

Field Compass

Executive Summary

A privacy-first mobile tool that guides people experiencing homelessness to the right shelter, food, and services — the first time.

Prepared for: William Lodge | HomelessDenver.com

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The Reality: No Emergency Shelter in Denver

10,774 people experiencing homelessness in metro Denver (2025 PIT)

3 shelters No walk-in emergency beds. Complex intake only.

0 apps that explain the real intake rules

Crossroads

Arrive before 10 AM. Wait in line.
Maybe get a bed. Men only.

Holly Street

Must complete intake at Lawrence
Street first. Families.

48th Street

On-site intake screening. Same-day
possible. Women & families.

People get turned away because nobody explained the rules. Field Compass does.

What Field Compass Does

1 What do you need?

Shelter, food,
medical, hygiene,
legal

2 Who are you helping?

Self, family,
youth, veteran,
senior

3 Any barriers?

Pet, no ID,
wheelchair,
language

4 Get matched

With real intake
instructions

Privacy-First by Design

No personal data

No name, SSN, photo, or account required

Not surveillance

Not HMIS. Not client tracking. Just navigation.

Open source

Publicly auditable. Community-verified data.

Budget

Development (Month 1)	\$8,000	Working MVP with wizard, 100+ resources, admin dashboard
Data verification	\$3,000	Phone verification of all Denver metro resources
Hosting & infrastructure	\$1,200	First year: hosting, domain, SSL
Outreach & onboarding	\$2,000	Training materials for outreach workers and shelter staff
Total	\$14,200	Launch-ready app

Development Roadmap

Day 1 Static resource data + hardcoded wizard + results page

Week 1 Admin dashboard + community flagging + mobile responsive

Month 1 Dynamic questions + 100+ resources + search/filter

Phase 2 211 API + offline PWA + user-submitted updates

What We Need

- **Primary:** \$14,200 to build and launch the MVP
- **Secondary:** Introductions to outreach organizations, shelter directors, and 211 Colorado
- **In-kind:** Volunteer data verifiers, code contributors, user testers

William Lodge

HomelessDenver.com / HomelessColorado.com

Field Compass is not surveillance. It is not a database. It is a simple, honest guide to a complicated system — built by someone who has been documenting Denver's homeless resources for years and knows exactly where people get

lost.