



## City Innovation Snapshot DENVER, Colorado, USA

### Overview

- ▶ **Mayor:** Michael Hancock
- ▶ **Term:** 2011-2022
- ▶ **Innovation Lead:** Melissa Wiley
- ▶ **Population size:** 716 492 (2018)
- ▶ **Innovation / open data website:**  
[www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/mayors-office/programs-initiatives/peak-performance/peak-academy.html](http://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/mayors-office/programs-initiatives/peak-performance/peak-academy.html)

### What is the organisational structure?

Situated within the Finance Department, Denver's dedicated innovation team consists of **8 staff**.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- Project Manager
- Data Scientist



### Spotlight | Denver Peak Academy

Created in 2012, Denver's Peak Academy system of training public sector employees in how to imagine and execute change has been embraced across the United States. As an early adopter of systems that reframe how local government can interact with and serve constituents, Denver has produced numerous breakthrough projects that improve service delivery while creating a return on investment. Its Peak Academy training system has helped the city institutionalise a culture of innovation.

### What is the city's innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Denver has a **formal innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- Experimentation, pilots, and prototyping
- Data analytics

### What is the city's innovation approach?

Similar to more than half of cities surveyed, Denver approaches innovation capacity **both from a holistic / macro level and in specific policy areas**.

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

Public Health

Transport /  
mobility

### What innovation partnerships exist?

Denver has not yet developed partnerships to **promote innovation capacity** or **improve data use** with other entities outside the city administration.



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### What funding is available?

Like 81% of cities surveyed, Denver has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which comes from the following source:

- **Municipal budget** (operating budget)

Denver's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **training staff and building capacity, and investing in digital systems.**



### How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ **Gaining efficiency within the public sector**
- ✓ **Improving service delivery**
- ✓ **Simplifying administrative procedures for firms and residents**

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are **dedicated funding, a focus on metrics, a dedicated innovation team, a culture of innovation within the municipal administration, and leadership from the Mayor.**



### How is data used?

Data plays somewhat of a role in the decision-making and innovation efforts in Denver. The city does not currently use data to align its budget process with its strategic priorities.



### How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas **with sufficient data** or **without sufficient data** to support innovation capacity in the city.

Transport / Mobility	Economic Development	Housing	Policing and Law Enforcement	Health
Government Finance	Waste and Sewage	Labour Market and Skills	Environment and Climate Change	Education
Culture	Social Inclusion, Equity	Public Works	Tourism	Digital Governance