

# Older Adult Networks in Jefferson County, CO

## Data Summary of the Jeffco CPRM

Fall 2023

### Background

In partnership with the Colorado Gives Foundation, [Visible Network Labs \(VNL\)](#) launched a project in September 2023 to develop the Jeffco CPRM. A CPRM is a Community Partner Relationship Management platform. The Jeffco CPRM includes a database of organizations in Jefferson County working on various issues (e.g. social, economic, educational, mental health, health, and more), the services and resources they provide, and maps and measures the relationships among them.

This project began with a focus on four key areas: Workforce, Early Childhood, Older Adults, and Food Systems. Using a social network analysis (SNA), the Jeffco CPRM allows us to answer:

- what types of programs and resources are being provided and where,
- who is working collaboratively (or not) across various domains,
- what priorities, indicators, and outcomes community organizations are working towards,
- what gaps in resources and issues exist that are contributing to the larger problem, and
- how additional systems building can strengthen collective community efforts.

A subset of 119 organizations were invited to participate in the Jeffco CPRM data collection. Organizations identified as primarily Older Adult organizations were included in the second phase of data collection. This report provides an overview of the results from the angle of Older Adults.

*Note: Only respondents in phase 2 were asked questions about providing services to older adults.*

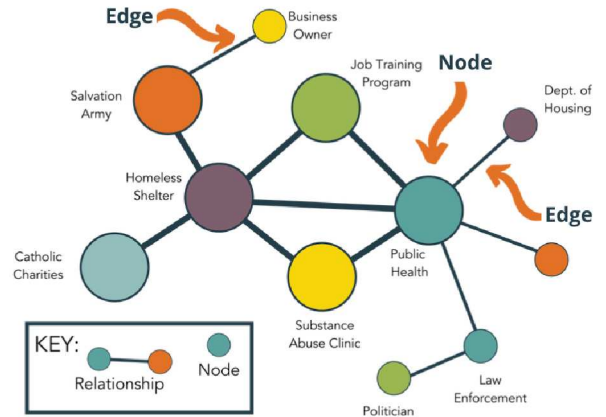
Total number of organizations providing older adult services.

12

# Older Adults Overview

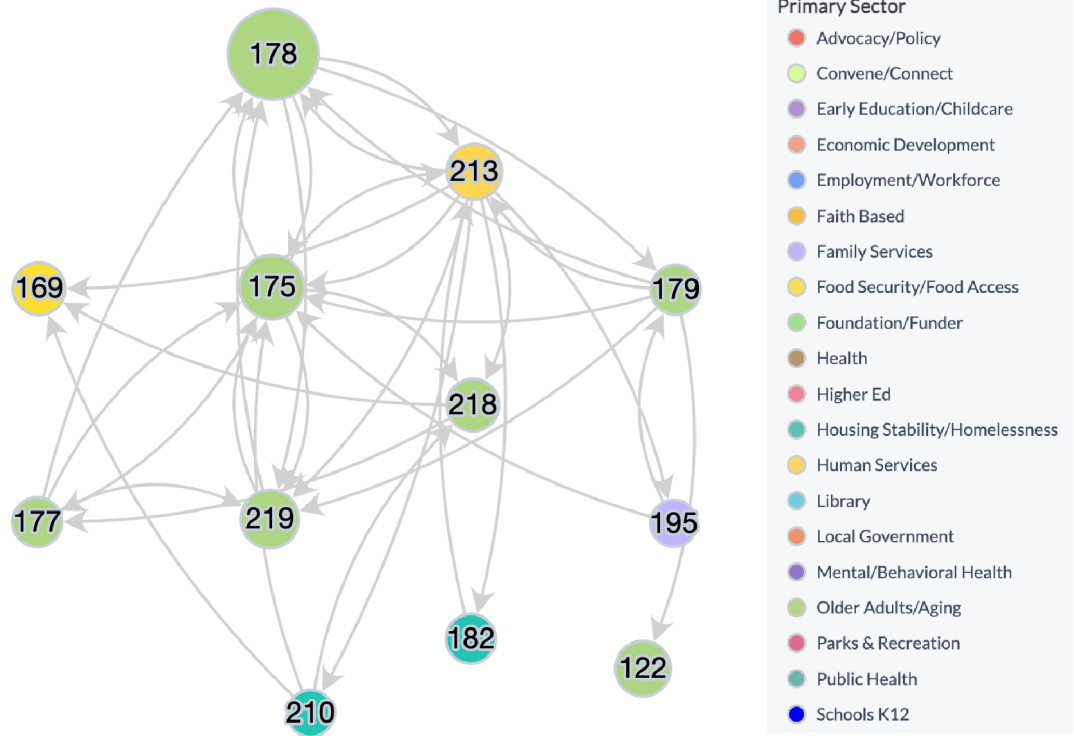
## HOW TO INTERPRET A NETWORK MAP

In a network map, partnerships are visualized as “nodes” (circles) and “edges” (lines) which represent the network members and the relationships between them. Nodes may be color-coded by certain organizational characteristics, such as jurisdiction or sector. Nodes can also be different sizes with larger nodes indicating more relationships.



This network map shows the organizations that responded **Yes** to providing older adult services and colored by primary sector.

Each organization is represented as a circle (called a "node") and coded by its primary sector. The larger nodes were selected most often as a partner by the respondents. The nodes are labeled with a map label identification. The list of map labels and organizations can be found in the aggregate report.



When broken down by corridor of poverty, we observed the same pattern in responses across all of the corridors; however there are more organizations providing older adult services on unincorporated - rural Jefferson County than other corridors.

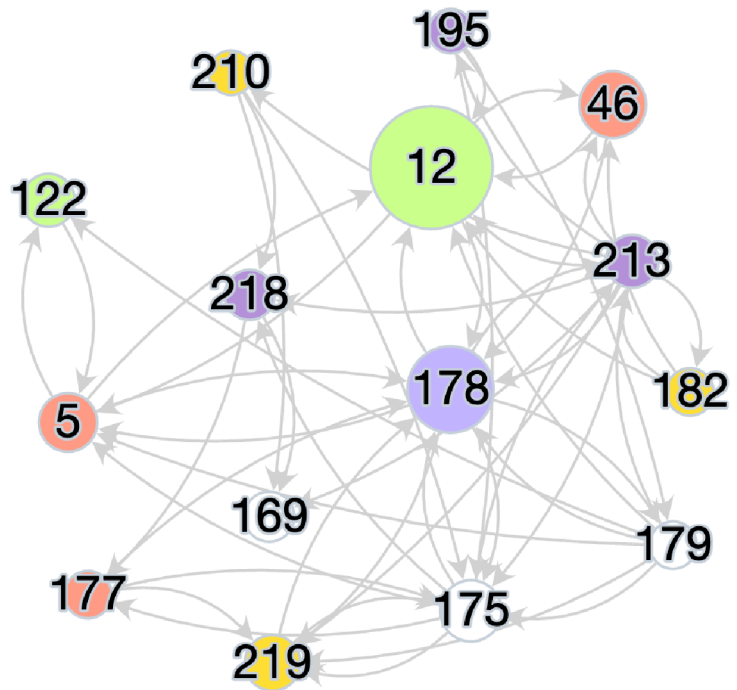
	Yes	No
Arvada Corridor	7	1
Wheat Ridge, Edgewater and Lakewood Corridor	7	2
South Lakewood/Golden Corridor	7	2
Unincorporated- Rural Jefferson County	9	1
Other, please specify	1	0

# Older Adults Overview

This map shows only the organizations that self identified as providing older adult services. The larger nodes were selected most often as a partner by the respondents (in-degree score). They are colored by their perception of the level of success around building collaborative networks. **Overall, there are some organizations with higher in-degree scores that believe there has been success at building collaborative networks.** However, there are a few larger nodes that selected *very unsuccessful, unsuccessful, or more unsuccessful than successful* for this question. Addressing why these organizations believe the building of collaborative networks has not been a success is important to the health and effectiveness of the overall network.

Question 29: Collaboration is a core value among many organizations in Jefferson County. From your perspective, how successful have we been as a community of partners at successfully building collaborative networks to serve the people of Jefferson County? (Select one)

- Very Unsuccessful
- Unsuccessful
- More Unsuccessful Than Successful
- More Successful Than Unsuccessful
- Successful
- Very Successful
- No Data



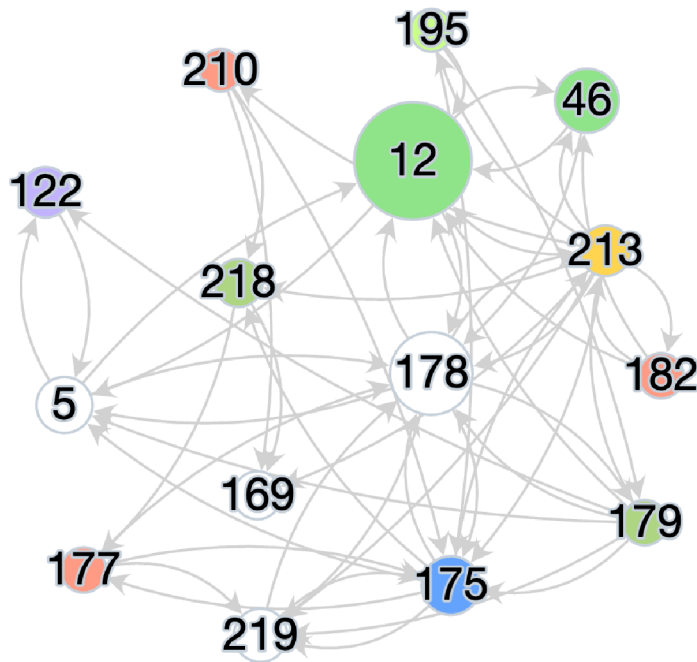
Respondent organizations providing older adult services were further asked what challenges they face in providing services for older adults. The open-ended responses reflect limited funding from government and private sources, particularly in rural areas with inadequate support services. Despite reliance on volunteers and community support, recruiting and engaging enough volunteers remains a significant challenge.

## What challenges does your organization face in providing services to Older Adults? What supports your work?

- DRCOG supports our work.
- Lack of transportation. Lack of computer knowledge. Reluctance to socialize.. We are supported by volunteers and local service organizations such as Rotary, Knights of Columbus, etc
- Limited capacity to continue Age friendly communities work
- Our basic challenge is the declining financial support from governmental agencies as well as private foundations and grantors. Medicaid and VA provide some assistance although do not cover the full cost of services.
- Rural support services are limited, e.g., transportation; support for older adults to apply for county services takes a significant amount of time to navigate and secure services to promote aging in place.
- Securing funding to provide current services, as well as expand our staff numbers.
- Volunteers provide direct service- one challenge is recruiting and engaging enough volunteers to support all the services requested in a timely manner. Community partners, grantors, volunteers, and donors support the work.

This map shows respondent organizations that provide older adult services and the most important resource they contribute. **Volunteers and volunteer staff, and expertise/services in other wrap-around support** are among the most important resources contributed by respondent organizations.

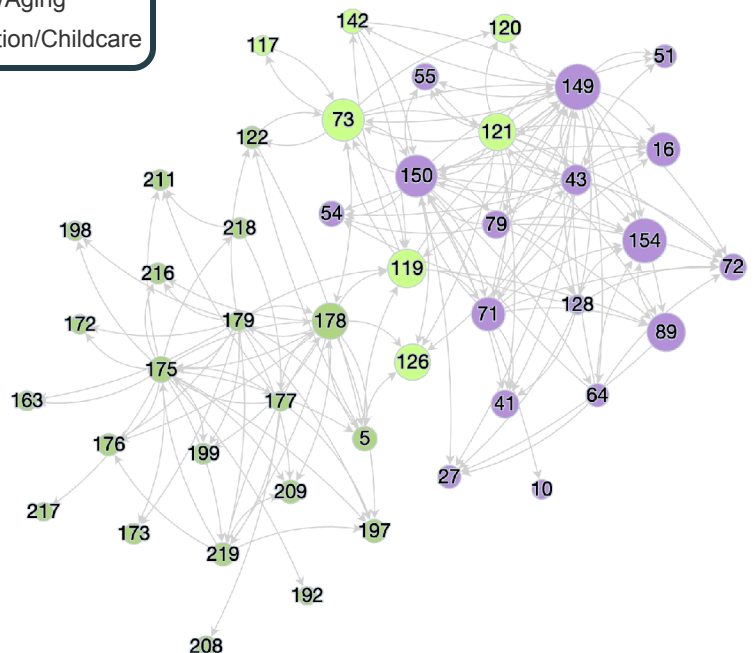
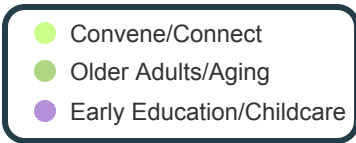
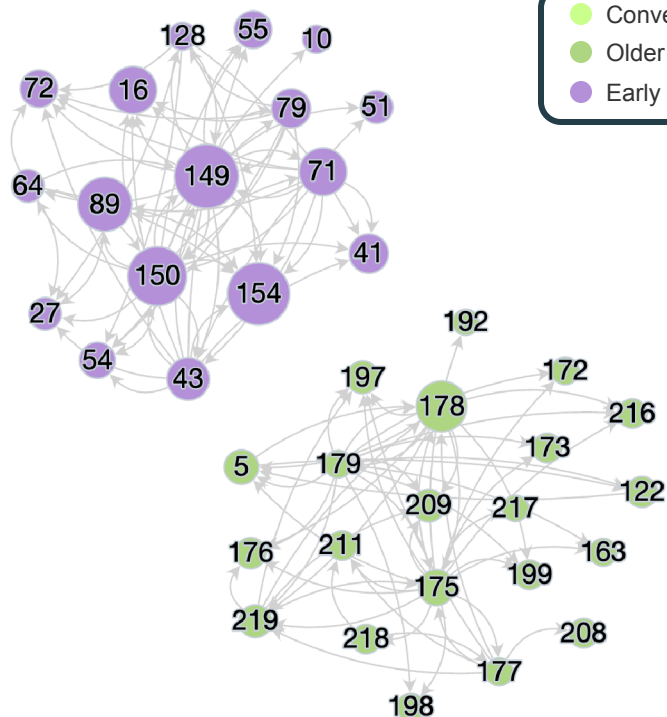
What is your organization's most important resource contribution to providing services to people in Jefferson County?



## Case Study

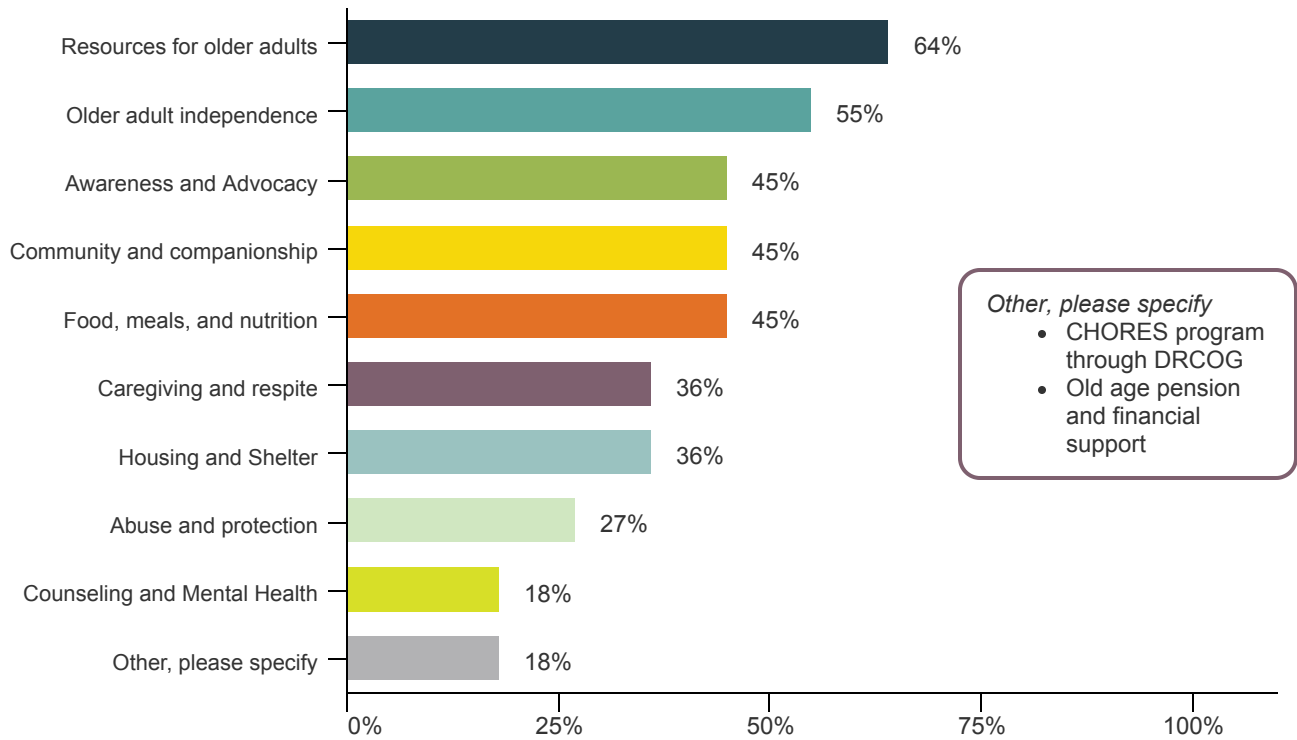
This map shows the organizations we categorized as **early education/childhood** (purple), and the organizations we categorized as serving **older adults/aging** (dark green). There are no cross connections or relationships between these two sectors.

**Convene/connect** organizations (light green) are very well connected with early childhood organizations and can potentially play an important role in bridging the gap.



**Resources for older adults** and **older adult independence** are the most common services provided. When broken down by cities where organizations provide services, there are a greater number of organizations providing **resources for older adults** in Golden and Littleton. Whereas, these services are provided slightly less in the other cities.

**Which types of Older Adult services does your organization provide? N=11**



		Question 2: In what cities do you provide services? (Select all that apply)						
		Arvada	Edgewater	Golden	Lakewood	Littleton	Westminster	Wheat Ridge
<b>Which types of Older Adults services does your organization provide? (Select all that apply)</b>	Abuse and protection	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Awareness and Advocacy	5	5	5	5	4	5	5
	Caregiving and respite	2	2	4	2	3	2	2
	Community and companionship	4	3	4	4	2	3	3
	Counseling and Mental Health	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
	Food, meals, and nutrition	3	2	4	4	1	2	2
	Housing and Shelter	2	1	2	3	1	1	1
	Older adult independence	5	4	5	5	4	4	4
	Resources for older adults	5	5	7	5	6	5	5

When the organizations in the network were categorized by primary sector, there were 21 organizations in the network that primarily focus on older adults. The top organizations that are information exchangers and network brokers among these organizations are listed below. **Denver Regional Council of Governments** (highlighted in teal), **Seniors Resource Center** (highlighted in orange), **GoFarm** (highlighted in purple), **A Little Help** (highlighted in gray), and **AgeWise Colorado** (highlighted in yellow) are high in all categories which means they are key players in the network. **CO Center for Aging** (highlighted in green) was one of the most selected partners, but they are not ranked higher in the other categories because they did not take the survey.

**Information Exchangers** are people or organizations close to a large number of network members. Information exchangers can communicate more quickly and easily with others in the network compared to less central nodes.

**Network Brokers** are people or organizations with high betweenness centrality scores. They are in a position to serve as facilitators or gatekeepers of information and resources.

**A possible limitation:** the highest centrality organizations for out-degree, betweenness, and closeness were invited to participate in the survey during the first two phases. We should be able to refine these types of centrality findings as we get data from additional members in the network (betweenness and closeness are also more sensitive to missing data so we expect them to change with additional data).

Information Exchangers	Network Brokers	Most often selected as a partner	Selected the most partners
Denver Regional Council of Governments	Seniors Resource Center	Seniors Resource Center	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Seniors Resource Center	Denver Regional Council of Governments	Denver Regional Council of Governments	Seniors Resource Center
A Little Help	A Little Help	AgeWise Colorado	A Little Help
AgeWise Colorado	Seniors4Wellness	Alzheimer's Association	Mount Evans Home Health Care & Hospice
Mount Evans Home Health Care & Hospice	AgeWise Colorado	CO Center for Aging	AgeWise Colorado
Seniors4Wellness	Mount Evans Home Health Care & Hospice	AARP Colorado	LinkAGES
Alzheimer's Association	LinkAGES	LinkAGES	Seniors4Wellness
LinkAGES	Alzheimer's Association	The Senior Hub	Alzheimer's Association