Ms. Denyse Airheart

Business Pathways Director Mi Casa Resource Center Denver, CO

At its inception in the late 1970s, Mi Casa began offering job-training programs for women to help them break into higher paying jobs traditionally filled by men. Recognizing self-employment as another viable route to economic stability, Mi Casa expanded in the mid-1980s to include bilingual business development services to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit of low-income, female, and minority business owners.

As Mi Casa has grown and developed, we have recognized the need for programs to advance economic self-sufficiency for the entire family. In 2016, our mission evolved to reflect an expanded target population: advance the economic success of families with limited opportunities.

The Women's Business Center at Mi Casa Resource Center **supports entrepreneurs through all stages of business development**, helping them plan, launch, manage and grow their business through bilingual consulting, in-depth training, and a variety of business-related workshops and resources.

Our team not only focuses on the business, but also on the business owner, providing wraparound support services to address potential barriers to success.

The Next Generation Entrepreneurship Corps Act has the ability to be a catalyst for distressed communities. At Mi Casa what we see historically are the hurdles and obstacles presented to these community members — we work hand in hand with participants to remove barriers to success. A program like this has the ability to ignite economic development within distressed communities that continue to see brain drain (talent leave). Therefore, creating places where individuals can reinvest, hire local and make a local, national and in some cases global change.