



2025-2030 Strategic Plan



What's inside...

- History 2
- Priorities 3
- Connections 5
- Health and Wellness..... 6
- Strong Neighborhoods 7
- Thriving Economy 8
- Partners 10-11
- Community Engagement..... 12
- Commitment..... 13



Mission

Enhancing Southeast Colorado Springs from within through resident led change

Vision

Southeast Colorado Springs will be a destination for culture and diversity in our city and a vibrant, connected community that provides opportunities for all to thrive.



Welcome

Dear Friends,

With deep gratitude, we proudly unveil the Resilient, Inspired, Strong, and Engaged (RISE) Southeast Colorado Springs Strategic Plan—a true testament to the extraordinary power of community and the bold aspirations of those who call Southeast Colorado Springs home. This plan reflects a shared vision for a vibrant, connected, and thriving community, shaped by the voices, hopes, and dedicated efforts of our residents and partners.

I am thrilled about the opportunities this plan opens for us all. It reflects years of thoughtful listening, collaboration, and the collective determination to create meaningful change from within. With clear priorities and ambitious goals, this plan is a roadmap to brighter futures, where every resident has the chance to thrive.

This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our community partners, funders, and resident leaders who have believed in the promise of Southeast. Special thanks to the El Pomar Foundation, the Trust for Public Land, and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation for their steadfast support, and to the many organizations and individuals who lent their insights, expertise, and energy to shaping this plan. You inspire us all.

As we take this next step, I invite you to join us. Whether through partnership, advocacy, or simply spreading the word, you are an essential part of this movement.

Together, we can create a Southeast Colorado Springs that is a model for resident-led transformation and a destination for culture, opportunity, and community.

Together, we can build a brighter future for Southeast Colorado Springs. Thank you for being part of this journey.

With sincere appreciation,



Joyce Salazar

Executive Director, RISE Southeast Colorado Springs



Where we've been

As disproportionately impacted communities, 80910 and 80916 face systemic and socioeconomic issues symptomatic of decades-long divestment. As a result, residents of the area have an average median income as much as a third lower compared to the city as a whole. In addition to economic challenges, shelved initiatives that failed to reach completion or projects implemented with little to no community input made Southeast Colorado Springs residents wary of outsiders and skeptical of community development.

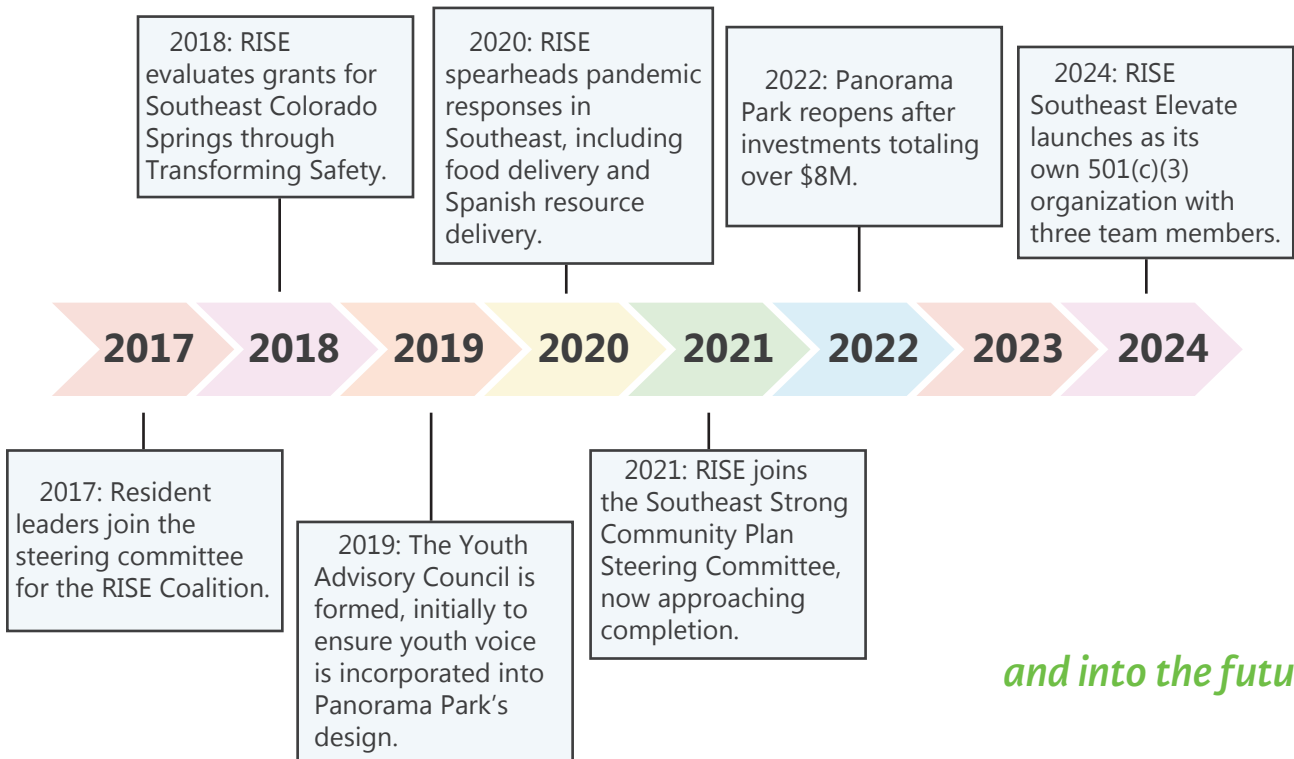
In 2016, El Paso County Public Health received a competitive grant to create the RISE Coalition, an initiative designed to create a cross-sector community coalition interested in working with stakeholders in Southeast. El Pomar's Trustees made a seven-year commitment to help fund the Resilient, Inspired, Strong and Engaged (RISE) Coalition, especially in its resident-led work. RISE aims to enhance Southeast Colorado Springs through resident-led change and utilizes local resources to reduce barriers to success.

As part of the development of RISE, Resident leaders were selected to participate on the steering committee and provide guidance and accountability for the plan's objectives.



Timeline

Between El Pomar's initial grant in 2016 and the strategic analysis released in 2020, RISE Coalition partners have reported leveraging more than \$8 million in funding for the Southeast Colorado Springs community, including opening of facilities for medical care (WIC Clinic, Peak Vista) and services (Family Success Center) and new storytelling publications (Southeast Express).



and into the future...

Strategic Priorities

Connections

RISE will center its efforts on creating connections and collaborative opportunities to improve the quality of life and opportunities for Southeast Colorado Springs.

Health and Wellness

To improve life expectancy outcomes, the coalition will offer resources and opportunities for all areas of wellness and advocate for necessary services.

Strong Neighborhoods

The coalition will foster safety, connectivity, and housing stock in Southeast Colorado Springs neighborhoods through a variety of initiatives.

Thriving Economy

Our vision as a coalition is to increase opportunities and resources for business owners to find success launching in Southeast Colorado Springs.



Connections

Context

With innumerable efforts, partners, and stakeholders committed to improving Southeast Colorado Springs, information doesn't always make its way to the intended audience, including the residents and businesses in Southeast. Further, partnership and collaboration can generate efficiencies and leverage resources for greater impact. In addition to creating connections between organizations, individuals, and stakeholders interested in advancing Southeast, residents want greater connection with each other and their community. Many Southeast residents feel like their story is being told for them, and they would like to know their neighbors, leaders, and local businesses better.

Key areas

- Knowledge and resource sharing
- Storytelling
- Social connectivity
- Collaboration



Over the next 5 years, RISE Southeast will...

Invest in leaders in Southeast Colorado Springs to further expand opportunities for connections

Create a robust hub of information and resources, offering both digital and in-person opportunities for engagement

Launch multimedia storytelling efforts and pursue the revival of a publication like the Southeast Express

Host social events and gatherings to enhance social connectivity, information sharing, and activation of Southeast spaces

Actively promote partner work and stories to increase collective support for our work and collaborative opportunities

Health and Wellness

Context

Life expectancy varies by geography, with Southeast residents experiencing a markedly lower life expectancy than their Colorado Springs neighbors. This generally has less to do with individual choices and more to do with what resources communities have available to them.

Key areas

Improve, develop, clean, and beautify community assets

Mental health support and resources

Awareness and availability of healthy food options



Over the next 5 years, RISE Southeast will support dedicated partners in...

Collaboration on offering community programs around several areas of wellness

Create opportunities for physical movement and social connection

Destigmatizing mental health considerations, promoting available resources, and advocating for additional support where needed

Bring missing medical care services to Southeast

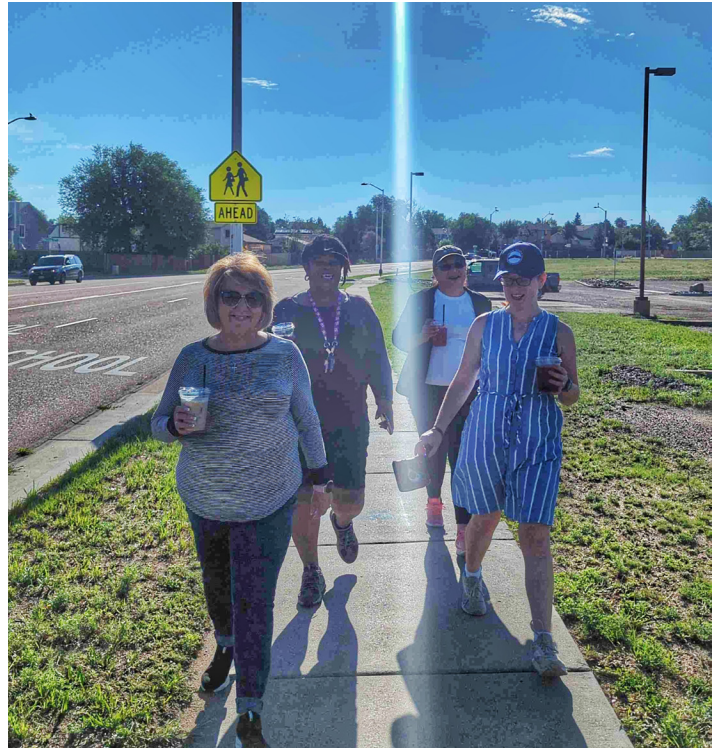
Strong Neighborhoods

Context

Southeast Colorado Springs faces safety challenges due to crime and transportation design. These environmental challenges lead to social disconnect as well. Our vision is to improve safety, connectivity, and housing stock in Southeast neighborhoods. Strong neighborhoods foster stronger social bonds.

Key areas

- Building out multi-modal transportation networks and improve infrastructure
- Enhancing safety and connectedness
- Bolster the social network of neighborhoods



Over the next 5 years, RISE Southeast will support dedicated partners in...

- Filling in missing sidewalks to improve walkability and safety

- Pursue crime prevention through environmental design objectives such as increased lighting

- Create improvements through road and trail design, connectivity, and wayfinding information

- Revitalize parks and trails

- Foster neighborhood organizing and social networks

Thriving Economy

Context

Business owners do not find Southeast an appealing market, and many out-of-community property owners allow their spaces to remain vacant and become blighted. Our vision is to increase opportunities and resources for business owners to find success launching in Southeast Colorado Springs.

Key areas

- Increase opportunities for high-paying jobs
- Improve attractiveness of businesses spaces and offerings
- Diversify businesses and offerings



Over the next 5 years, RISE Southeast will support dedicated partners in...

- Pursuing legislation to create accountability for property owners in supporting their leasing businesses
- Cultivate opportunities for skillbuilding and access to living wage jobs
- Identify necessary businesses such as food markets, incentivize new business development, and/or address barriers to entry for local business development





Partner Organizations

Health and Wellness



El Paso County Public Health

To promote and protect public health and environmental quality across El Paso County through people, prevention and partnerships.



NAMI Colorado Springs

NAMI Colorado Springs creates and cultivates a welcoming community of peers who educate, support and advocate for people and families living with mental health conditions.



Southeast Food Coalition

Elevating community voices to address barriers to food security in Southeast Colorado Springs through education, advocacy, food production, and community building.



Trails and Open Space Coalition

We advocate for the creation and conservation of an interconnected network of trails, parks and open spaces across the Pikes Peak region.

Strong Neighborhoods



City of Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs will be a safe, economically prosperous, culturally rich, welcoming, and vibrant world-class American City on a hill that shines brightly.



COS Walkability

To create safe, healthy connected communities through multi-modal policies and infrastructure improvements.



Council of Neighbors and Organizations

CONO inspires neighbors to create vibrant communities.



Fiestas Patrias

Colorado Springs' premier Hispanic Heritage festival that kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month. Since its inauguration in 2022, it went from 27,000 people attending to 53,000 in 2024.



Stompin' Groundz

Through every sip and every conversation, we aim to inspire and elevate the 719, connecting individuals, and propelling collective action toward a more inclusive and empowered community.



Trust for Public Land

We create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

Thriving Economy



Solid Rock CDC

By fostering innovative community collaboration, we aim to transform Southeast Colorado Springs into a vibrant destination for both housing and business development.



Thrive Network

Engaging, educating and empowering individuals to unlock their potential



VIVA Digital Marketing

Our mission is to foster sustainable economic development by equipping individuals and communities with the resources, skills, and opportunities needed to thrive.

Key Stakeholders

Charles Johnson
Chauncey Johnson
Chineta Davis
Deby Kenyon
Heather McBroom
Jeannie Lira
Jeresneyka Rose
Norma Arrambide
Teresa Thomas
Mayor Yemi Mobolade
White Wolf
Councilmember Yolanda Avila



Colorado Springs Pro-Housing Partnership
El Pomar Foundation
Family Success Center
Generation Wild of the Pikes Peak Region
Harrison School District 2
Peak Vista Community Health Centers
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Pikes Peak Real Estate Foundation
Southeast YMCA

Community Engagement

Q1 Coalition Convening

Tuesday, March 12th

Organizational partners provided feedback on identified priority areas (initially health and wellness, housing, and food access) through written feedback and free-flow individual conversations. The session concluded with a full meeting shareback and additional conversations.



Q2 Coalition Convening

Tuesday, June 11th

Based on the prior conversation, partners were presented with a new framework of health and wellness, strong neighborhoods, and thriving economy. They were asked for any adjustments, input on names (as they weren't determined yet), and on partners to support initiatives within the priority areas through written feedback.



August CommUnity Gathering

Thursday, August 15th

Residents were asked to weigh in on the proposed priority areas in rotating small group discussions facilitated by table captains. From these discussions, a clear need for connections and information sharing emerged.



Commitment

We're in this for the long haul

Southeast Colorado Springs is a community of amazing, vibrant people, and it's our honor to convene so many incredible changemakers. We know better than anyone that the key to our future success is to come together, collaborate, tell our stories, and take synergistic action. RISE Southeast has used these strategies before with Panorama Park and many other projects, but **this is just the start of our work.**

We invite you to join us on the journey - however you have capacity to support, **you are a crucial part of our success!**

Our deepest appreciation

Allen Beauchamp captured and shared the majority of the photos in this plan - thank you for being the most photo enthusiastic person we know!

We would not have been able to build this plan without our dedicated board of directors - thank you to Abby Simpson, Amanda Ortiz, Becky Martinez, Emily Patterson, Jody Derington, Kim Noyes, Lelia Gibson-Green, Moni Hernandez, Pam Shockley-Zalabak, Rep. Regina English, RoseMary Jaramillo, Tilah Larson, and Wendy Birhanzel for your many hours and countless efforts!



1615 S Murray Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80916

Be part of the change

Whether you're able to contribute financially to our operations, volunteer in our efforts, join the conversations to guide the actions, or share our stories with friends, colleagues, or neighbors, you are an important part of our work succeeding! Thank you for your support!

Donate



Stay in touch



info@risesoutheast.com