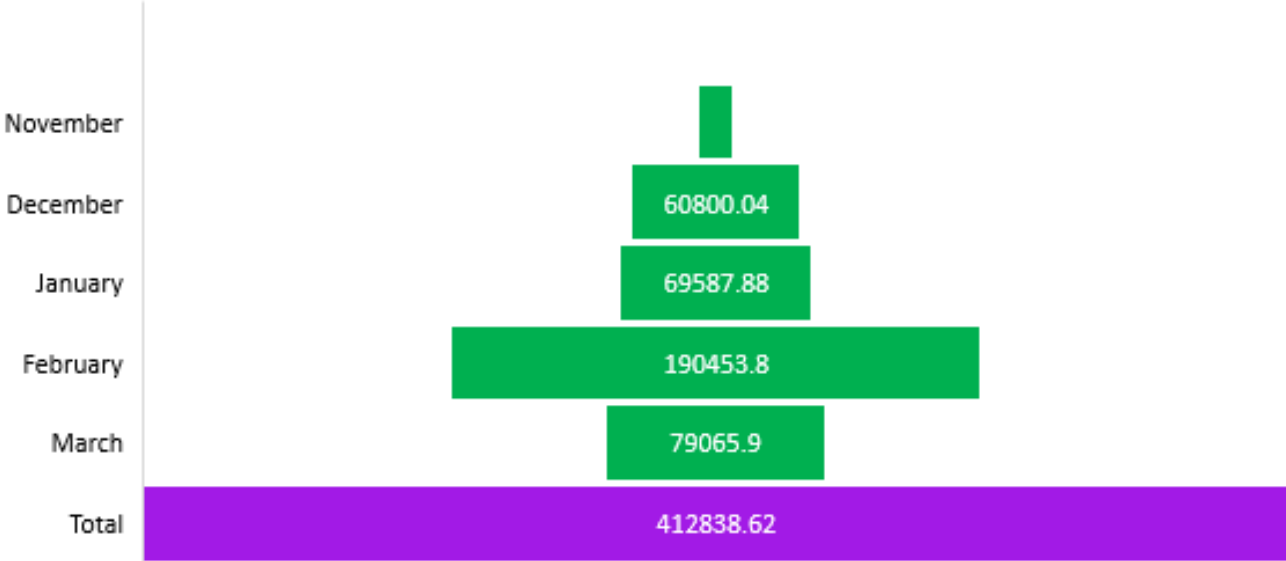


**Vouchers Distributed by Month**



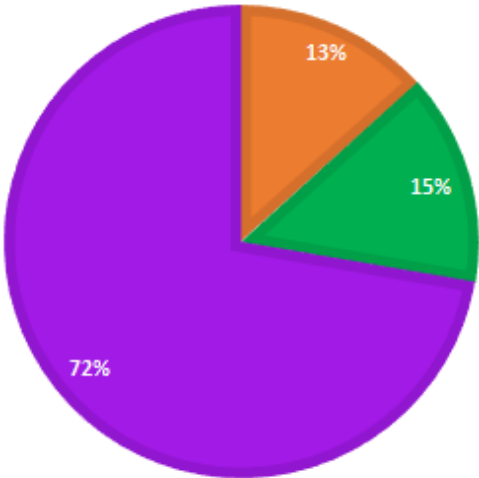
# FINANCIAL UPDATE

### SWAP Expenses By Month 2020-2021



### SWAP FUNDING BREAKDOWN NOVEMBER-MARCH 2020-2021

■ Municipal Contributions   ■ Emergency Solutions Grant   ■ Adams County





# ***HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY TASK FORCE UPDATE***

**Rupa Venkatesh**

*Assistant to the City Manager*

*720.376.8069 | [rvenkatesh@northglenn.org](mailto:rvenkatesh@northglenn.org)*

**Regular Meeting**

*May 10, 2021*



**CITY OF  
Northglenn**

# ***BARRIERS***

- **Identification**
- **Community stigma**
- **Physical address**
- **Transportation**
- **Food access after hours**
- **Housing and shelter**

# ***IDENTIFICATION***

- **Applied for a CDGB-CV grant opportunity through Adams County**
- **\$130K, three-year grant**
- **Colorado Legal Services**

# ***COMMUNITY STIGMA***

- **As part of Municipal Staff on Homelessness, community stigma identified**
- **Adams County taken lead to put together series of educational videos**

# ***PHYSICAL ADDRESS & TRANSPORTATION***

- **PO Box**
- **RTD passes**
- **Lyft rides**
- **Resource office hours**
- **Research on regional navigation center**

## **Other:**

- **Shared storage unit**
- **Hygiene kits**

# ***FOOD ACCESS***

- **Outside of food bank operating hours, PEH have issues accessing food, especially if they do not have SNAP benefits yet**
- **Difficulties with access when SWAP activated**
- ***Request for \$240 to purchase 12 \$20 gift cards***

# ***HOUSING AND SHELTER***

- **Research and collaboration continues for:**
  - **Safe parking lots**
  - **Safe outdoor spaces**
  - **Tiny homes**
- **\$10,000 approved to SWAP via IGA with Adams County on April 12, 2021**
- ***Building code amendment***

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# ***HOW COMMUNITY CAN GET INVOLVED***

- **Visit Northglenn Homelessness Community Task Force web page to learn about:**
  - **List of resources provided to PEH**
  - **Link to Adams County resources**
  - **Donate to Adams County street outreach efforts via Amazon**
  - **Upcoming quarterly meeting dates**
  - **Provide feedback on task force efforts**

**[www.northglenn.org/homelessness](http://www.northglenn.org/homelessness)**

# QUESTIONS?

**Rupa Venkatesh**

*Assistant to the City Manager*

*720.376.8069 | [rvenkatesh@northglenn.org](mailto:rvenkatesh@northglenn.org)*

**Regular Meeting**

*May 10, 2021*



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