

Thornton Community Connections

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

Information and Referral - Ongoing during COVID-19

Community members can call our main number when in need of resources. Connections to information on programs and services in the community, and the Denver Metro Area, are provided by our team through our Thornton Cares database powered by United Way 2-1-1. Any resident of the city of Thornton is eligible to receive information; nonresidents are referred to 211.

Contact Community Connections at 720-977- 5800 or Connections@ThorntonCO.gov or contact any Community Connections team member—we're happy to help! You can also visit our website, www.gocot.net/Connections.

Drives - Not being held during COVID-19 (none planned until July 1)

- The city of Thornton hosts three separate drives:
- Random Acts of Kindness - This February drive seeks to encourage Thornton community members to embrace the importance of kindness by donating food to local food banks and pet supplies to give to companion pets of local seniors.
- Food and School Supply Drive - This drive in July and August, just before the start of the back to school season, collects food and school supplies to distribute to local food banks and agencies that distribute school supplies to children and youth in need.
- Mayor's Holiday Food and Sock Drive - This drive that starts right around Thanksgiving, seeks to distribute food for holiday meals and socks to Thornton's homeless community at a time when they are most needed.

Perfect Holiday Gift - not planned until November

The Perfect Holiday Gift program pairs generous donors, who donate gifts and meals, with families in need of a little help during the holiday season. Families in need are added by case managers from local agencies. Eligibility is determined by individual case managers.

Community Gardens – still accepting applications; deadline extended due to crisis

The city of Thornton is home to ten community gardens! All of the Thornton community gardens accept gardeners of all ages and abilities, and they are all open to Thornton residents.

Farmers' Market – still planned for summer

The City of Thornton, in partnership with the Tri-County Health Department, the American Heart Association, and Anythink Libraries, holds a summer farmer's market series at Anythink Huron Street, to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to the neighboring community at an affordable cost. Local artisans and small businesses come to sell their crafts and share information. WIC recipients are eligible for coupons; the farmer accepts SNAP.

Water Assistance Program – still accepting applications; water is not being shut off during this time

The Thornton Water Assistance Program helps low-income individuals and families struggling to pay their water bill. Thornton Water customers and residents living in apartment complexes, manufactured home parks, condominiums and townhomes that receive water through the City of Thornton can apply for the program once per calendar year. Those who meet the program qualifications will receive a credit on their water account.

Program qualifications:

- The person or family must be receiving water through the City of Thornton.
- The person(s) on the water bill must be U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the U.S.
- The water meter at the address must not have been tampered with in the last three years.
- People cannot be receiving financial assistance with rent or mortgage costs from a government or non-profit agency.

- The total household income of everyone living in the house must be 185% of the federal poverty level or less.

Help for Homes – applications still being accepted; only repairs to the outside of home will be made during crisis

This City program helps low-income homeowners in Thornton with minor home repairs, including accessibility modifications, plumbing repairs or electrical repairs.

Program qualifications:

- You must be a legal U.S. resident.
- You must own and live in your home.
- Your home must be located within the Thornton city boundaries.
- You must be current on your mortgage payments or have paid off your mortgage.
- Your assets can only include your primary residence, vehicles, retirement/pension and up to \$10,000 in other assets.
- Total annual household income cannot exceed a certain amount, specified on the application at https://www.thorntonco.gov/community-connections/Documents/grant-resources/2020_Home%20Repair%20Programs%20Application_Fillable.pdf.

Community Development Block Grants – ongoing during COVID-19

Thornton receives Community Development Block Grant funds each year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to use for housing and community development programs or projects that benefit low- and moderate-income residents. Projects may be completed by the City or through partnerships with nonprofits and housing service providers.

Thornton Assistance Funds – ongoing during COVID-19, with modifications

The city of Thornton provides grant funds to assist nonprofit organizations that help Thornton residents meet their basic needs and enhance their ability to be self-sufficient. Basic needs are identified as food, housing, health and medical, or human services. Nonprofit organizations that help people move from relying on private or public assistance to providing for one's own needs is also eligible for funding. A committee of residents reviews the grant applications and makes a recommendation to City Council.