

City Innovation Snapshot | Denver, United States

Overview

- ▶ Mayor: Michael Hancock
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: David Edinger
- ▶ Population of municipality: 693,060 (2016)
- ▶ Innovation/open data website: www.denvergov.org/opendata

Spotlight on Denver | Enterprise Data Management system

Denver's Smart City program has focused on building [the Enterprise Data Management system](#) through four key principals: **local control**, **open source**, **federal standards-based**, and **interoperability**.

Vision and approach to innovation capacity

The city's innovation strategy

Along with 44% of cities surveyed, Denver has an **explicit innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with the following terms:

Experimentation

Behavioural economics

Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to 40% of cities surveyed, Denver approaches innovation capacity **both** from a **holistic/macro level**, as well as in **specific policy areas**.

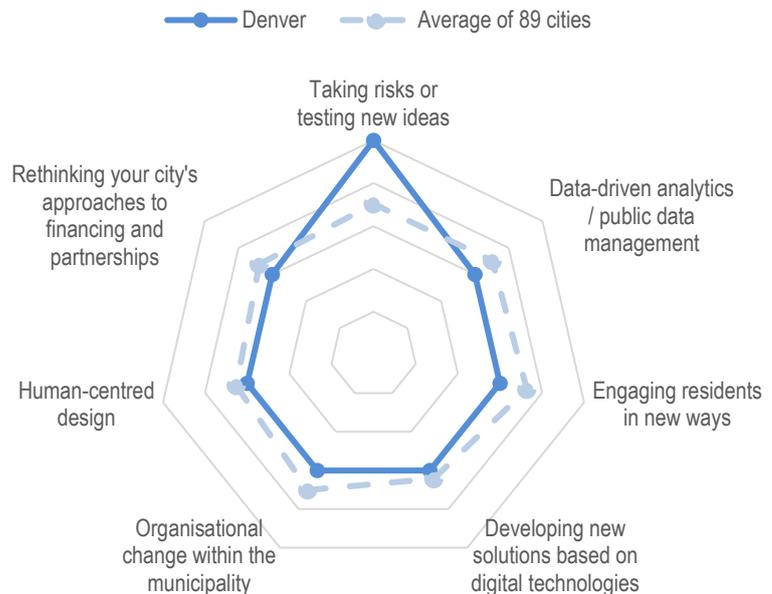
The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Economic development

Transport / mobility

Most common innovation activities

Denver's most common innovation activity is **taking risks and testing new ideas**. Its innovation activities sometimes include **data analytics**; **engaging residents in new ways**; **developing new solutions based on digital technologies**; **facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration**; **human-centred design**; and **rethinking the city's approach to financing and partnerships**.



Funding for innovation capacity	
<p>Funding to support innovation capacity</p> <p>Like 77% of cities surveyed, Denver has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which originates from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Municipal budget (city council approved funds/operating budget) 	<p>Types of activities being funded</p> <p>Denver's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards launching or sustaining a project, and generating ideas & brainstorming. These are the two most commonly funded activities among all cities surveyed. Denver also invests in digital systems and physical infrastructure as well as paying for service to a third party.</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p>Launching or sustaining a project</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p>Idea generation & brainstorming</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; width: 30%; text-align: center;"> <p>Investing in digital systems</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; width: 30%; text-align: center;"> <p>Investing in physical infrastructure</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; width: 30%; text-align: center;"> <p>Paying for services</p> </div> </div>

Organisational structure & staffing	Partnerships for innovation & data
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p>Situated in the Technology Services and Budget and Management Office, Denver's Chief Information Officer, leads Peak Academy staff of 9 and Technology Services staff of 330.</p> </div> <p>Staff skills and profiles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project manager ✓ Data scientist ✓ Engineer ✓ Communication officer ✓ Community engagement staff 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p>Denver has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with other public agencies and not-for-profit organisations.</p> </div>

Measuring outcomes																
<p>Policy areas that benefit from sufficient data, or lack sufficient data, to support innovation capacity in the city:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: separate; border-spacing: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Transport / mobility</td> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Economic development</td> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Housing & built environment</td> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Policing & law enforcement</td> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Health</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Water</td> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Waste and sewage</td> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Labour markets & skills</td> <td style="background-color: #c0392b; color: white; padding: 5px;">Environment & climate change</td> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Education</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c0392b; color: white; padding: 5px;">Culture</td> <td style="background-color: #c0392b; color: white; padding: 5px;">Social inclusion, equity</td> <td style="background-color: #95a5a6; color: white; padding: 5px;">Public works</td> <td style="background-color: #c0392b; color: white; padding: 5px;">Tourism</td> <td style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px;">Digital governance</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.</i></p>	Transport / mobility	Economic development	Housing & built environment	Policing & law enforcement	Health	Water	Waste and sewage	Labour markets & skills	Environment & climate change	Education	Culture	Social inclusion, equity	Public works	Tourism	Digital governance	<p>Innovation is helping the city to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Simplify administrative procedures for firms and residents ✓ Anticipate and manage future challenges ✓ Improve internal government operations <p>The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dedicated funding ✓ Focus on measurement ✓ Dedicated innovation team ✓ Leadership from Mayor ✓ Culture of innovation in city
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