

Let's Library: Investing in People

SDG Reducing Inequalities

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Core Values of Denver Public Library

- Welcoming: Accessible for all, dignity, safe place
- Curiosity: Foster culture of exploration, innovation, forward thinking
- Connection: Foster relationships, build and strengthen community
- Equity: Opportunities for everyone, act for change
- Stewardship: Accountability, responsibility, integrity

Denver Size

- Population 715,522
- 397 square kilometers (153 sq m)

2022 Denver Poverty Statistics

- 11.6% of all people in Denver County, Colorado, live in poverty
 - Age under 18 years - 16%
 - Age 18 to 64 years - 10.4%
 - Age 65 years and over - 11.3%
- 9.7% of all people in Colorado live in poverty

2022 Denver Homeless Statistics

Children (<18)	797
Youth (18-24)	337
Individuals in Families	1246
Chronic Homeless	2573
Veterans	423
Mental Illness	2524
Substance Abuse	1835
Unsheltered	2078
Sheltered	4806
Total	6884

Denver Services to Combat Inequity

- Book Mobile
 - Offers outreach, visits to older adult facilities and schools, provides free books, set up at food bank locations.
- Cultural Inclusivity
 - Career Online High School
 - Cultural Exchange
 - Spanish Services
- Unhoused services
 - In-library social workers
 - Peer navigators
 - Dignity services
- Older Adult Services
 - Memory Cafe/Alzheimer's and Dementia
 - Health & Wellness/Self-Improvement
 - Digital navigators
- Digital Inclusion
 - ideaLAB Workshops
 - Tech Help Appointments
 - Technology Programs

2021 DPL Funding Sources

▪ \$239,266.13 Grants - State & Federal	▪ \$36,807,510.72 Staff Salaries & Expenditures
▪ \$1,898,594.08 Donations, Transfers, Misc.	▪ \$6,065,834.58 Materials
▪ \$45,560,225.12 City General Funds	▪ \$821,905.53 Programs
	▪ \$1,429,569.29 Technology
	▪ \$1,844,843.21 Administration & Other
\$47,698,085.33 Total Revenue	\$46,969,663.33 Total Expenditures

In 2022, Referred Question 2I provided an additional \$32+ million in dedicated funding for the Denver Public Library.

Aarhus Size

- Population 310,000
- 91 sq km (35 sq mi)

Core Values of Dokkl

- The citizen as key factor
- Lifelong learning and community
- Diversity, cooperation and network
- Culture and experiences
- Bridging citizens, technology and knowledge

2022 Denmark Poverty Statistics

Poverty rates range from 7% to 16%. Denmark is among the five countries with the smallest regional disparities in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

2022 Denmark Homeless Statistics

People sleeping rough	732
People staying in emergency night shelters	313
People staying in homeless shelters/hostels	2290
People staying in hotels due to homelessness	191
People staying with family and friends	1630
People staying in short-term transitional housing	121
People homeless following institutional release from prisons	72
People homeless following institutional release from hospitals/treatment facilities	148
Other	380
Not specified	554
Total	6431

Dokkl Services to Combat Inequity

- Citizen Services
 - Immigration help
 - Help with NemID, MitID, health insurance registration
- DokkX
 - Welfare technology services
 - Rehab lab
 - Dementia counseling
- SIRI
 - Reception and integration of new citizens
- Danish lessons and tests for foreigners
- Interventions for vulnerable families
- The employment-oriented integration effort
- Library
 - Social Librarian
 - Democracy fitness
 - Community partnerships
 - Media lab
 - Open Library
 - Open space activities

Dokkl Funding Sources

- 2.3 billion Danish for entire project
- Publicly 1.8 billion Danish for Dokk1 including parking facility
- 1.3 billion Danish funded by Aarhus Municipality



Scan the QR code for full transcripts of interviews and a full list of sources

What does this tell us?

Dokk1 and Denver Public Library are very similar in that both strive to be centers that serve their communities as an equitable space for its citizens and a source of knowledge, connection, and resources.

The main difference between these institutions demonstrated here is their respective levels of **funding**, both to the libraries themselves and to the social support systems around them, and the social outcomes within their respective communities. This illustrates the role that **well-funded social support systems** play in mitigating inequality and success in achieving UN Sustainability Goals 1 and 10.

There is a direct relationship with having well funded social support systems and superior social outcomes. With the United States' overwhelming **lack of social support systems**, its public libraries have taken on the role of supporting many of its citizens' needs in this realm. Fighting homelessness has been a substantial part of this trend, with libraries acting as **defacto shelter** for people without housing as well as resources for them to help improve their situation. With no other emerging solutions to the homelessness epidemic in Denver, Colorado or the United States in general, it makes the most sense to direct our support to already established systems that are already on the front lines fighting this issue.

Denver Public Library is already a well-established resource for those facing homelessness and poverty in its community. In addition to acting as a shelter, it also provides **access to social workers** who are well equipped to connect its patrons with what they need to escape their dire situations. Therefore, it is our conclusion that an increase in funding to Denver Public Library is not only justified, but an obvious path forward towards fighting inequity in Denver.