

Connections at 6th

Improving comfort, aesthetics, and savings



Cultivating a High Quality of Life

Connections at 6th (Connections) is an Aurora Housing Authority (AHA) property, home to 68 households. There is a strong sense of community at Connections, with many residents who have lived there for over 10 years. In 2021, AHA completed a property-wide rehabilitation project to address resident needs, increase comfort, and improve the buildings' condition, while also preserving the positive elements of the existing community.

“Aurora Housing Authority is committed to maintaining and improving neighborhoods they serve by preserving the quality of the housing stock and supporting residents” – Craig Maraschky, Executive Director

In addition to upgrading common spaces and living quarters to improve accessibility, AHA partnered with Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) to identify and fund several energy efficiency upgrades. EOC identified upgrades that would improve the buildings' efficiency, comfort, and aesthetics for Connections at 6th's residents.

Energy Outreach Colorado connects income-qualified individuals, and organizations serving income-qualified individuals, with rebates, funding, and no-cost services to implement energy efficiency projects.

Finding Significant Savings

AHA partnered with Energy Outreach Colorado to:

- Cover between **20-100%** of upfront cost of energy improvements, offsetting nearly **\$50,000** of equipment costs
- Improve the energy **efficiency, comfort, and aesthetics** of housing units
- Implement technologies that could save the equivalent of **\$8,400*** on energy use annually

Making Improvements that Matter

EOC identified upgrades that made financial sense, focusing on improvements eligible for rebates or grant funding. The table below summarizes the improvements made and the percent of the cost offset by rebates or grant funding.

Equipment	Units Replaced	% Cost Covered
Refrigerators	44	80%
Programmable Thermostats	68	100%
Water Heaters	38	20-25%
High-Efficiency Shower Heads	68	100%

*Estimates based on expected kWh and therms savings associated with energy equipment replacements, using average price of \$0.09/kwh and \$0.46/therm.



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How Can Energy Outreach Colorado Help Your Rehabilitation Project?

Involving Energy Outreach Colorado early in your rehabilitation or renovation project can help you get the most out of your project. EOC will work with your design team to identify rebates that can bring energy improvement costs down. EOC can also help identify win-win energy efficiency improvements that may not have been included in the original scope. For instance, insulation is often excluded from project designs because it doesn't provide obvious aesthetic improvements. However, adding insulation and air sealing to a project can significantly improve the comfort and efficiency of a building without significantly increasing project costs! In addition to helping you navigate Xcel Energy low income rebates, EOC will support rebate submittal review, process rebate paperwork on your behalf, and pay out rebates.


Connection to Community Goals


The City of Aurora Partners in Energy Plan established a vision: to be a leader in community energy action and to keep energy-related costs low, especially for Aurora's multifamily communities. Over 34% of housing units in Aurora are multifamily, higher than the regional average. In 2019, 19 multifamily buildings in Aurora participated in Xcel Energy's energy efficiency programs, resulting in nearly \$3,200 in annual savings per participant!

Get Connected

Your multifamily affordable building may qualify for these services if you serve income-qualified community members. Get connected with Energy Outreach Colorado:

 multifamily@energyoutreach.org

 (720) 769-7173

 <https://www.energyoutreach.org/multifamily-weatherization/>



Connections at 6th Lobby with LED lighting.
Photo Credit: Aurora Housing Authority

