

# Letter of Transmittal



April 15, 2026

Denver City Council  
Denver Human Services – IDDEAS Program  
City and County of Denver

Dear Councilmembers and IDDEAS Leadership,

On behalf of Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS), I am pleased to submit the 2025 Denver Mill Levy Program Annual Report for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, and represents year two of the January 2024-December 2027 total contract term. The Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy continues to serve as a critical local investment in Denver's disability services system—supporting continuity of care, addressing service gaps, and strengthening equitable access to resources.

This report is provided in accordance with § 53-550 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code and reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of locally approved funds.

During the 2025 reporting period, RMHS expended \$26,163,974.79 in alignment with the Scope of Work and under our total agreement of \$108,040,721 with Denver Human Services. These funds supported Denver residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) through service coordination, client- and family-directed supports, early intervention initiatives, gap-filling services, and community-based partnerships. All individuals served met Denver residency requirements, and administrative costs remained within contractual limits.

RMHS values its longstanding partnership with Denver Human Services and City leadership and remains committed to ensuring these funds are managed responsibly and directed toward improving stability, opportunity, and community inclusion for Denver residents with I/DD.

Respectfully,

**Shari Repinski**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rocky Mountain Human Services



## Denver Mill Levy Program

# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025



# Table of Contents

|                                               |       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Purpose of Mill Levy .....                    | 2     |
| Financial Overview .....                      | 3     |
| Mill Levy Pathways Across the Lifespan .....  | 5     |
| Accessing Support Through Mill Levy .....     | 6-7   |
| Early Childhood .....                         | 8-10  |
| Children & Youth .....                        | 11-15 |
| Young Adult .....                             | 16-20 |
| Adult .....                                   | 21-25 |
| Communications & Outreach .....               | 26-27 |
| Legal Authority & System Role .....           | 28    |
| Compliance, Oversight, & Accountability ..... | 29    |
| Looking Ahead .....                           | 30    |

# Purpose of Mill Levy

The Denver Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy was approved by voters in 2003 to address service gaps and enhance supports for Denver residents with I/DD beyond what is available through Medicaid, state programs, or other public funding sources.

For many individuals with I/DD, support needs are lifelong and require coordination across multiple systems that are often complex, delayed, or limited in scope. Mill Levy provides a locally controlled funding source that allows Denver to respond quickly to these challenges—enhancing quality of life, ensuring continuity of care, and preventing individuals from falling through gaps.

Over the past several years, the human services delivery system has experienced significant disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, statewide restructuring of long-term services and supports, and evolving federal and state funding policies. These changes have contributed to service delays, administrative transitions, eligibility backlogs, and increased demand for flexible supports.

Within this environment, the protected nature of the Mill Levy has proven essential. Stable, locally governed funding enables Denver to maintain continuity of services and respond quickly when broader systems are delayed or constrained.

Mill Levy funds are designed to supplement—not replace—existing funding streams. This flexibility enables RMHS to address unmet needs, stabilize high-risk situations, and strengthen community-based supports across the lifespan.

## Empower

Enable Denver residents with I/DD direct access to Mill Levy funds for personalized items, services, and supports that meet their unique needs.

## Support

Address individual unmet needs through comprehensive wrap-around services and collaborations with community partners offering specialized I/DD programming.

## Provide

Enhance departmental support to reduce waitlists, facilitate transitions between service areas, allow case managers more time with clients, and strengthen clinical programs.

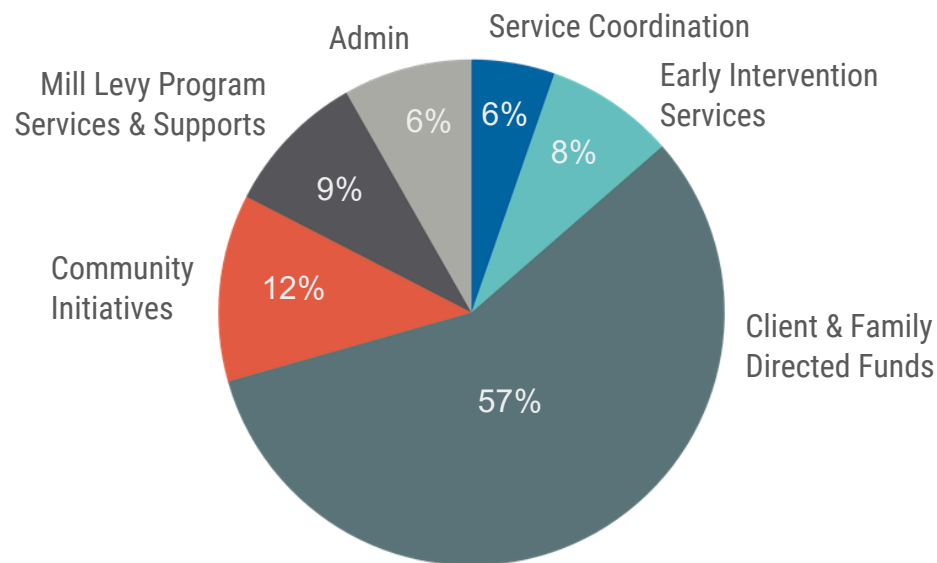


# Financial Overview

RMHS is the State's designated Early Intervention Broker and Medicaid long-term care Case Management Agency for Denver. This role provides unique insight to strategically deploy Mill Levy dollars to maximize impact, leverage other funding sources, and address service gaps that cannot be met through Medicaid or state-funded programs.

During the 2025 reporting period, RMHS expended \$26,163,974.79 in Mill Levy funds.

## 2025 Mill Spending Allocations ≈\$26M



**Mill Levy Program Services and Supports** ensure compliant, transparent operations while delivering accessible services to eligible Denver residents with I/DD.

**Communications and Outreach** engages the I/DD community through events, partnerships, and multimedia to raise awareness of available services and funding.

**Mill Levy Service Coordination** supports all eligible residents through expanded case management and connecting individuals to HCBS, Mill Levy services, and other community resources.

**Client and Family-Directed Funds** provide flexible, direct support for individual needs, housing, and service gaps when other resources are insufficient.

**Early Intervention (EI) Denver Program** addresses service gaps by funding therapy, diagnostics, and programs for infants and toddlers not eligible for state funded Early Intervention Services.

**Community Initiatives** invest in inclusive, community-informed programs that address system gaps and priority needs.

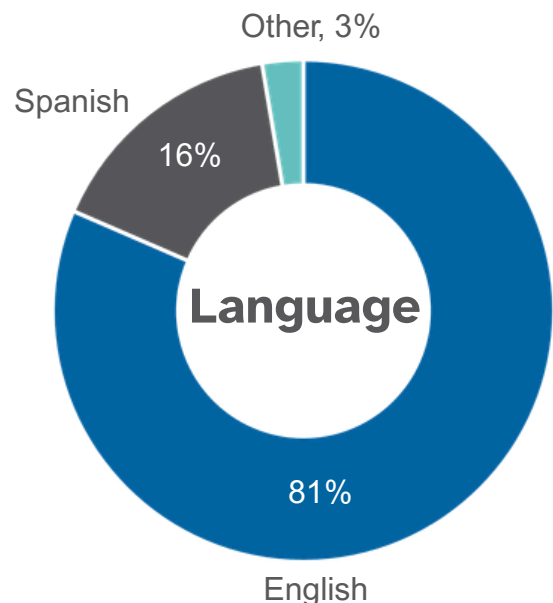
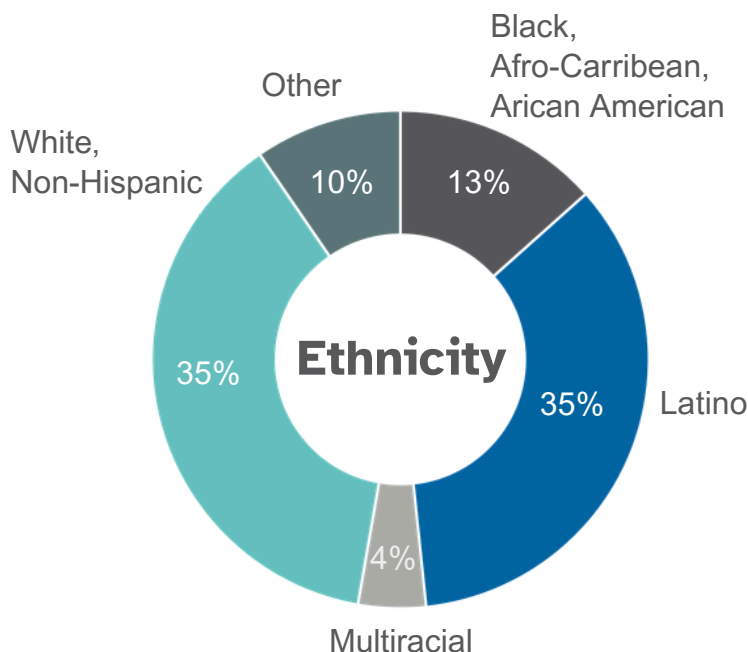
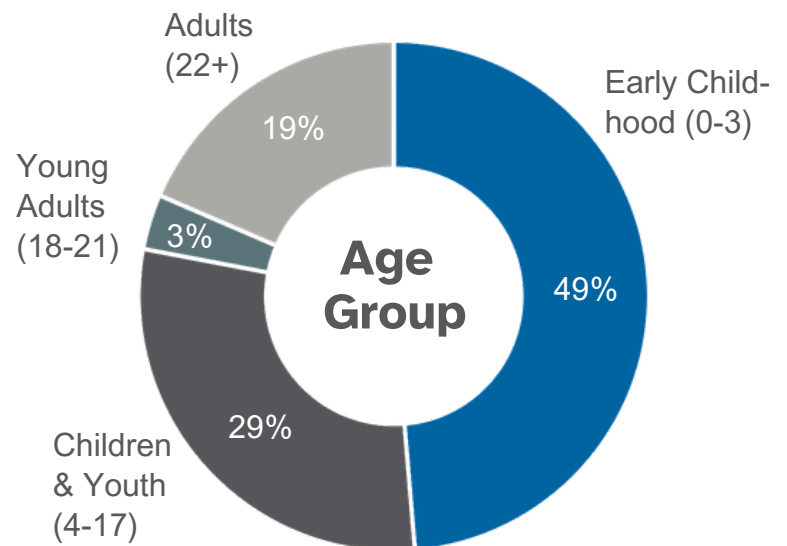
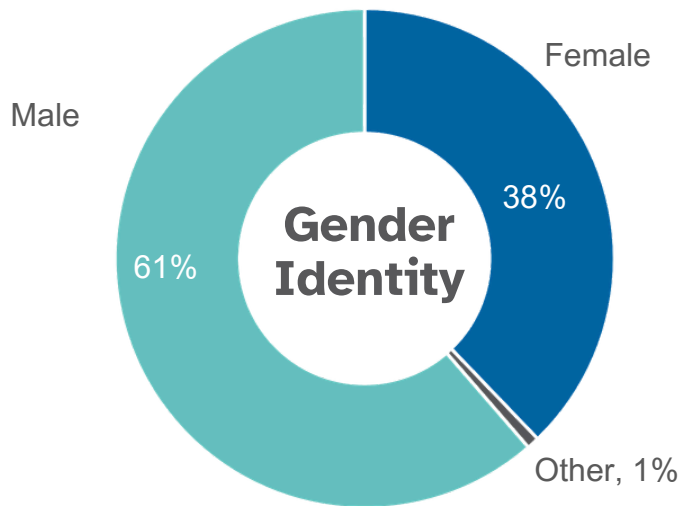
**Administrative Costs** accounted for 8.2%, with 91.8% of expenditures directed to program services and individualized supports.

## Population Served

RMHS supported **6,993 unique Denver residents** across the lifespan through Mill Levy-funded services.

**12%****Increase from previous year**

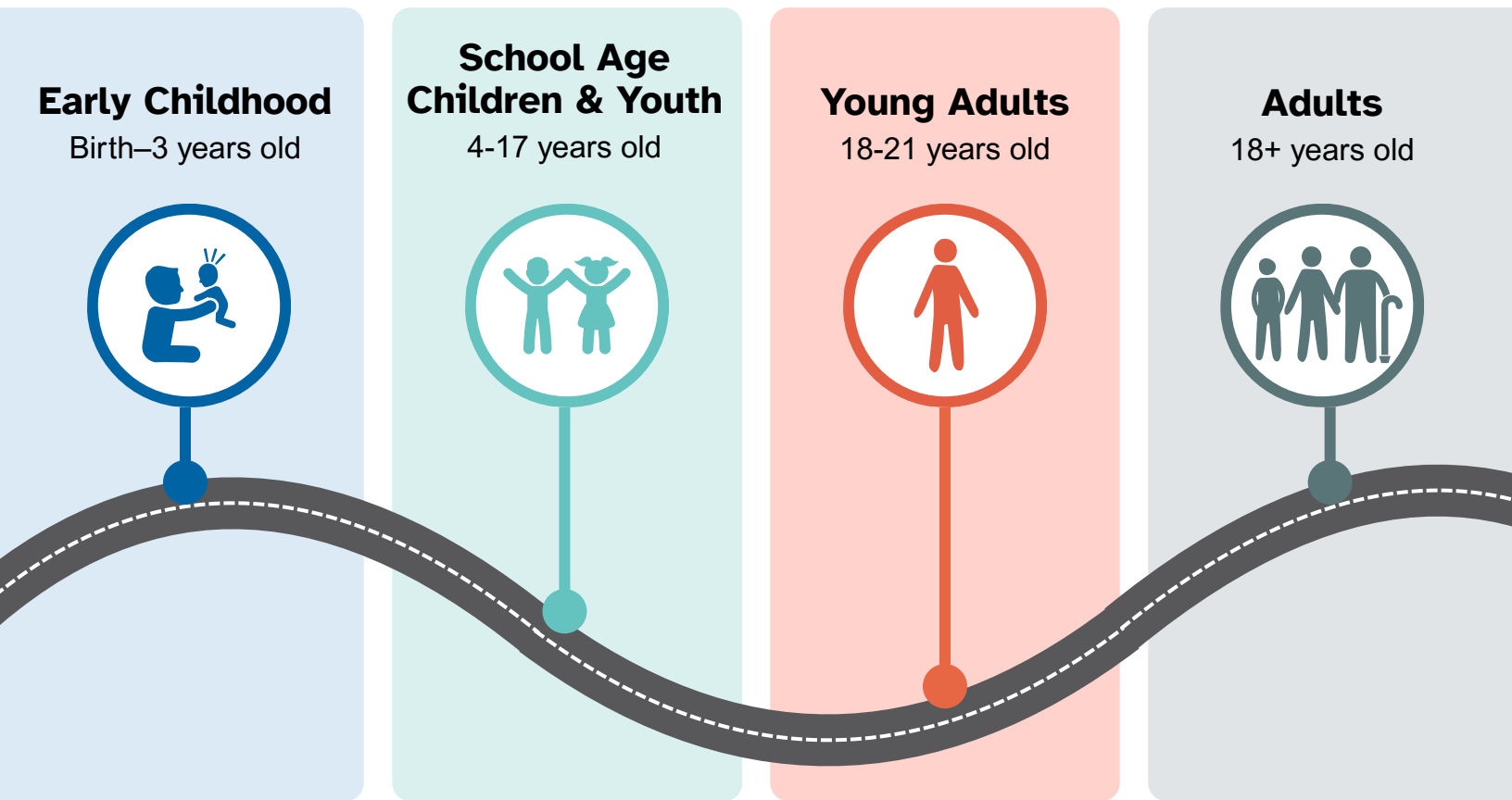
Individuals supported reflect Denver's diverse community, with funding supporting culturally responsive programs, translation services, and outreach strategies that reduce systemic barriers to access. This commitment is especially critical during periods of broader system disruption, when communities facing language, income, or immigration-related barriers are disproportionately impacted by service delays.

**19%****of RMHS Denver clients have a non-English primary language.**

# Mill Levy Pathways Across the Lifespan

Mill Levy funding helps ensure that Denver residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families have support at every stage of life. The roadmap shown here illustrates the journey individuals and families may travel from early childhood through adulthood, with Mill Levy funds providing flexible, locally responsive assistance at key moments along the way.

The sections that follow offer a closer look at how this support shows up in real life—through individual experiences, community partnerships, and clear outcomes. As you continue reading, you'll find both the stories and the data that illustrate how Mill Levy funding helps individuals and families navigate systems, access resources, and stay connected to their community. Together, they reflect the tangible impact of local investment for Denver residents with I/DD.



## How Support is Delivered at Every Stage

- 📍 **Client & Family Directed Funds**
- 📍 **Targeted Program Initiatives**
- 📍 **Community Initiatives**

# Accessing Support Through Mill Levy

As Denver's Early Intervention Broker and Medicaid long-term care Case Management Agency, RMHS manages intake, enrollment, service planning, and ongoing case management. Through these established relationships, **RMHS Service Coordination** connects eligible residents to Mill Levy funding and other community programs, ensuring comprehensive, individualized support.

RMHS also deploys **Mill Levy Access Coordinators** to support eligible residents who are not currently receiving case management through RMHS, are ineligible for Medicaid or state-funded programs, or require more intensive assistance—such as those on waitlists or navigating transitions between programs.

In 2025, RMHS strategically expanded this role to address service coordination gaps driven by increased demand and system disruptions within Long-Term Services and Supports. This flexibility ensured residents received timely assistance when case management capacity was constrained.

Through these combined efforts, RMHS ensures all Denver residents with I/DD have access to a qualified case manager who partners with them to develop a personalized Mill Levy Support Plan, respond to individual requests, provide guidance on available services, and connect them to additional community resources to meet their needs.

## 2025 Impact

Access Coordinators processed **5,734** individual requests for **486** individuals

## Mill Levy Funding Pathways

Mill Levy funding is provided through three coordinated pathways that are embedded within each stage of life. Because RMHS serves as Denver's access point and maintains continuous relationships with individuals across systems, these pathways are not separate programs, they are applied in real time based on individual need at each life stage.

This approach ensures that Mill Levy funds are deployed strategically, responsively, and in alignment with system gaps as they emerge across the lifespan.

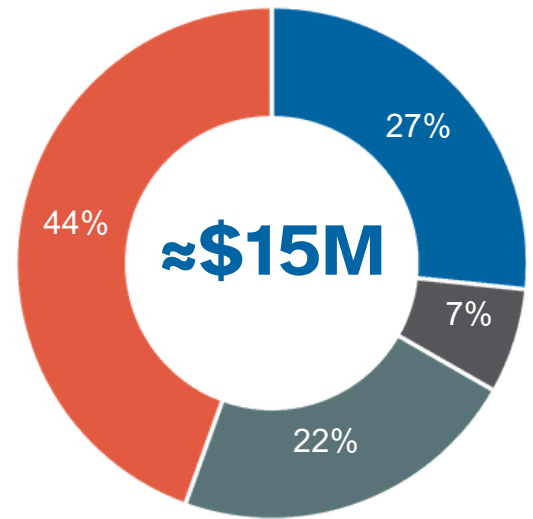
## Mill Levy Funding Pathways

- 📍 **Client & Family Directed Funds**
- 📍 **Targeted Program Initiatives**
- 📍 **Community Initiatives**

## Client & Family Directed Funds

Eligible residents directly access Mill Levy funding through Mill Levy Support Plans, Housing Stabilization Assistance, Respite Services, and Individual Requests to meet their unique needs when other resources are insufficient. Individual Requests include a full range of goods and services to meet basic necessities, address holistic healthcare needs, increase independence, and enhance quality of life.

- Mill Levy Support Plans
- Housing Stabilization Assistance
- Respite
- Individual Requests



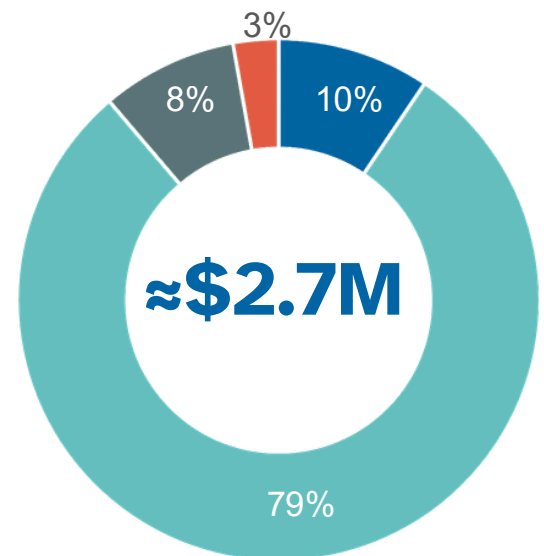
## 2025 Highest Demand Service Needs

- **12,032** individual requests were approved – 25% growth from 2024
- **4,990** mill levy support plans were approved – 14% Growth from 2024
- **353** households received housing stabilization support – 4% Growth from 2024
- **1841** families accessed respite supports – 30% Growth from 2024

## Targeted Program Initiatives

As Denver's expert and access point to the I/DD service system, RMHS is well positioned to identify service and provider gaps. When appropriate, RMHS uses Mill Levy funding to support dedicated staff who deliver direct services to address those gaps, expanding access for eligible Denver residents.

- Mission Supports
- Early Intervention Denver
- School & Community Liaison
- Intervention Specialist



## Community Initiatives

Mill Levy funded **≈\$3M across 16 Community Initiatives** to deliver innovative, accessible, and inclusive programs for individuals with I/DD. These initiatives expand provider options, address service gaps, and meet priority needs across health, independence, education, and community inclusion for Denver residents. Funding priorities are guided by the RMHS Community Advisory Council.



# Early Childhood

## Birth–3 years old

### Early identification and support

- Developmental screening and early intervention
- Family coaching and navigation
- Access to diagnostics and therapies
- Bridging gaps in early intervention services



Mill Levy funds **supported 3,404** infants and young children through early identification, developmental services, and family supports during a critical developmental stage.

### Client & Family Directed Funds

Families accessed flexible funding through individual requests and Children's Mill Levy Support Plans to obtain developmental supports, adaptive equipment, and services that reinforce therapy goals in the home when state EI services are delayed or limited.

### Children's Mill Levy Support Plans



#### Development & Learning

Music and therapy-aligned activities to support growth



#### Therapeutic Play

Toys, games, and books that reinforce developmental skills



#### Daily Living Essentials

Items that support everyday care and development



#### Sensory Supports

Tools and equipment to meet individual sensory needs



#### Home Safety

Equipment to create safer home environments



#### Respite Care

Relief for families to rest and recharge

### 2025 Impact

- **1046** children and their families received funding through individual requests
- **3364** children benefited from a Children's Mill Levy Support Plan
- **1031** Families benefited from Respite services
- **190** Families benefited from Housing Stabilization



## Targeted Program Initiatives

RMHS operates targeted early childhood initiatives specifically designed to address gaps in Colorado's Early Intervention system.

### El Denver Program

The EI Denver Program serves as a locally funded safety net for infants and young children whose needs are not fully met through Colorado's Early Intervention system.

- **Transition Home Program** supports infants transitioning from NICU to home, bridging a critical gap before services begin.
- **Denver Early Steps** expands access to developmental screenings, diagnostics, parent education, and early therapeutic supports—particularly for families facing eligibility, language, access, or system navigation barriers. These initiatives ensure timely intervention during critical developmental periods, preventing delays from compounding into more intensive needs later in life. Services include parent education, skill-building, and peer support. DES also partners with the Denver Early Childhood Council to train early childhood providers.
- **Non-EI Children's Clinical** connects children that would not qualify for this service through the State, and would otherwise face lengthy waiting periods, with clinicians to diagnose autism and other developmental disorders.

### 2025 Impact

- Transition Home Program supported **78** infants and their families --- a 70% increase from the previous year
- DES partnered with **5** community organizations to host **25** developmental screening events
- Developmental Screenings identified **38** children for continued monitoring and **70** children for Early Interventions supports.
- Clinicians provided diagnostic evaluations to **74** children over the age of 3

## Community Initiatives

Community partners provide inclusive early childhood education, culturally responsive family navigation, and parent support programs—helping families engage in services earlier and more consistently.

### Impact Stories

#### Turning Big Emotions into Big Growth: One Preschooler's Story

When Ezra, a preschooler, struggled with big emotions—causing outbursts at home and school—his family wasn't sure where to turn. Through **Denver Early Steps Developmental Monitoring**, they received coaching, classroom observation, and practical strategies. Over time, Ezra learned to name his feelings, regulate his behavior, and express frustration more constructively. Today, he is more confident and calm in the classroom. This early support equipped Ezra and his family with tools that continue to strengthen his development.



[Read more about Ezra's story](#)

#### Expanding Access Through Culturally Responsive Community Navigation



#### El Grupo Vida Staff & Families Supported

This continuity of support—grounded in trust, cultural understanding, and responsiveness—helps families feel empowered to navigate complex systems and advocate for their child's needs.

**El Grupo Vida** provides culturally responsive, family-centered support and remains a consistent partner to families as their needs evolve over time.

One family first connected when their child, born prematurely with special needs, began receiving services. Years later, as the child entered kindergarten, the parent returned for support navigating IEP challenges. Through direct assistance, they were connected to Advocacy Denver and reconnected to additional resources, creating a more coordinated approach to care.



# Children & Youth

## 4–17 years old

### Stability and school success

- School and community navigation
- Behavioral and family supports
- Respite and individualized services
- Timely support to prevent escalation



Mill Levy funds **supported 2,049** children and youth, strengthening stability, educational progress, and family support during key developmental and school-age years.

### Client & Family Directed Funds

Families accessed direct funding for respite, behavioral supports, and individualized services that stabilize home environments and support success in school when other systems cannot meet immediate needs.

### 2025 Impact

- **902** children and their families received funding through individual requests
- **1069** children benefited from a FSSP Mill Levy Support Plan
- **786** families benefited from Respite services

### Impact Story

#### Making Waves: Pearl Builds Confidence One Swim Lesson at a Time

Pearl, a young child with developmental needs, gained confidence and independence through adaptive swim lessons funded through client and family directed funds. She built water safety skills, strength, and self-assurance. What began as therapy became a source of joy and accomplishment. Her progress shows how targeted supports help children build skills and confidence in new environments.



[Read more about Pearl's story](#)



## Targeted Program Initiatives

**School & Community Liaisons** serve as a front-line intervention model embedded in schools and communities. Liaisons provide hands-on support with eligibility, applications, and service navigation—often reaching families not yet connected to formal systems. This work is intentionally focused on communities identified through the Denver Neighborhood Equity Index, where barriers to access are highest.



## 2025 Impact

- Provided **on-site office hours at 5 schools**, increasing consistent access for students and families
- Conducted **54 outreach efforts** to connect families with RMHS programs, services, and resources
- Facilitated **7 community trainings** on transition planning, service navigation, and Mill Levy access
- Supported **104 I/DD determinations & intake applications** advancing access to services

## Impact Story

### Support Sustained Progress Beyond the School Year

A 15-year-old Denver Public Schools student maintained social-emotional growth over the summer with Mill Levy support, guided by a School & Community Liaison who connected him to services. When school-based supports were unavailable, funding provided access to a social skills group through Therapies for Hope.

This timely support ensured continuity of care, helping the student build peer engagement, emotional expression, and confidence. He returned to school better prepared to learn and participate.



## Community Initiatives

Partner organizations deliver specialized programming in education, behavior support, and social development, expanding access to services beyond what is available through traditional school or Medicaid-funded systems.

### Community Initiatives Serving Early Childhood and Children & Youth

**736** unique individuals benefited from **≈\$2.5M** Mill Levy funds to access increased resources and service options



El Grupo Vida's **Resource Center and Community Navigator** empowers people with disabilities and their families with information and training to help them become their best advocate. The purpose of the resource center is to provide culturally competent community navigation and support services to meet prevalent needs as well as increased awareness of and access to services for non-English speaking immigrant families.



Qualified and willing **Evoke** BCBA's and staff offer a **Severe Behavior Day Treatment Program** for eligible children and youth with severe behaviors. The project also offers training for their parents and caregivers that Medicaid does not cover. Having exhausted other treatment and provider options, these youth are at risk of out-of-state and/or out-of-home residential placement.



**Wonder Years** meets students where they are through weekly in-class sessions coordinated with teachers and supported by student volunteers. Wonder Next builds on this model by offering focused curricula not typically covered in Pre-ETS Personal Adjustment Training (PAT), paired with bilingual and bicultural peer support and opportunities for socialization with classmates.

## Community Initiatives Serving Early Childhood and Children & Youth



**DU–Positive Early Learning Experiences (PELE)** strengthens early childhood and elementary environments to better support young children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The program builds the capacity of leaders to implement high-quality inclusive practices and systems that promote meaningful participation and foster a lasting culture of belonging.



**SCHOOL SAVVY**  
EDUCATIONAL CONCIERGE

**School Savvy** guides Denver families through the school selection process, helping them identify the best educational fit for their children. Through a series of workshops, School Savvy equips families with expert knowledge of available school options.



The Rise School of Denver

**The Rise School of Denver – ESCE** licensed teachers and therapists deliver high-quality, inclusive early childhood education that supports the growth and development of all children, including those with developmental disabilities.



**Move Through Yoga, Inc.** partners with Denver Public Schools to deliver adaptive yoga programming for middle and high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), promoting physical well-being, self-regulation, and inclusive participation.



## Impact Story

### Expanding Self-Regulation Skills Beyond the Classroom

During The Yoga Wave event, **Move Through Yoga (MTY)** staff observed how self-regulation skills developed in school are extending into community settings. Students recognized familiar breathing and grounding techniques, with one student quietly guiding a peer through the exercise, modeling calm breathing and co-regulation without staff prompting.

A parent later shared it was the first time they had seen their child remain regulated in a large, stimulating environment. These moments demonstrate how MTY's programming builds practical, transferable skills that support emotional regulation and extend beyond the classroom into everyday community experiences.

A teacher also introduced the technique to a student new to MTY by modeling hand placement on their own body. The student mirrored the movement and visibly relaxed, showing an immediate shift in regulation.





## Young Adults 18-21 years old

### Transition to adulthood

- Transition planning and coordination
- Employment readiness and skill building
- Independent living support
- Connection to adult systems



In 2025, Mill Levy funds supported **244 young adults**. Mill Levy funding supports youth as they transition into adulthood—one of the most vulnerable points in the service continuum—ensuring continuity of care and access to post-secondary opportunities.

### Client & Family Directed Funds\*

In addition to unique individual requests, this flexible funding supports immediate transition needs, including employment preparation, independent living supports, and gap services while long-term adult resources are secured.

## Impact Story

### Jordan Builds Life Skills Through Practical Support

Jordan, a young adult with an I/DD lives at home with his mother. He wanted to build independence at home but faced barriers relying on a laundromat. With support from Client and Family Directed Funds, they purchased an in-home washer and dryer, making this chore more manageable.

Jordan was actively involved in the process, comparing options online and selecting a unit that fit their space. When the appliances arrived, he asked questions, helped during installation, and learned how they worked.

Jordan learned to manage his own laundry, gaining confidence and practical life skills. This simple support reduced daily burdens and created more flexibility, helping him take on greater responsibility and independence in his routine.



\*2025 Impact data included in the Adults Section

## Targeted Program Initiatives

**School & Community Liaisons**, in partnership with DPS Transition Services, provide direct, individualized support for transition planning, eligibility navigation, and connection to adult service systems. RMHS also facilitates transition-focused outreach, resource fairs, and coordinated support to address common breakdowns between child and adult systems.

### 2025 Impact

- **2,000+** students and families reached through school-based and community transition events and resource fairs.
- **Ongoing office hours across 5 DPS schools** and community hubs, providing real-time support to **40 youth** and families.

### Impact Story

#### Connecting Students to Adult Services Before Graduation

A School and Community Liaison supported a student nearing completion of the 18–21 transition program with goals of increasing independence, employment, and exploring independent living. Through school-based office hours, the liaison met with the student, her mother, and her teacher to guide them through the I/DD eligibility and application process, while coordinating with the school team to gather required documentation.

As a result, the student was determined eligible for services prior to graduation, ensuring continuity of support. By the time she completed the program, she had secured a volunteer position and was actively working toward greater independence.



## Community Initiatives

Community partners deliver workforce development, skill-building, and transition programming tailored to young adults with I/DD, supporting readiness for employment and independent living.

### Community Initiatives Serving Transition Age Youth & Adults (18-21 years)

**199** unique individuals benefited **≈\$400K** Mill Levy funds to access unique and innovative programming in Denver.



**RAMP Youth Intensive Services** project offers mentoring and exploration for youth with disabilities and those facing challenges, including those in, or leaving foster care. RAMP helps young people build the skills and confidence they need to successfully transition to adulthood and thrive in their careers.



**Shields** hands-on culinary training, participants build essential life skills and job readiness while working toward the nationally recognized ServSafe Food Handler Certification—preparing them for independent living and sustainable careers in the food service industry.



**TACT** is a trade and technical training program designed to support youth with autism (ASD) by helping them build marketable skills and gain confidence for future employment. The program focuses on providing tailored training and increasing their chances of long-term career success.



## Community Initiatives Serving Transition Age Youth & Adults (18-21 years)



**GYMGUYZ** Denver South supports participants in improving overall health and well-being by building sustainable fitness and nutrition habits. Through personalized coaching and ongoing support, individuals increase strength, confidence, and independence while gaining the tools to maintain long-term healthy lifestyles.



Prepares individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) transitioning from high school to success in retail careers. Participants receive targeted customer service and workplace readiness training while working toward the Retail Industry Fundamentals Specialist credential from the National Retail Federation—building skills, confidence, and pathways to competitive employment.



The **Jovial Gardens** project enriches low-income neighborhoods in Denver by transforming lawns and public spaces into vibrant garden classrooms. Participants engage in growing, harvesting produce, learning about healthy eating, and preparing meals. This initiative creates meaningful, hands-on opportunities for individuals with I/DD while addressing broader issues like food access, job readiness, and community empowerment.



## Impact Story

### Advancing Health and Independence Through Fitness and Nutrition



Through participation in **GYMGUYZ**, Bethany worked to improve strength, balance, and endurance in support of greater independence. With consistent engagement in personalized workouts and nutrition support, she expanded her diet, improved hydration, and built healthier habits.

As a result, Bethany increased her endurance, gained confidence in physical activity, and developed a stronger interest in exercise. She also reported more energy, improved sleep, and overall well-being. This outcome demonstrates the impact of integrated fitness and nutrition services in supporting long-term health and independence.





# Adults

## 18+ years old

### Stability and independence

- Housing and essential needs support
- Behavioral health and crisis response
- Complex care coordination
- Employment, benefits, and life planning



Mill Levy funds **supported 1,296** adults through individualized funding, housing stabilization, behavioral health supports, and targeted interventions—particularly for individuals with complex, high-acuity needs.

### Client & Family Directed Funds

Adults accessed direct funding for housing stabilization, essential needs, and services not covered through waiver or other systems—supporting independence and preventing crisis situations

### 2025 Impact

- **712** young adults and adults received funding through Individual Requests
- **557** young adults and adults benefited from a Mill Levy Support Plan
- **706** young adults and adults received Housing Stabilization support
- **27** young adults and adults benefited from Respite services

### Impact Story

#### Housing Stabilization Funds Made Safe, Accessible Housing Possible

A 28-year-old Denver resident with an I/DD, was living in a place that didn't feel safe or accessible. Her neighborhood had frequent disturbances, and the building wasn't ADA-compliant—sometimes the elevator was out, making daily life difficult.

She found a new, safer, accessible apartment, but overlapping lease dates created a financial gap she couldn't cover on her fixed income. Mill Levy Housing Stabilization funds provided short-term assistance to cover move-in costs.

That support made all the difference. She moved without disruption and now lives in a place where she feels safe, independent, and stable.



## Targeted Program Initiatives

RMHS operates targeted initiatives to address systemic gaps impacting adults with I/DD. These investments demonstrate how Mill Levy funding strengthens both direct services and the infrastructure and provide a level of support not otherwise resourced within existing service models.

### **Mission Supports Program**

The Mission Supports program identifies and supports high need individuals cycling through homelessness, hospitals, and the justice system without connection to long-term services, and works across systems to resolve eligibility and coordination barriers.

In 2025, Mission Supports expanded community partnerships and cross-system coordination, working closely with shelters, hospitals, public defenders, Residential Child Care Facilities, and Denver's competency-related court docket. These efforts strengthened identification and engagement of individuals not yet connected to I/DD services, helping move them toward stable, long-term supports.

## **2025 Impact**

- **226** Referrals to Mission Supports
- **200** individuals received Mission Supports intensive case management
- **42** individuals completed an I/DD determination
- **85** individuals successfully enrolled into Long Term Services & Supports

## **Impact Story**

### **Mission Supports Commitment to Denver's Most Vulnerable**

Huiman is a young adult with I/DD and significant speech barriers who lost family support after aging out of a boarding school in Jamaica. With nowhere to go, a teacher with ties to Denver helped her reach a Denver shelter, where she connected with the STAR program and Mission Supports staff.

Over the next year, staff navigated complex eligibility challenges—securing medical care, medications, and records from abroad. They enrolled her in the emergency DD waiver and transitioned her into a stable host home with long-term supports, Social Security benefits, and rep payee services. Huiman is now safe, stable, and thriving.



## Crisis Intervention Specialist

The Crisis Intervention Specialist provides rapid, short-term support to stabilize high-risk situations, address placement barriers, and navigate complex system and waiver challenges across age groups. The role delivers hands-on stabilization through crisis planning, MIT meeting facilitation, outreach, and follow-up, while partnering with Case Managers and Supervisors to assess risk, resolve conflicts, and connect individuals and families to appropriate resources.

Specialists also support system navigation and housing stability, including access to CAT Vouchers, emergency IDD residential waiver enrollment, Regional Center services, and other community supports. Through cross-system collaboration, community partnerships, and targeted training, the role enhances system responsiveness, reduces barriers, and improves outcomes.

### 2025 Impact

- **154** individuals received Stabilization Support
- **228** individuals received Care Coordination
- **80** individuals received System Navigation & Housing Stability Coordination
- **99** Community Outreach Engagements completed

### Impact Story

#### Breaking Barriers Through Perseverance & Person-Centered Support

A Crisis Intervention Specialist supported a transgender individual with I/DD and significant trauma history who experienced repeated hospitalizations and an extended stay at Children's Hospital due to escalating needs and lack of placement options. Multiple discharge attempts failed, and no providers were willing to serve the individual given the complexity of their needs.

In response, the specialist developed a strengths-based, person-centered profile that reframed the individual beyond clinical challenges. Within one week, this approach led to provider engagement and successful placement in a residential childcare facility—the least restrictive appropriate setting.

This work demonstrates how flexible, affirming, and person-centered practices can overcome systemic barriers. The strengths-based approach is now used more broadly to improve access and outcomes for individuals with complex needs.



## Community Initiatives

Community partners provide specialized services including employment supports, benefits navigation, health and wellness programming, and long-term planning—expanding opportunities for independence and community inclusion.

### Community Initiatives Serving Adults:

**31** unique individuals benefited from **≈\$100K** Mill Levy funds expanded program options.



Access Gallery creates opportunities for individuals with disabilities to engage in and lead within the arts. By supporting underrepresented artists and challenging systemic marginalization, the program promotes inclusion while expanding pathways for artistic growth and professional development.



Probate Power supports individuals and families with disabilities in planning for the future through specialized special needs planning and comprehensive estate and probate services, promoting financial security, continuity of care, and long-term peace of mind.



Provides targeted Disability Benefits Services (DBS) for individuals referred to through Rocky Mountain Human Services Mission Supports who are at risk of homelessness. A dedicated Disability Benefits Advocate at Employment Services of Colorado delivers individualized support to help participants successfully access disability benefits, promoting housing stability and financial security.



## Impact Story

### Expanding Access and Inclusion Through the Arts



At **Access Gallery**, artists engage in creative exploration within an inclusive, community-based environment that supports both artistic and personal growth. Ricardo, a new artist who is blind, has embraced tactile art forms, actively exploring new materials and techniques as part of his creative development.

His transition into the studio has been strengthened through peer support from a fellow artist, fostering a natural mentorship dynamic that promotes both skill-building and social connection.

Ricardo's experience reflects the impact of accessible arts programming in expanding inclusion, supporting artistic growth, and creating meaningful opportunities for engagement within the community.

# Communications & Outreach

Communications & Outreach is a core access strategy ensuring that every eligible Denver resident knows that Mill Levy support exists for them. As Denver's designated Community Centered Board (CCB) and Case Management Agency (CMA), RMHS is uniquely positioned to reach individuals and families navigating complex, often fragmented systems, including those without a provider, advocate, or natural support.

In 2025, RMHS implemented a comprehensive, equity-driven outreach strategy designed to reach residents across neighborhoods, cultures, and languages. Outreach extended beyond traditional service pathways, bringing Mill Levy information directly into schools, community spaces, and culturally specific settings where families naturally seek support.

School & Community Liaisons (SCLs) anchored this work, serving as trusted, front-line connectors who built relationships, reduced barriers, and guided families through eligibility and service options. This in-person engagement was reinforced through accessible digital communication, multilingual materials, and strong cross-system partnerships.

Together, these efforts ensured that Mill Levy supports are not only available, but visible, approachable, and accessible to all eligible Denverites.



## Community-Based Outreach

Community-based outreach focused on meeting residents where they are—through schools, community events, cultural gatherings, and neighborhood hubs—ensuring that individuals who may not be connected to formal systems still have clear pathways to support.

### 2025 Impact

- RMHS utilized **\$18K Mill Levy funds** to support ongoing outreach and engagement opportunities in Denver
- **70** Community outreach events conducted across Denver
- **73** Applications and referrals submitted through outreach and School & Community based Liaison engagement
- **Expanded presence** in schools, early childhood programs, and community spaces

## Community Forum: Transition to Adulthood



RMHS hosted a **fully accessible, bilingual Community Forum** focused on supporting youth with I/DD as they transition to adulthood. More than 120 community members participated, connecting with panelists, community partners, and resources across education, employment, healthcare, housing, and advocacy.

This effort strengthened community connections, improved access to resources, and supported more informed transitions to adulthood.

### Community Forum: Transition to Adulthood

- **120+ community members engaged**
- Fully accessible, **bilingual event (English/Spanish)**
- **Panelists with lived experience**
- **Resource fair with cross-system partners**
- Direct connections to supports in:
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Healthcare
  - Housing
  - Advocacy
- Launch of [Transition to Adulthood Guide](#)

## Digital & Accessible Communication

Digital outreach and accessible communication expanded reach beyond in-person engagement, ensuring residents can access information independently, at any time. Efforts prioritized clarity, accessibility, and cultural responsiveness across all platforms.

### 2025 Impact

- **7,646** individuals reached through digital platforms and social media
- **27,070** individuals engaged with RMHS digital platforms
- **Bilingual and accessible materials** supporting Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and differing ability communities
- **Enhanced website and digital tools** providing 24/7 access to Mill Levy information

# Legal Authority & System Role



In 2003, Denver voters approved a one-mill property tax levy to support residents with I/DD . The levy is codified in § 53-550 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code, authorizing the collection and use of local funds to expand access to services and supports for eligible Denver residents.

Rocky Mountain Human Services, Denver’s designated Community Centered Board, administers Mill Levy and reports annually to Denver City Council regarding the use and impact of these funds.

RMHS serves as Denver’s access point for I/DD services across the lifespan. As the State’s Case Management Agency and Early Intervention Service Broker, RMHS manages eligibility determination, intake, enrollment, and ongoing service coordination for thousands of Denver residents. Individuals and families often interact with multiple complex systems—including Medicaid, waiver programs, and state-funded services—throughout their lives.

Because RMHS is embedded across these systems, the organization maintains continuous, longitudinal relationships with individuals from infancy through adulthood. This system-wide visibility allows RMHS to identify service gaps in real time and strategically deploy Mill Levy funds to ensure that all eligible Denver residents have access to needed supports.

# Compliance, Oversight, & Accountability

RMHS administers Mill Levy in compliance with Denver Municipal Code § 53-550, Denver Human Services contracts, and internal governance protocols. Oversight spans Executive leadership, Mill Levy Management, Community Advisory Council input, contract monitoring, and IDDEAS audits.

Mill Levy funds support system infrastructure needed to administer, coordinate, and expand services, including program management, contract oversight, financial monitoring, reconciliation, and reporting. These investments ensure compliance and strengthen the operational backbone for effective service delivery.

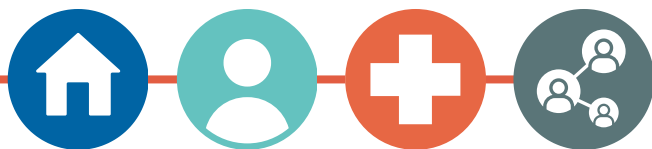
RMHS maintains layered internal controls to ensure responsible use of public funds. Monitoring activities include ongoing financial review, invoice-level audit processes, provider oversight, and tracking of service utilization and outcomes. RMHS has consistently demonstrated responsiveness to audit findings and contractual requirements, with year-over-year monitoring reflecting sustained compliance with legal and contractual performance standards.

RMHS remains committed to full transparency and cooperation while continuing to evaluate opportunities to ensure that administrative requirements remain proportionate and that the maximum possible share of Mill Levy dollars is directed toward direct services for Denver residents.

## RMHS' Sustained Compliance

RMHS consistently meets a zero-margin-of-error standard in responding to IDDEAS audit requests and findings.

## Community Advisory Council (CAC)



The CAC advises RMHS on funding priorities, program performance, and emerging community needs. Members include individuals receiving services, families, providers, and community stakeholders.

The Council ensures that Mill Levy investments reflect lived experience, community priorities, and equitable access to services.

## 2025 CAC Key Funding Areas

- Basic needs/environmental supports
- Behavioral and mental health services
- Education and increasing independence
- Medical and dental services
- Social and recreational services
- Training and support
- System gaps



# Looking Ahead

The policy and fiscal landscape for long-term services and supports continues to evolve. Changes in Medicaid, Home and Community-Based Services, and state funding create ongoing uncertainty for individuals with I/DD.

Within this environment, the Mill Levy remains a stable local resource supporting continuity of services and rapid response to emerging needs.

RMHS will continue to align funding with community needs, maintain strong financial stewardship, and improve access to services for Denver residents.

Rocky Mountain Human Services remains committed to stewarding the Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy in alignment with the intent of Denver voters.

