Things Are Working in Metro Denver

#1 Economy
#2 Place to live

PUBLIC		PARTNERSHIP		SENSE OF COMMUNITY, COLLABORATION & PURPOSE
PRIVATE

Top Ranked
But not everyone in our state has been able to access the opportunities we’ve worked so hard to create.
We know there are disparities in our community.

In educational attainment:
- DPS achievement gap between white and Hispanic students is “one of the worst in the country” – 13 points greater than other large cities.
- Attainment Gap
  - 56% of Coloradans have a credential; only 28.8% of Hispanics/Latinxs do.

In economic attainment:
- 8.9% of whites are living below the federal poverty line, compared to 21.1% of Latinxs and 20.2% of blacks.
- 60% of those unemployed are women.
- In 2016, the white unemployment rate in Colorado was 4.1%, compared to 6.2% for Latinxs and 11.2% for blacks.
We know we can do better.
Prosper CO

What is Prosper CO? Our state’s economic success is the envy of much of the nation – although not everybody in Colorado has found a path to the opportunities we work so hard to create. We want to understand why. Prosper CO is a nonpartisan research and communications initiative that is convening the public, private and non-profit sectors to identify and understand the causes for disparity.

• THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN...

For the next hour...let’s dive into a few questions to help us identify and understand some of these causes for disparity

3 Questions...
We want to understand:

➢ Who is being left behind in our economy.
➢ What is preventing them from accessing opportunities.
➢ The cost (of doing nothing vs. doing something).
➢ What we can do to help.
Q1. Have you or your community benefited from higher pay or more good job opportunities in the last five years?

If yes, what were some of the benefits?

If no, what are some of the reasons?
Q2. Please choose three of the top issues below that make it a challenge for you or the people you serve to get a better job or have more money to make ends meet.

- Need an easier or less expensive way to commute from where we live to where we work.
- Do not make enough money to pay our monthly bills.
- Cannot find a good job that provides livable wages and benefits.
- Do not have access to job training or education required for a good job.
- The cost of rent or housing makes it difficult to make ends meet.
- Cannot find or afford child care for our child or children.
- Cannot access support programs or resources, because they are not provided in a preferred language.
- Citizenship or immigration status makes it difficult to seek help.
- Discrimination based on race, gender, age, or some other characteristic in trying to get a job or advance.
- Cannot access or afford health care.
- Other
Q3. Based on your three top issues, what would help your community’s situation? Please identify a strategy that would help solve each issue.
Next steps:
➢ Continued community meetings
➢ Collect data
➢ Issue report
➢ Identify strategies
➢ Get to work! With your help!
Q and A