



# 2023 Mill Levy Program Annual Report



***Working Together for A Vibrant Denver***

Presented to:  
**Denver Human Services**  
**IDDEAS Program**

Presented by:  
**Rocky Mountain**  
**Human Services**

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2023 Mill Levy Program Reporting</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Demographics</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mill Levy Funding</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Accessing Mill Levy Services</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Mill Levy Service Coordination</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Targeted Initiatives</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Mill Levy Access Coordinators</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Early Intervention Initiatives</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Community Initiatives</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Communications &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>46</b>

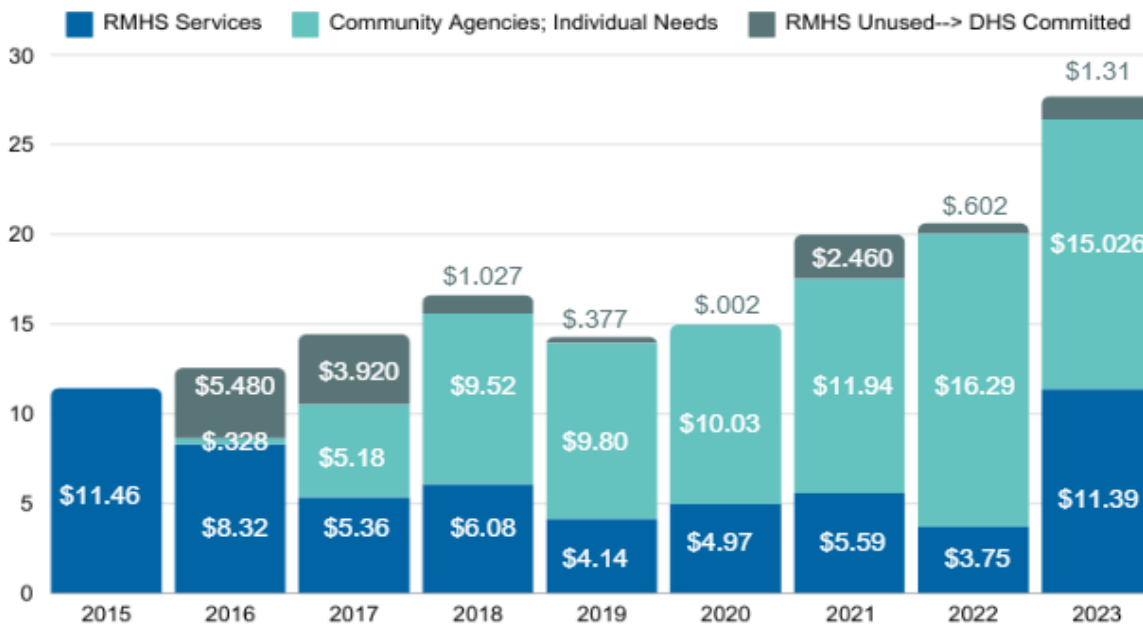
---



# 2023 Mill Levy Program Reporting

This report covers the contract period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. It will highlight RMHS's year-over-year record of the careful spending of Mill Levy funds within the contract parameters and in response to individualized and collective needs.

## Historical RMHS Mill Levy Funding Allocation (in Millions)

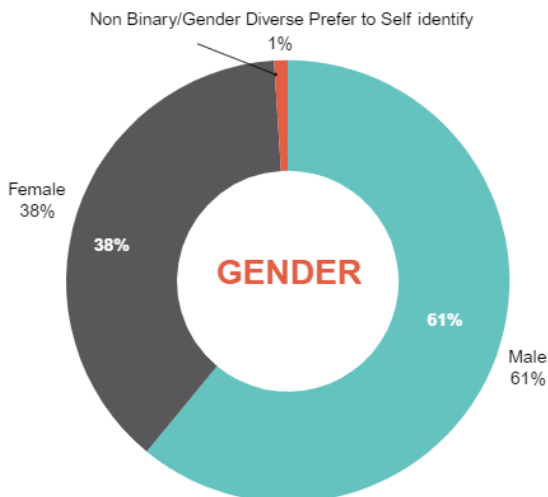
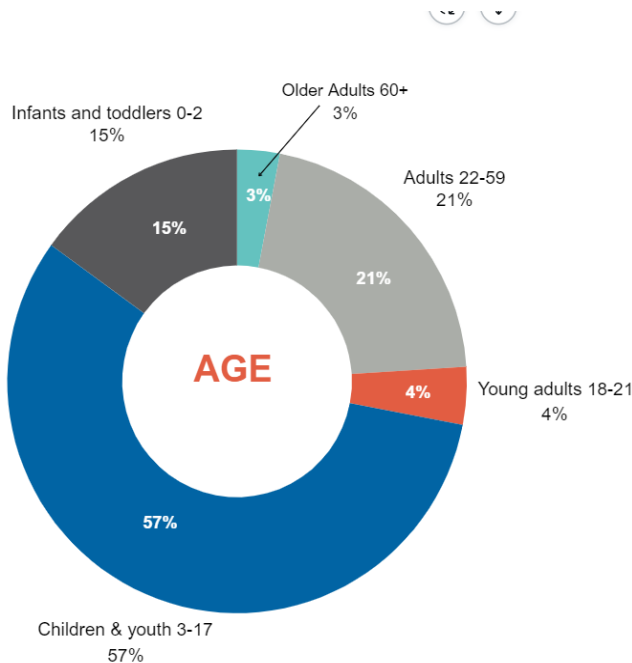


The DHS IDDEAS program maintains administrative oversight of the Mill Levy dollars and oversees the contract with RMHS to deliver these funds to support eligible Denver residents. There are multiple components involved in ensuring that eligible Denver residents have access to Mill Levy-funded programs and services, while also expending the allocated funds in accordance with the ordinance and contract. RMHS is extremely proud of the Mill Levy Program in place today and the relationships we have built with our IDDEAS program and City Council partners to quickly respond and shift funds to meet client- and family-directed spending patterns, system changes, and/or address community needs as they arise. RMHS remains committed to best meeting eligible Denver residents' needs at the individual, group, and system levels, as evidenced in the pages to follow.

# Demographics

In 2023, the RMHS Mill Levy Program served 6501 unique Denver residents with IDD across multiple program areas, age groups, ethnicities, languages, and gender identities regardless of immigration status.

*Please Note: RMHS provides Mill Levy Not-in-Program access for all eligible residents that are not currently enrolled and/or not eligible for RMHS services including undocumented Denver Residents.*



## Early Intervention Services

Infants and toddlers from birth to 3 years old

- Colorado Early Intervention Services, and EI Denver (Mill Levy-funded) including: Denver Steps, Children's Clinical Services, & Transition Home Program

## Children & Families Program

Children and youth ages 5 to 17 years old

- Family Support Services Program (FSSP), and Mill Levy Not-in-Program access

## Adult Service Coordination

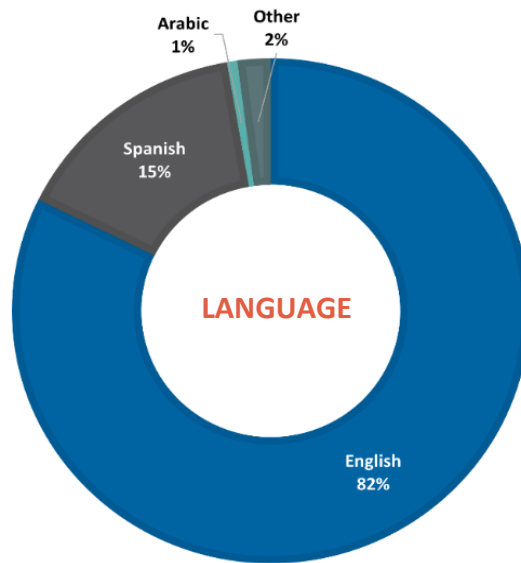
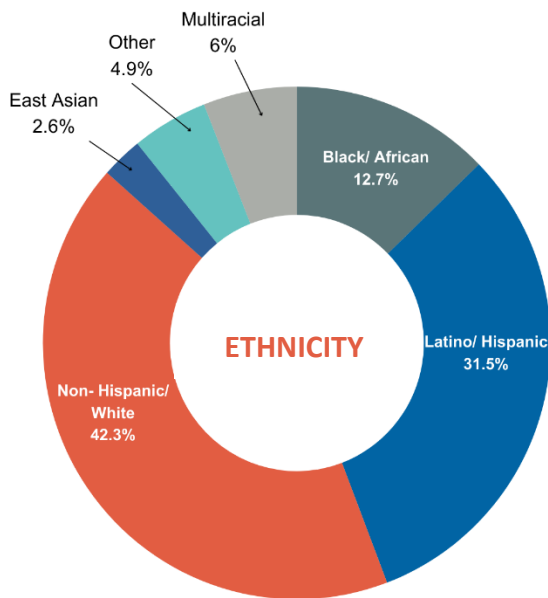
Children and Adults ages 5 through the lifespan


- Developmental Disability (Comprehensive Residential) Waiver, Supported Living Services (SLS) HCBS Wavier, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA), State SLS, and Mill Levy Not-in-Program access
- Children's Extensive Support (CES) Waiver, Children's Habilitative Residential Program (CHRP),

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

RMHS is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) with the goal to move our community towards equity and outcomes where race, ethnicity, disability, immigration status, and identity no longer predict life outcomes. Clients receiving RMHS services reflect Denver’s diverse population and RMHS strives to employ, train, and provide appropriate resources to ensure that they receive a culturally and linguistically competent experience across all RMHS departments and programs.

**18% of RMHS Denver Clients have a non-English primary language, and another 3% also speak a language other than English.**






Our Services | Departments | For Providers | About | Resources | Contact

Select Language

- Select Language
- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese (Simplified)
- French
- Myanmar (Burmese)
- Nepali
- Persian
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish**
- Vietnamese

**Simplifying Access.  
Celebrating Individuality.  
Bridging Communities.**

Supporting the health, self-sufficiency, and overall quality of life for children, adults, and veterans in Colorado.



RMHS employs staff that reflect Denver’s demographics, including bilingual staff who demonstrate competency in the native language of many families and individuals that we serve. If RMHS does not have staff who speak or write materials in a particular language needed, we contract with interpretation and translation services. Spanish is the most prevalent need. Additionally, the RMHS website offers eleven language options accessible by clicking the drop-down menu.

*Please note: RMHS did not distinctly track DEI priority funding areas. Rather, the team reviews all through a lens that supports DEI principles and prioritizes this value in the approval process.*

## Mill Levy Funding

RMHS has been dedicated to creating a comprehensive Mill Levy Program that prioritizes people over bureaucracy. By utilizing the flexibility of the Mill Levy ordinance and funding stream, the program aims to increase access to services and provide flexible service and provider options to quickly address the needs of the individuals we support. Our goal is to help them live the life they envision and create the future they want.

### Empower

- Denver residents with IDD direct access to Mill Levy funds to support with items, services and supports that are just right for them

### Support

- Individual unmet needs through wrap-around supports and services and external community partnerships that provide unique IDD programming

### Provide

- Additional support across departments and programs to decrease wait lists, support with transitioning between program areas, enable service coordinators more time to work with clients, and enhance clinical programs

## Community Advisory Council

The Denver Mill Levy Community Advisory Council (CAC) advises RMHS on the Mill Levy services it provides to Denver residents with IDD. The CAC’s mission is to make informed, transparent recommendations and to foster a culture and community of inclusion. The CAC is composed of people receiving services, family members, providers, and other community partners with varying abilities, backgrounds, and perspectives.

**The goals of the CAC are as follows:**

- Identify and generate recommendations that promote and enhance the lives and abilities of both children and adults with IDD.
- Recruit diverse council members who represent a wide range of social, economic, racial, ethnic, disability, gender, and sexual orientation backgrounds. The CAC must be a representative of Denver County.
- Identify and consistently adhere to the values and priorities that guide Mill Levy's expenditures.

**Testimonials of current CAC members**

**"We combine our personal means and public resources for our loved ones in the I/DD community; however, we often experience gaps where we still have unmet needs. The Mill Levy program and funding fills those gaps and empowers our loved ones to live their best life. This funding empowers them to thrive." ~Michelle**



**The Mill Levy program and funding helps our loved ones attend camps or access equipment, which allows them to have experiences to grow and thrive. Accessibility and inclusion is everything to our loved ones in the I/DD community." ~Maeline**



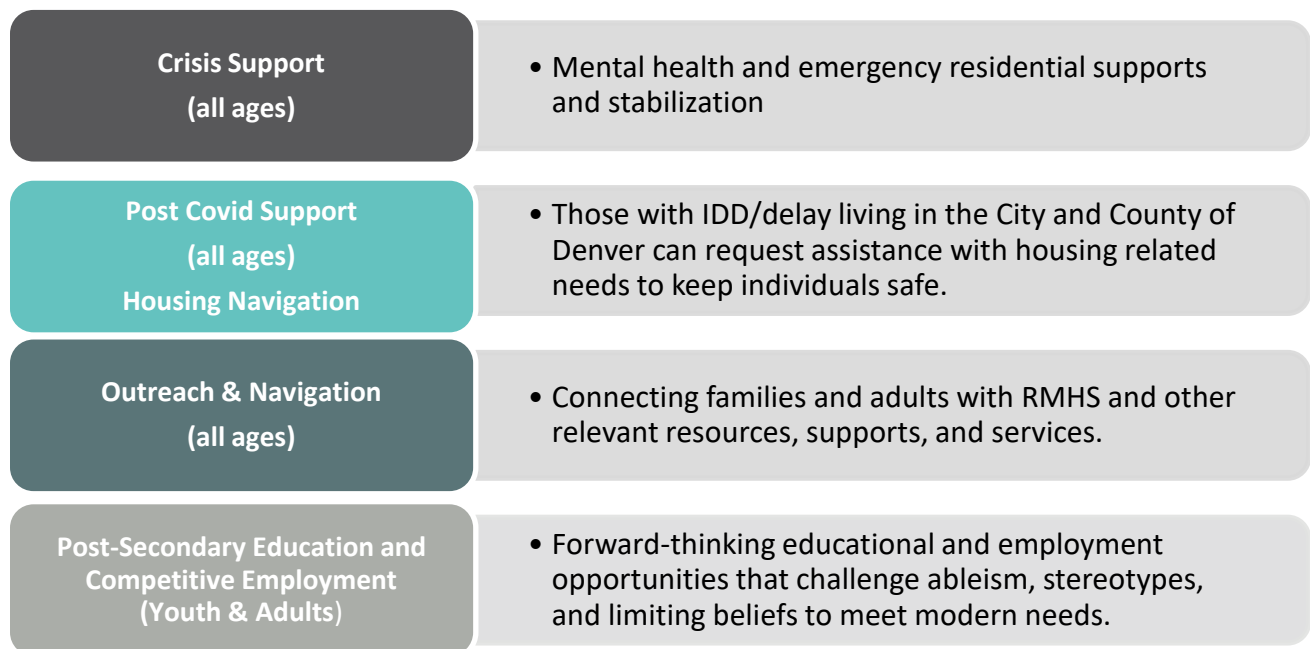
**"The Mill Levy program and funding is a blessing to my son who can attend various camps. These camps have given my son an opportunity to enjoy fun activities, build positive relationships, and develop socially." ~Benny**



## Mill Levy Program Key Funding Areas



In addition to reaffirming the key areas of need, the CAC provides feedback and makes recommendations to establish targeted priority funding areas to respond to emerging and current needs. RMHS adopted the following priority funding areas to guide 2024 funding decisions:

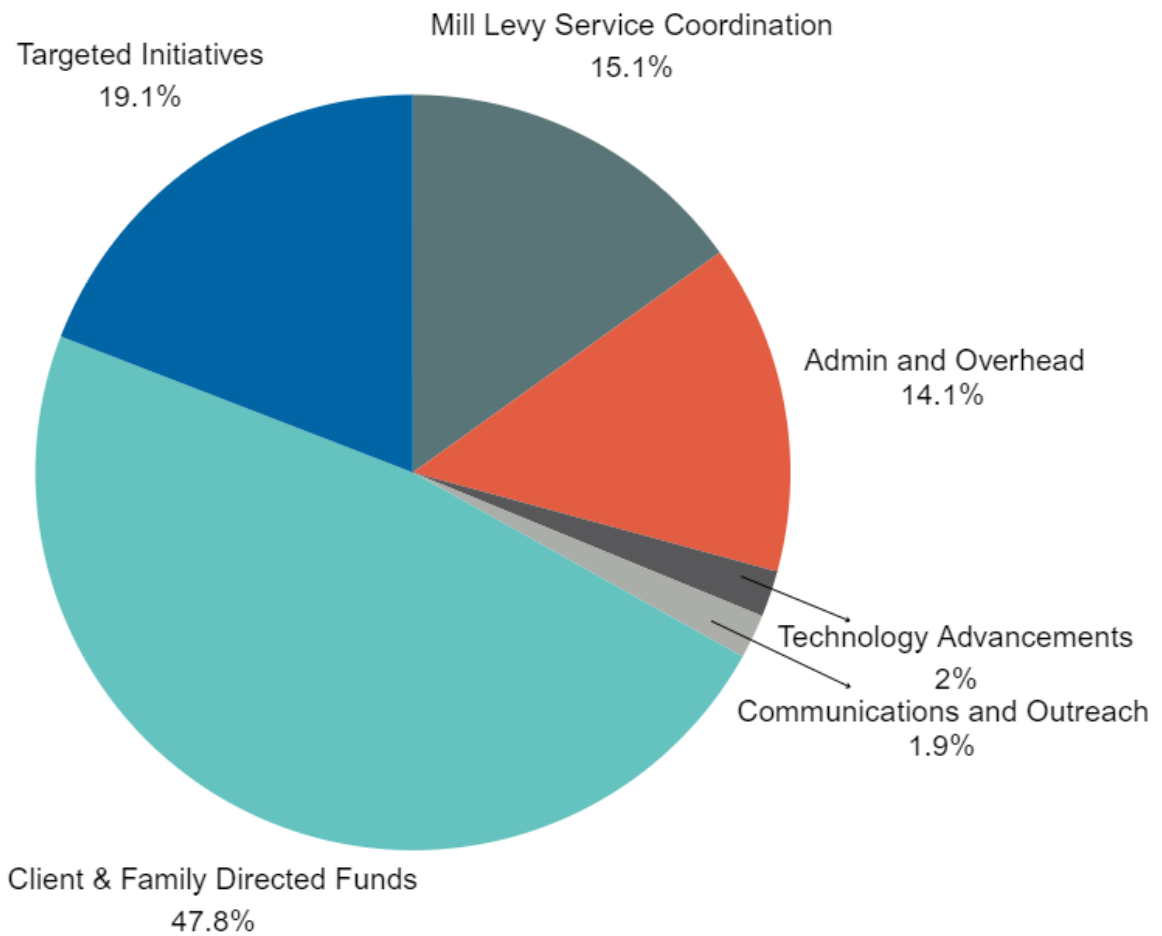


The Mill Levy Program values the CAC’s role in reviewing outcomes, successes, and challenges to help ensure ongoing program quality improvement.

# Accessing Mill Levy Services

Eligible Denver residents can access Mill Levy Program services and support through various mechanisms. This represents the agreement between RMHS and the IDDEAS program regarding the allocation of Mill Levy funds.

## 2023 Total Funds Spent



**Client & Family-Directed Funds.** Empower Denver residents with IDD to directly access mill levy funds to meet their individual needs for services and support through Individual Requests and Mill Levy Support Plans.

**Mill Levy Service Coordination.** Support eligible Denver residents to access mill levy-funded services and supports during intake and enrollment processes and ongoing case management.

**Targeted Initiatives.** Leverage RMHS expertise, stakeholder, and Community Advisory Committee (CAC) input to identify IDD service delivery needs, support gaps, and annual priority funding areas for the RMHS Mill Levy Program. RMHS utilizes IDDEAS Program funding to support targeted internal and external initiatives to meet these needs through dedicated staff positions, local programs, and partnerships with community agencies.

**Communications & Outreach.** Develop and distribute marketing materials, participate in in-person Denver events, host and attend virtual and in-person community information sessions, and execute digital and social media outreach and communications. These staff also engage with the city (e.g. DHS, City Council, DHS Advisory Council) to increase awareness and report on mill levy programming outcomes.

**Technology Advancements.** Pursue, develop, and implement technological solutions toward the aims of increasing mill levy service access, resource engagement, and coordination of care and services for Denver eligible residents, as well as utilizing technology to enhance our reporting functions.

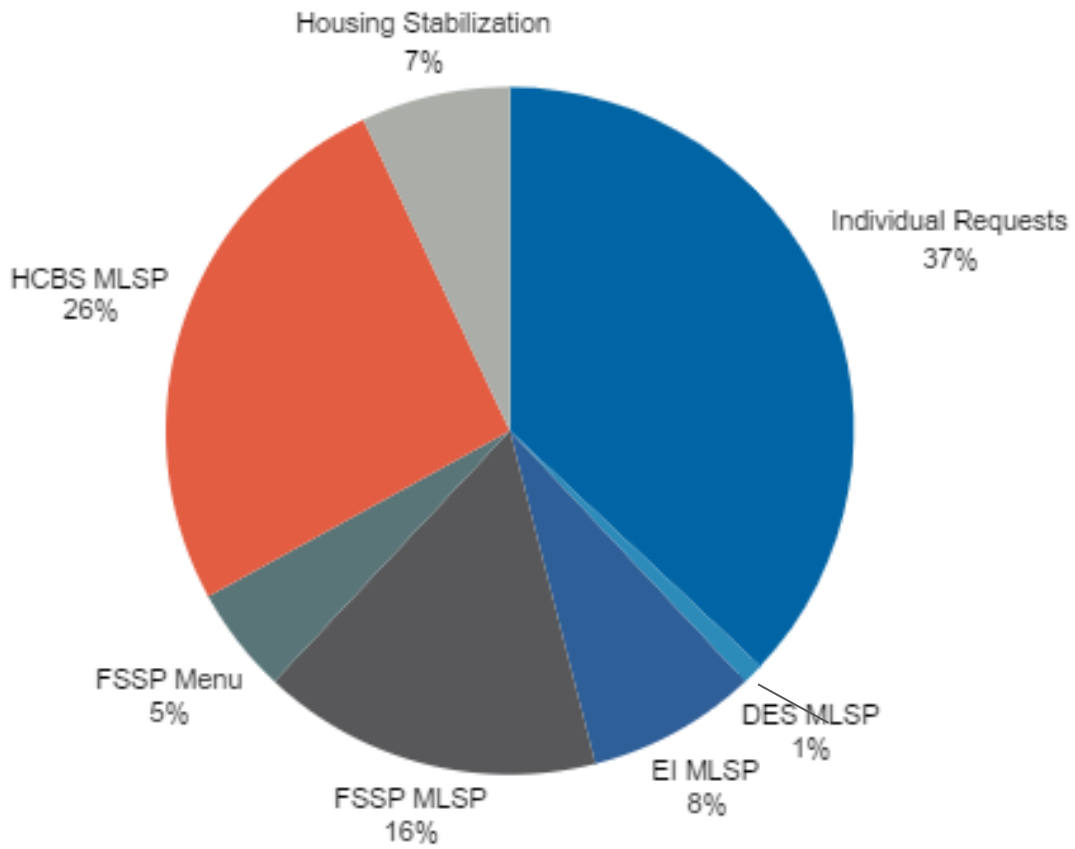
## Client & Family Directed Funds

RMHS, as the CMA for Denver County, is well-positioned to ensure that every eligible Denver resident has access to Mill Levy funds. RMHS simplifies access for individuals and families through processes such as annual service planning and quarterly contacts. These efforts support eligible residents in accessing Mill Levy funding to meet their unique needs when other resources are insufficient. If an eligible resident does not receive services from RMHS, there is no need to worry. Not-in-Program Mill Levy Access Coordinators at RMHS will assist eligible residents in submitting an Individual Request(s) or creating a Mill Levy Support Plan (MLSP).

**The Mill Levy team aims to simplify access in a complex system by providing equitable, simple, and direct Mill Levy access for all eligible Denver residents.**

In 2023, eligible Denver residents and their families utilized over \$10 Million to meet their individualized needs -- a 20% increase from the previous year!

### Client & Family Funds 2023 Distribution



## Client Story: Harper's Story

With the new school year beginning, Harper was getting ready to start in a new classroom with new teachers, paraprofessional educators, and therapists. Harper's challenging behaviors had made previous school years difficult for her and the school support team. This often resulted in Harper missing activities, struggling to communicate with her school team and peers, and not having a meaningful and successful school experience. An individual request for Mill Levy funding was made to connect Harper's therapy community with the school community to support her unique needs. Harper's Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) provided consultation and training to Harper's school team on how to best support her in the classroom and work on reducing behaviors that limited her learning experience.



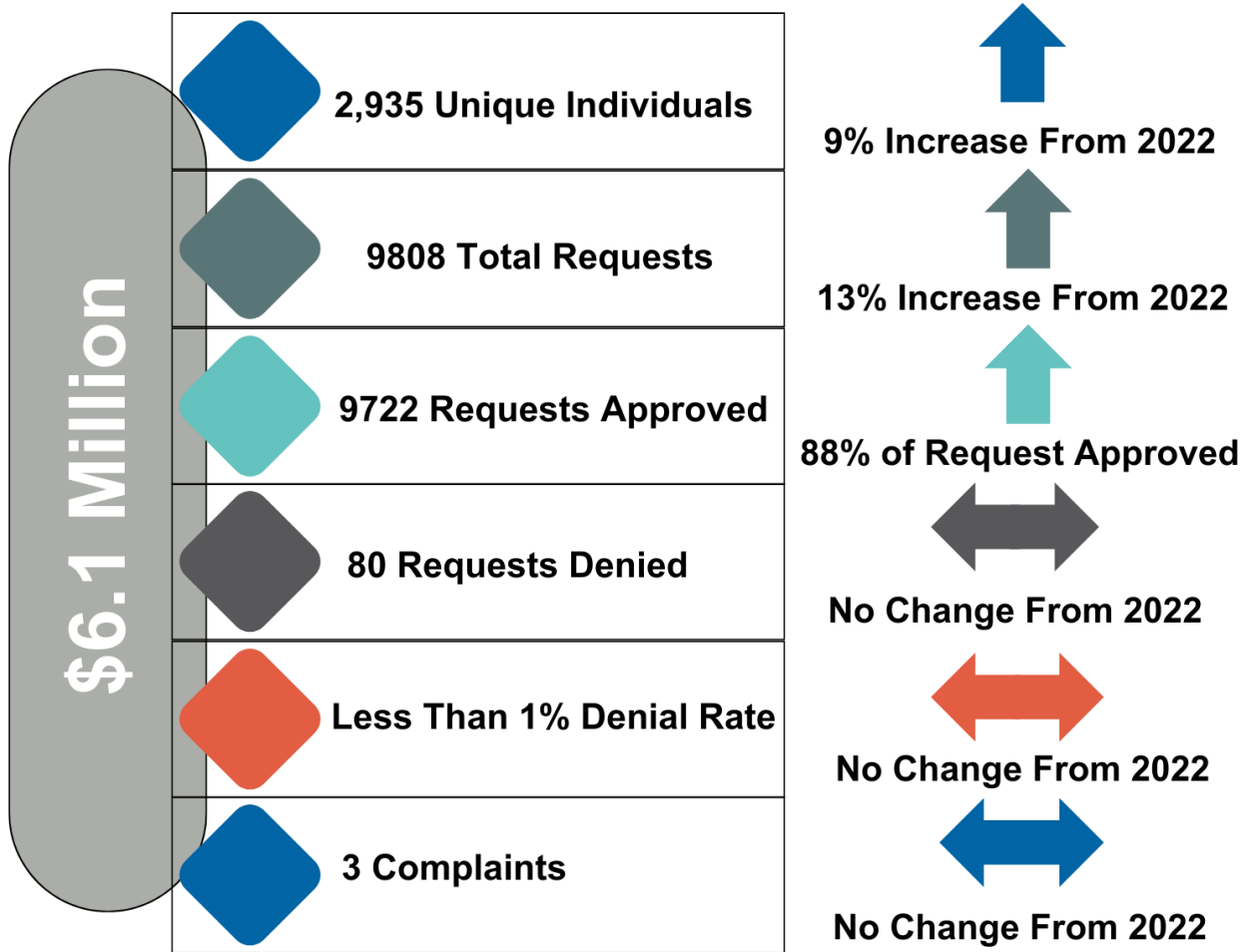
This led to remarkable progress that Harper's family had only dreamed of before. The collaboration between her BCBA and her teaching team has improved communication and engagement, allowing Harper to participate in group activities, improve her social skills, and enhance her overall quality of educational experience. Thanks to the collaboration between these two communities, Harper is now in an inclusive and supportive learning environment, made possible with the use of Mill Levy funding.

**Individual Requests** are the most accessed part of the Mill Levy Program. This is because it allows eligible individuals to request specific items, supports, and services that can improve their daily lives. These requests enable eligible Denver residents, their families, and caregivers to seek funding for their personalized needs. If the request meets the IDDEAS program funding standards, the Mill Levy Program team will do everything possible to ensure a smooth and efficient request, review, and approval process.



The Mill Levy Program had another record-breaking year in 2023 with 9,722 total Individual Requests approved/partial approved; over a 10% increase in total requests. 2,935 unique individuals benefited and were able to get their individualized needs met –243 more individuals than 2022.

**“Get to a YES!”**  
Mill Levy Team Motto



## Client Story: Brian's Story

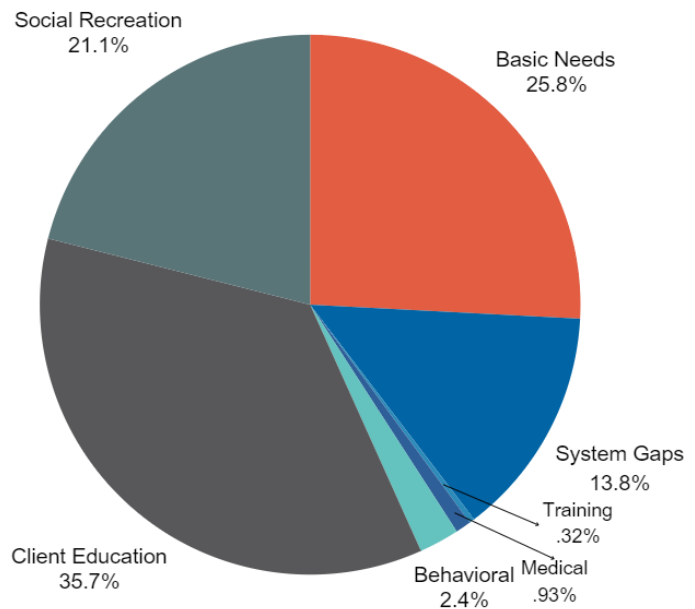
Brian is a social and adventurous person who loves being outdoors in Colorado. He particularly enjoys participating in Special Olympics with his dad. They've been participating in alpine skiing events together since 2012. They submitted a Mill Levy individual request after innovative technology was developed for a dynamic bi ski that supports Brian's independence while skiing. This significantly improved Brian's overall quality of life through increased independence and enhanced social skills. With the bi ski, he can now interact with other youth his age across Colorado as it works on any slope, whereas previously, he was restricted to just one ski resort that could accommodate his needs. His bi ski has also boosted his happiness, self-esteem, and confidence. Brian is now creating the future he desires, full of choice and inclusion in his preferred activities.



## Individual Request by Key Funding Area

RMHS has an established complaint process for individuals to voice their concerns regarding the outcome of their request. The Mill Levy Program team makes every effort to support the individual or family member seeking further consideration through this process. Between January 1 and December 31, 2023, RMHS received three complaints, which the Mill Levy Director resolved through the complaint process.

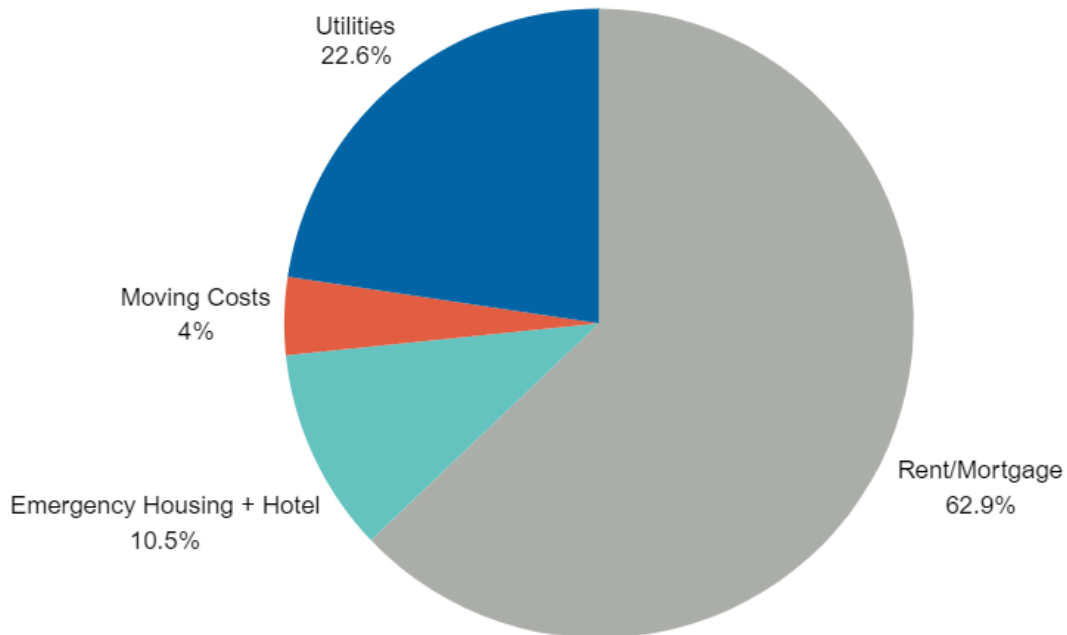
In 2023, 100% of individual request approvals benefited eligible Denver residents and fell under one of the Mill Levy Program Key Funding Areas:



**Housing Stabilization Assistance** provides immediate, short-term assistance for housing stability to eligible Denver residents experiencing homelessness or facing challenges that put their housing at risk. Stabilizing supports can include help with rent, eviction support, mortgage, and utilities. In response to the pandemic, RMHS and DHS partnered in 2020 to highlight the availability of funds earmarked for this purpose. The response confirmed the hardships families faced due to the rising cost of living and the socioeconomic impacts of the global pandemic. Housing crises continued into 2023, and this Mill Levy-funded service has become a significant support for eligible Denver residents and their families. Service Coordinators collaborate with individuals and families to provide this support.

In 2023, 601 total requests were approved for \$847,147 supporting 323 unique Denver households to cover rent, mortgage, emergency housing, utilities, and moving costs to stabilize a housing crisis.

### Housing Stabilization Assistance by Category





## Housing Stories: A Glimpse into 2023 Housing Stabilization Assistance

### Housing Modification Provides Forever Home

By leveraging Mill Levy funds to make the bathroom accessible for a teenager on the CES waiver who is transitioning to adult services, we are ensuring their ability to remain in their family home for the long-term future, providing much-needed housing stability. Without this critical modification, there was a real risk of displacement and housing instability for both the individual and their family caregivers. This essential update grants the family and individual access to essential resources that will continue to support their overall growth, health, safety, and mobility for self-care and daily activities.

### Eviction Resolution for Eligible Family

The Family Support Services Program (FSSP) case manager, adult IDD case manager, and START coordinator worked together to resolve a complex eviction situation and secure housing for two individuals receiving services from RMHS. The individuals were a parent with IDD and their child, who also has IDD. The team reconnected the parents with Supported Living Services (SLS) providers of their choice, whom they trusted, and referred the family to Bayaud for housing navigation support. They accessed Mill Levy funds to provide comprehensive support and services during the transition period, ensuring housing stability until long-term housing could be identified.

### Immediate Emergency Housing in the Face of the Unexpected

A single parent of a teenager diagnosed with autism and ADHD lost their home to a fire. The next day, they turned to their case manager at RMHS and received a rapid response, gaining access to Mill Levy for immediate housing support and wraparound needs, including food, clothing, and basic items after losing all their possessions in the fire. This immediate housing and wraparound support provided the family with the stability they needed to maintain school, therapies, and work until long-term housing was located.

### From Surviving to Thriving

An individual was struggling with homelessness. Being homeless was hard and they found themselves bouncing from one shelter to another-- just surviving was a daily struggle. Thanks to accessing Mill Levy funds, they no longer needed to endure this hardship. Mill Levy provided temporary housing to keep them safe from exploitation, harm, and harmful connections while helping them reconnect with support services. Now, at the age of 48, they are connected to long-term services and supports while living in their own apartment. They have a new goal now: "Now that I don't have to be a survivor, I want to launch my artistic basket business."

### Homeowner's Insurance Ensures Decades-Long Stability

After their mother passed away, a 73-year-old faced the risk of being forced to leave the house they had lived in for decades-- a home filled with cherished memories and moments with their family. Fortunately, their RMHS case manager was able to unite a team of community resources to help with much-needed home maintenance and safety projects. However, the increasing costs of utilities and homeowner's insurance remained a concern. Accessing the Mill Levy funds helped

cover the homeowner’s insurance, ensuring long-term housing stability.

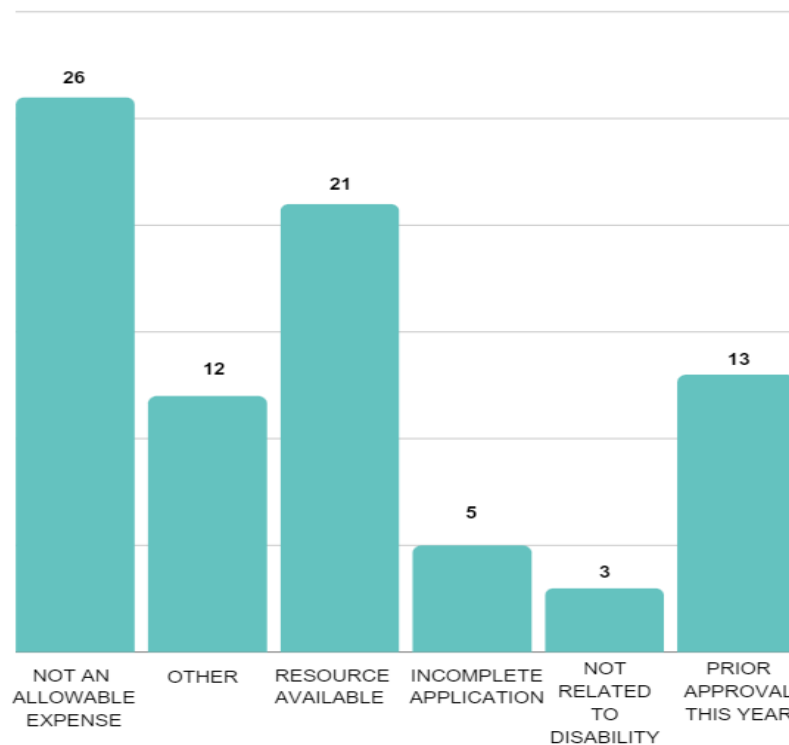
### From Heart Surgeries to a Full Heart

When a child is born prematurely and requires immediate heart surgery, life comes to a standstill. After five heart surgeries, this family needed help with their mortgage payments because one of the parents could not work while taking care of their child. They accessed Mill Levy funds to stabilize their situation and catch up on their mortgage payments, thus ensuring long-term housing stability.

### Individual Request Denials

Tracking denials and responding to complaints collaboratively is one mechanism the Mill Levy Program team uses to evaluate program performance and gauge client satisfaction. Of the 9,808 requests received, only 80 requests were fully denied. This results in a less than 1% percent denial rate, reflective of the Mill Levy Program’s motto of, “Get to a YES!” and its commitment to ensuring these funds reach as many Denver residents with IDD as possible. In response to these requests, RMHS provided an explanation for denial to the individual or family and provided referrals to other community resources when appropriate.

### DENIAL REASONS



**Mill Levy Support Plans (MLSPs)** fill system gaps and provide additional services that are unfunded or underfunded by Medicaid or other resources. A MLSP is developed using both public funds and private insurance to address the developmental and support needs of the individual receiving services. Service coordinators offer a MLSP for each Denver resident with IDD enrolled in each of the RMHS program areas that provide IDD services.



**Early Intervention Services MLSPs** provide services and supports to infants and toddlers with developmental delays and their families.

**In 2023, \$892,144 Mill Levy dollars funded EI MLSP services to benefit Denver children with developmental delays.**

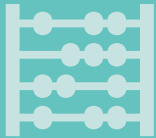
“Mill Levy has been instrumental in Cameron’s total wellbeing as well as our overall family’s wellbeing. The opportunities that Mill Levy has allowed Cameron to improve his social skills, increase his confidence, and expand his horizons. The music classes and swim lessons have been monumental in improving his overall development and provided him with the necessary structure that he has thrived within, learning skills that will carry with him throughout his life.”



The Mill Levy team strives to support local businesses to provide as many of the following services for children in EI as possible.



**Music Classes** to help facilitate development and learning.



**Environmental Enrichment** to support therapeutic play through fun and engaging toys, games, and books to reinforce developmental skills learned in therapy sessions.



**Home Safety Products** such as cabinet locks, baby gates, monitors, stove guards, and outlet covers help families safeguard their home.



**Essentials for Growth** support growth and development of young children by providing the right car seat, highchair, stroller, crib, or bed.



**Respite** so families can safely take a break from caregiving responsibilities.

**Family Support Services MLSPs.** The Family Support Services (FSSP) is a state-funded program that provides individualized supports and services to families who are caring for a family member with an IDD or developmental delay. FSSP funding is determined by a child and family’s Most in Need (MIN) assessment, which is completed by our Family Support Service Coordinators. Mill Levy funds can supplement when the state funds do not cover the full support need costs. Typical FSSP services include:

FSSP MLSPs	Assistive Technology
	Camp
	Environmental Engineering/Home Modifications
	Medical Services
	Parent/Sibling Support
	Professional Services
	Respite
	Social/Recreational
	Transportation
	Other Unique Needs

**Respite continues to be the most significant need for families with 3,467 total requests approved, totaling nearly \$4 million. These Mill Levy funds provided a much-needed break to Denver parents and caregivers and are reflective of a 37% increase from 2022.**

In 2023, RMHS also offered the FSSP Mill Levy Menu which included the same resources provided in an Early Intervention MLSP with addition of the Sensory Menu.



**A Sensory Menu** offers items provided by Sensory Kids Inc. that are designed to meet specific sensory needs, including chewable necklaces, weighted blankets and vests, and pod swings.

**In 2023, \$1,626,031 Mill Levy dollars funded FSSP MLSPs and \$522,294 funded FSSP Mill Levy Menu items to support eligible Denver children and their families.**

**Home and Community Based Services MLSPs.** Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers enable adults and children with IDD to continue living with their families or independently in the community of their choice. Service Coordinators meet four times per year, and as needed, with individuals enrolled in an HCBS waiver. At the quarterly in-person or virtual meeting, the team reviews all service and support needs and determines if there are any system gaps or additional needs that are not available through the waiver or state-funded program. Mill Levy funds are used to address any system gaps or unmet needs.

**In 2023, \$1,979,552 in Mill Levy dollars funded MLSP services to benefit eligible Denver residents. The most prevalent areas of support requested included Professional Services, Day Habilitation, Behavioral Services and Personal Care.**

HCBS MLSPs are also offered to Mill Levy eligible people who are not currently enrolled in an HCBS program, are on the waitlist for the HCBS-DD waiver, not eligible for Medicaid long-term care or receive case management outside of RMHS.

**MLSP PROVIDERS.** RMHS contracts directly with Program Approved Service Agencies (PASA) to provide MLSP services. RMHS chooses to engage a PASA for this work because the state designates them as qualified providers for IDD services and ensures proper monitoring and oversight.

**In 2023, on average, RMHS contracted directly with 72 PASAs to provide HCBS MLSPs to eligible residents -- even if they did not receive RMHS case management services.**

## Client Story: EI MLSP Impact from Parent

“I am so deeply grateful for Mill Levy’s support in what can seem like small everyday items. Developmental toys such as blocks, chalk, books have been the biggest help for us. I stay home to support my daughter and these items provide us with stimulating ways to use language as we play! We would not have been able to afford these items without the support of Mill Levy. We are so grateful and love the Mill Levy program!”



# Mill Levy Service Coordination

RMHS designates Mill Levy funds to RMHS departments that serve eligible Denver residents. Service Coordinators and Mill Levy Access Coordinators provide support to eligible residents to access Mill Levy funding and provide quality case management services not covered through Medicaid, state and/or federal program funds. RMHS provides Mill Levy Service Coordination during the intake and enrollment processes, ongoing case management or Mill Levy access coordination (for individuals that do not receive case management services from RMHS).

Mill levy Service Coordination activities allow RMHS to support eligible residents in accessing any Mill Levy-funded services and programs and to ensure their needs are met comprehensively and expeditiously. RMHS staff provide a variety of activities that Medicaid and/or state general funds do not cover.

Mill Levy Service Coordination	Receive all incoming calls and inquiries to RMHS for IDD-related services and resources and provide information to callers about IDD programs and services
	Determine whether eligible residents are seeking IDD services, other Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) including other Medicaid waivers, and/ or need other community resources
	Complete intake and referral tasks for residents seeking eligibility by gathering necessary information to proceed with applying for and being determined eligible for IDD services
	Assess needs not met through existing federal, state, and/or locally funded or administered programs or resources, including Medicaid
	Develop and authorize RMHS Mill Levy Support Plans (MLSP) to meet unmet needs
	Reduce waitlist waiting periods across several programs
	Facilitate, review, and submit Individual Requests
	Coordinate with external agencies to promote identification of eligible clients

## Mill Levy Service Coordination

Department & Program	Individuals Served <sup>1</sup>	Mill Levy Funding
<b>Service Coordination Department</b>		
Intake, Referral, & Enrollment Services	1574	\$349,103
Family Support Services Program	1234	\$1,004,754
HCBS and State SLS Services/ML Access Coordinators	1257	\$1,343,319
<b>Developmental &amp; Behavioral Health Department</b>		
Early Intervention Services	674	\$375,456

---

<sup>1</sup> Some individuals receive services from more than one RMHS program during the year, and therefore they were included in each program's count.



**Mill Levy Access Coordinator**

Monitors DD (Residential) Waiver Waitlist status.

Assesses needs not met through existing federal, state, and/or locally funded or administered programs or resources, including Medicaid.

Provides options counseling for individuals and families about available services and supports through other Medicaid waivers, Mill Levy funding, and community resources.

Develops and authorizes RMHS Mill Levy Support Plans (MLSP) to meet unmet needs and facilitates, reviews, and authorizes Individual Requests.

Identifies and provides referrals to community resources.

**Mill Levy Access Coordinators** utilize the waitlist for residential services as one way to identify these eligible individuals. Because RMHS is the CCB for Denver, and the Single-Entry Point (SEP) for other state-funded programs, the Mill Levy Access Coordinator can easily target outreach efforts. Other efforts to reach eligible Denver residents include close coordination with the RMHS Intake department, targeted efforts through the RMHS Communications and Outreach team, and other dedicated staff positions, such as the Denver Public Schools Liaison and EI Engagement Specialist. In addition, Mill Levy-funded Community Initiative partners actively refer Denver residents with IDD to RMHS.

<b>Team</b>	<b>Total</b>
Intake/Enrollment *	44
Adult IDD Case Management	87
Children IDD Case Management *	8
Non-IDD Case Management	4
Mill Levy Not in Program	2
* Note: There is some overlap between intake team numbers with children’s team and non-IDD case management as intake was working on IDD waiver intake while the member was enrolled in another program.	

# Targeted Initiatives

RMHS uses a portion of Mill Levy funding to mitigate barriers to services and supports through dedicated staff positions and targeted programs through RMHS Initiatives.

**In 2023, RMHS utilized \$417,988 in Mill Levy funds to meet system gaps in the form of targeted positions in the department. These positions extend our reach to ALL eligible Denver residents and ensure people waiting for other services or seeking eligibility or services can access Mill Levy.**

In 2023, RMHS maintained all Mill Levy-dedicated staff roles in each program and added additional roles including Infant Specialists and School & Community Liaisons. Roles may include more than one staff position. Each Mill Levy-dedicated role, key accomplishments, and visions for 2024 are shared below.

## Infant Mental Health Specialist

This role provides families, service coordinators, and therapists with information about children's social-emotional development in the Infant and Early Childhood programs at RMHS. The person in this role also provides consultations, training, and direct mental health services for infants, toddlers, and their families.

### Key Accomplishments

In 2023, the Infant Mental Health Specialist provided 299 hours of direct services, averaging 25 hours per month. This provider completed the requirements to become endorsed by the Colorado Association of Infant Mental Health (Co-Aimh) as a Reflective Supervisor (RS) and Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMH-S) pending examination. As an approved RS supervisor, the provider offered Reflective Supervision to Early Intervention providers with RMHS who were pursuing Endorsement with Co-Aimh. A total of 38 hours of Reflective Supervision was provided to these providers to enhance their knowledge of Infant Mental Health Issues.

This year, our Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist initiated a new program called Parent and Baby Day Out Group. This group focuses on helping children enrolled in Early Intervention and their caregivers build community and mutual support. The primary tenets of this group include improving parent-child relationships, practicing social-emotional skills, increasing social connections, reducing parent isolation, and enhancing parenting skills.

In 2023, we organized 11 Parent and Baby Day Out Group events at various locations in the Denver community. 24 families enrolled in Early Intervention with RMHS participated with their actively

enrolled child as well as siblings and invited family members. In total, 45 guests, including siblings and other family members, attended. This resulted in 69 total participants in 2023.

## Vision for the Future

In 2024, the Infant Mental Health Specialist will continue to offer monthly Parent and Baby Day Out Groups to families. They will also start tracking effectiveness using the Parent Stress Index Inventory as a pre-and post-assessment. Additionally, they will continue to provide Reflective Supervision to staff to enhance the capacity of providers to manage and recognize Infant Mental Health issues for our families. Direct services are forecasted to increase this year to approximately 57 hours per month, which represents a 50% increase from 2023.

## Early Intervention (EI) Engagement Specialist

This role works to increase engagement and identify needs, gaps, and barriers throughout all stages of the EI program to improve services and the overall experience for all participants.

## Key Accomplishments

In 2023, the EI Engagement Specialist continued partnerships with referral sources in the community to support families through the initial EI referral and evaluation process. The Transition Home Program connected additional families in the NICU to Mill Levy funding for their transition home from the hospital. The Engagement Specialist provided navigation support for families when their children reached transition age before enrollment in the EI program. The ongoing work on community outreach led to multiple trainings provided to Early Head Start programs and attendance at various events and conferences in the Denver metro area. The Engagement Specialist played a vital role in engaging with the community, organizing screening events, conducting assessments, and linking children to the Denver Early Steps (DES) program for developmental monitoring. In collaboration with DES, a monthly newsletter was launched and sent directly to all families participating in RMHS programming for infants and toddlers from birth to 3 years old. The responsibilities of the Engagement Specialist position were broadened to cover any gaps and to meet funding requirements. An ongoing caseload is now managed by the Engagement Specialist for children 3-5 years of age who have exited EI with continued funding needs and those 0-3 with developmental delays who opted out of developmental programming but need access to Mill Levy funding.

## Vision for the Future

Looking forward to 2024, the EI Engagement Specialist role will expand the developmental screening program through DES with the addition of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training and will host events on a more regular basis in the community. There will also be a focus on increasing communication with established community partners to share opportunities for

caregiver education and family social interaction for those involved in DBH programming and the great Denver community.

## School & Community Services Liaisons / Mill Levy Children’s Access Coordinator

This role is responsible for direct contact with Denver Public School (DPS). This contact includes district employees, community members, and families with children and young adults ages 3-21 who are not yet enrolled in services with RMHS. Staff in this role also assist families in Denver County who do not require ongoing case management with funding for their child who has a developmental delay (ages 0-4) or intellectual and developmental disability (ages 5-17). School & Community Service Liaisons and Mill Levy Children’s Access Coordinators work in a collaborative model, supporting each other to further the work of supporting the DPS community.

### Key Accomplishments

In 2023, the School and Community Liaisons accomplished a great deal, marked by numerous achievements and a sharp vision for the future. They attended 21 outreach events across Denver, focusing on Districts 4, 5, 9, and 11 and made RMHS information readily available in 11 community spaces including the Montebello Library, Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, and the Green Valley Ranch Library. They established meaningful contacts with family members, individuals, and community partners, leading to the collection of 63 completed RMHS applications.

The School and Community Liaisons developed partnerships with 12 organizations and community partners, fostering collaborations that enhance their reach and impact. Their commitment to inclusivity was evident as they cultivated relationships with four organizations dedicated to serving the immigrant and refugee community. Throughout the year, they submitted numerous Individual Requests, conducted three impactful trainings and forums, and provided vital assistance to the Family Support Program in supporting families with delayed enrollment. The School and Community Liaisons' commitment to engaging with the community remains strong as they continue to foster relationships with local agencies through ongoing partnerships. The School and Community Liaisons are proud of their leadership roles within Sequencing of Services and Project SEARCH, demonstrating their commitment to innovation and collaboration.

### Vision for the Future

In the upcoming year, the School and Community Liaisons plan to collaborate more closely with Mill Levy-funded Community Initiatives by supporting project members with enrollments, marketing, and outreach. They will lead training events for school communities including teachers, staff, and families in two schools

located in targeted districts. They also aim to co-host three resource events for DPS families with partner agencies while continuing to establish connections with elementary schools, collaborating with Early Intervention (EI) for preschool outreach, conducting additional site visits, and developing partnerships with the RMHS programs of Missions Supports and START.

## Crisis Case Manager

This position offers trauma-informed care and consultations for families, children, and adults with complex needs who are in crisis. RMHS case managers receive case consultation and expertise to support individuals with various crisis needs, including resources and support for accessing housing, food, mental health resources, and options for supportive in-home services to help people stay in their preferred community setting. This role is primarily focused on collaborating with individuals living in Denver and connecting them to resources in the Denver metro area.

### Key Accomplishments

In 2023, the Crisis Case Manager managed over 146 complex situations, which is a 43% increase from 2022. RMHS staff and external stakeholders are seeking targeted support in navigating and dealing with complex situations. The RMHS intake team managed 44 intakes for people with IDD, 38 of which were for individuals not yet connected to RMHS. Out of the 146 complex situations supported by the crisis manager, 21 included an emergency enrollment request (EER) for the Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver. HCPF approved 20 EERs, and RMHS withdrew one request because the member experiencing homelessness was able to be supported in an apartment with SLS waiver services.

This role continues to be focused on increasing the larger Denver community's stakeholder collaborations from 10 stakeholder monthly or quarterly meetings to 15 ongoing collaborative meetings with Denver metro hospitals, Regional Accountable Entity (RAE), Adult Protective Services (APS), Division of Housing (DOH), Alliance, Office of Civil and Forensic Mental Health (OCFMH) and the criminal justice system to build rapport, create communication connections, and share knowledge collectively to better support individuals with I/DD who are also experiencing a crisis.

### Vision for the Future

In the upcoming year, the Crisis Care Manager plans to offer in-person, walk-in trauma-informed care and crisis support at the main RMHS location along with an increased focus on the 0-18 IDD population experiencing a crisis.

## Mission Supports

The Mission Supports Program, a unique and long-standing Denver resource for individuals with IDD who are experiencing housing instability, helps to identify those who may qualify for disability benefits and walks them through the eligibility process required to access Colorado's Home and Community-Based programs. Mission Supports has addressed the critical void in assistance for people in Denver with IDD who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness since 2017. In October of 2023, Mission Supports integrated into RMHS from an outward community initiative to an internal targeted initiative, allowing RMHS to leverage expertise and resources to streamline and strengthen support for this population. Long-standing staff are experts in supporting people in accessing the appropriate wraparound services available through RMHS and connecting people with the individualized support they need to pursue a future away from homelessness.

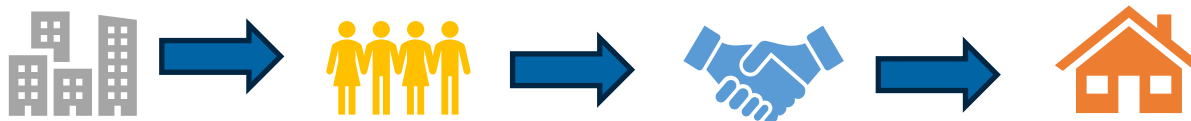
### Key Accomplishments

In 2023, 288 people were supported by the Mission Supports team and 61 people have been approved for DD determination out of 72 people referred. Mission Supports continues to leverage expertise and resources to do the following:

- ✓ **Connect** with future participants through various referral sources including overnight and day shelters, law enforcement and mental health co-responders, DHS APS and CPS, as well as family members and the participants themselves.
- ✓ **Schedule, coordinate and often provide transportation** to obtain state-required evaluations, documentation and follow up that is required by the state to obtain an approved "eligibility determination" to apply for HCBS DD or SLS Medicaid waivers.
- ✓ **Stay aware and engaged** with participants to ensure proper asset and monthly income amounts to avoid the interruption or "closing out" of disability income, Medicaid health coverage, and other county benefits.
- ✓ **Encourage** participants to make their own "informed" decisions and assist when needed during learning opportunities that focus on their rights to the appropriate services they are qualified to receive.
- ✓ **Assist** participants through the LTSS enrollment process until they begin HCBS DD or SLS programs, which often include permanent housing.
- ✓ **Provide** access to personal cell phones and monthly minutes, emergency motel stays, food prior to important appointments, transportation, clothing, disability specific resources, and even furniture and household necessities for a new home.

### Vision for the Future

In the upcoming year, Mission Supports envisions even more integrating of expertise and resources in this space across programs and departments to increase its impact.



### Client Story: Meeting Unique Needs through Emergency Respite

RMHS partnered with multiple systems including a Denver hospital, school system, Colorado Access, and Health Care Policy and Finance to address the need of a youth who was stuck in the emergency room with no placement options. The youth was receiving services on the CHRP waiver and had been terminated from two CHRP habilitation service providers due to behavior. After four weeks of exhaustive service options, the RMHS case manager was unable to locate a CHRP habilitation option and the youth was still in the hospital. The crisis manager, along with the multi-system team, partnered with an adult service provider to license an adult host home as a foster home. This allowed the youth to move out of the hospital and into a community setting of their choice with full wraparound services and supports. The provider accessed Mill Levy funds for gap emergency respite until the home became foster care licensure. The placement was successful, and the youth is doing extremely well in the individualized setting.

## Mill Levy Access Coordinators

RMHS served over 6,501 unique Denver residents with IDD in 2023. Most of these individuals receive service coordination through Colorado’s Home and Community-Based programs and state-funded programs. When services are received outside of RMHS, the Mill Levy Access Coordinators step in to assist individuals not tied to these programs for several reasons, including, but not limited to:

- Receiving IDD case management services from another CMA/CCB
- Enrolled in a non-IDD long-term service and supports program
- Not eligible for state/federally funded services due to legal status
- Not receiving any other HCBS services and supports

**In 2023, the Mill Levy Access Coordinators maintained an active caseload of 104 unique individuals which is 33% increase in unique individuals and facilitated 201 requests to access individualized services and supports to benefit their lives in their community of choice.**

The RMHS Mill Levy Program actively manages a Not-in-Program caseload that is open to all eligible Denver residents, regardless of immigration status. The Mill Levy Access Coordinators proactively identify eligible Denver residents that may not receive services through RMHS CCB services. Access Coordinators utilize the waitlist for residential services as one way to identify these individuals. Because RMHS is the CMA for Denver, and the Single-Entry Point (SEP) for the other state-funded programs, the Mill Levy Access Coordinator can easily target outreach efforts.

<b>Mill Levy Access Coordinators 2023 Active Caseload</b>	
<b>Active with another CCB</b>	15
<b>Not on waitlist - no other HCBS services</b>	9
<b>On Waitlist - receiving no other HCBS services</b>	48
<b>On Waitlist - with other HCBS services</b>	32





## Early Intervention Initiatives

### Children’s Clinical Team Supports

Mill Levy dollars provide funding to the RMHS Developmental and Behavioral Health (DBH) Department for clinical and support services for children enrolled in EI Colorado or one of the EI Denver supplemental programs. The programs are for children that need EI services but are not able to receive these services through the state-funded EI Colorado Program.

### EI Colorado Children’s Clinical

Mill Levy funding provides a per month rate for each child that receives an assessment and/or treatment from the RMHS DBH clinical staff. These funds allow RMHS clinicians to offer timely and comprehensive diagnostic evaluations and high-quality EI professional services for services that would otherwise exceed limits set by other payers, home-based services, and care coordination intended to increase quality of care and support best practices.

### EI Denver Program

There are three areas of support provided including:

#### Transition Home Program:

Families with infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) may feel unprepared when it comes time to bring their babies home. In addition, many of these infants have a diagnosis making them eligible for EI services, but sometimes it can be several weeks before services begin. These weeks can be a sensitive and challenging time when many families find that they need additional support. The purpose of the Mil Levy-funded Transition Home Program (THP) through RMHS is to support the families and children currently in the NICU and at home following their discharge. In 2023, RMHS provided services and support to 46 infants and their families through THP.

### Denver Early Steps:

Established in 2020, Denver Early Steps (DES) was created to ensure that children experiencing a 25-32% developmental delay continued to receive case management and direct service support after a rule change regarding eligibility for services through Early Intervention Colorado. Since the creation of this program, additional gaps in support and services have been identified by staff and the community. DES has worked to address those under the EI Denver Umbrella, which includes the Transition Home Program, Infant Mental Health Support, Autism Diagnostic services, and a Family Engagement Specialist to reduce access barriers for families. One purpose of these programs is to provide evidenced-based support for infants and children 0-5 in Denver who do not meet the narrow eligibility requirements under the State's Early Intervention Program. Another is to provide services and supports that are not covered under the state's current Early Intervention Program and provide gap support services identified and informed by the community. These services are proactive and preventative with the intention to empower families with tools for success. Denver Early Steps and the EI Denver Program support child development in earlier years when timely support is critical.

In addition to comprehensive case management and direct services, Denver Early Steps provides developmental monitoring using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). This supports children not found eligible for Early Intervention and children where traditional direct services are not the best fit for them or what the family wants. The developmental monitoring program tracks developmental milestones and identifies any potential risks or delays. It then addresses them with service coordination, direct services, or resources and referrals. In the last six months, there have been six developmental screening events in community locations including Warren Village, the Children's Museum, and the Denver Public Library. Results found 33 children eligible for this support. Denver Early Steps has recently expanded this service to provide Development Screenings using the Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening (ACEs) to identify potential risk factors as a result of experiencing toxic stress due to life experiences.

Finally, Denver Early Steps provides essential group support services that are often challenging to implement in both the EI and medical model despite the advocacy of families and the evidence behind their effectiveness. These groups include the 'It Takes Two to Talk' and 'More Than Words' Hanen Programs, 'Building Blocks for Communication', 'Introduction to Signs in Daily Routines', and 'Family Social.' These groups are an opportunity for parents and caregivers to share their experiences, brainstorm ideas, and build a support network with other families. Two additional groups will be added in the next six months, including a 'Picky Eater' class and the launch of 'SibShops' in both English and Spanish. 'SibShops' is a group that provides support and information for siblings of children with developmental disabilities. Each DES program has over ten families participate in each session, with most classes or groups occurring monthly. From July 2023 to January 2024, approximately 140 families have been supported by Denver Early Steps programs.

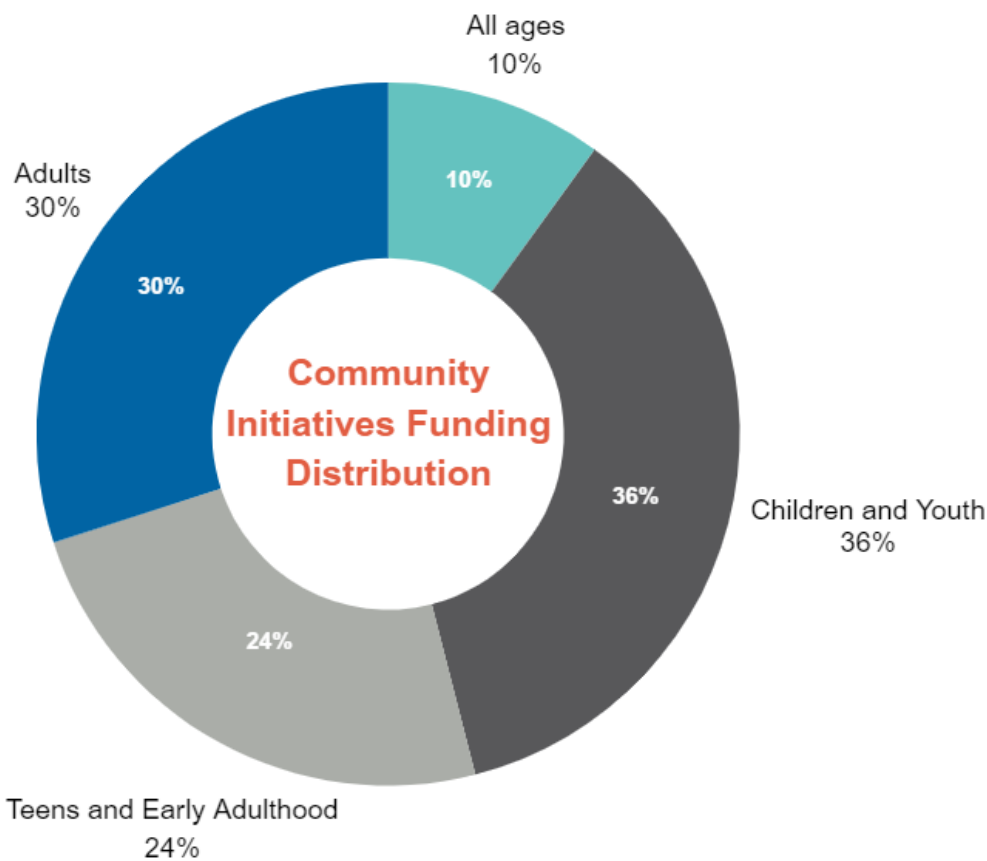
**Non-EI Children's Clinical:**

In 2023, the RMHS children’s clinical team provided diagnostic evaluations for 65 children who are no longer qualified to receive evaluations through the state’s EI Colorado program due to their age. This Mill Levy-funded initiative connects children that are over the age of 3 with qualified clinicians to assess for developmental delays, including autism. It eliminates typically long wait periods for Denver families with children in this age group and allows families who require interpretation services to access high-quality evaluations.




# Community Initiatives



In 2017, RMHS began funding community agencies with unique and innovative ideas to benefit Denver’s eligible residents and address IDD service options that are unavailable through traditional funding sources. Since then, the Mill Levy Program, with support from the Community Advisory Council and stakeholder feedback, has continued to identify priority funding areas and extend the reach of the Community Initiatives to more Denver Residents with an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).




In 2023, Mill Levy renewed 28 Community Initiatives contracts and awarded six new community initiatives through the annual funding opportunity process. In 2023, Community Initiatives utilized \$3,807,039 in Mill Levy funding to further provide innovative and unique services for eligible Denver residents of all ages.







## Projects Serving All Ages: 204 unique individuals benefited from \$376,344 from Mill Levy-funded projects




	<p><b>Adventure Camp</b> offers year-round adventures for ages 9+. These range from a five-day overnight summer camp at YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch to year-round adventures and road trips held in the Denver Area. This expansion increases staff support and experts in mental /behavioral health to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all campers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreational</li> </ul>
<p><b>ADAN</b></p>	<p><b>ADAN</b> is a Denver-based Public Benefit Corporation that is building a radically different Navigation, Problem Solving and Lifetime Care Planning Platform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The Autism Community Store</b> is a social enterprise that offers hard-to-find products, resources, support, social and recreational activities, training, and employment opportunities to the IDD community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Needs &amp; Environmental Supports</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreational</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> </ul>
	<p>CCDC's <b>Probate Power</b> focuses primarily on special needs planning for individuals and families with disabilities, but also assists clients with all other aspects of estate planning and probate administration. Services include, but are not limited to, preparing simple and complex wills, revocable living trusts, special needs trusts, financial power of attorney documents, uncontested guardianships/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Needs &amp; Environmental Supports</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> </ul>





	<p>conservatorships, ABLÉ accounts, probate administration, and advanced medical directives.</p>	
	<p><b>Guided by Humanity</b> provides accessible, inclusive, and compassionate yoga and mindfulness programming. GBH creates space to meet the needs and accommodate all students through adaptive techniques and cultural and linguistic competency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Social Recreation</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> </ul>
	<p>Parent to Parent of Colorado offers the <b>the Mile High Connections Matter!</b> program, which supports families with children, youth, and adults with IDD. The project shares knowledge and information and offers emotional support so that families do not feel alone in their parenting journey. In turn, experienced parents train their peers new to parenting a child with developmental delays or IDD to provide support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Special Olympics</b> uses an organized and well-structured sports programming so that athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities can experience benefits from academic success to increased self-esteem.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social &amp; Recreational Services</li> </ul>

<b>Projects Serving Children &amp; Youth: 93 unique individuals benefited from \$1,367,219 from Mill Levy-funded projects</b>		
	<p>Utilizing a unique Social Aptitude Inclusive Play model (SAIP), <b>Connect Us</b>-trained facilitators guide children with IDD and their typically developing peers through physical, creative, and collaborative activities while building social and emotional skills, self-confidence, and personal identity in a loosely-structured social setting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Social Recreation</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> <li>• Training &amp; Education</li> </ul>
	<p>El Grupo Vida’s <b>Resource Center and Community Navigator</b> 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Recreation</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> <li>• Training &amp; Education</li> </ul>
	<p>Qualified and willing Evoke BCBA’s and staff offer a <b>Severe Behavior Day Treatment Program</b> 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> <li>• Training &amp; Education</li> </ul>

<b>Projects Serving Children &amp; Youth cont.</b>		
	<p><b>BehaviorSpan</b> provides center-based Early Intervention ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) services. The Denver center will work with children 18 months - 7 years old, providing up to 40 hours of learning for each client per week with continuous 1:1 interaction with a therapist and individualized programs developed by a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> <li>• Training &amp; Education</li> </ul>
	<p>The Hopeful Beginnings and Hopeful Journey therapy intensive programs provide intensive interdisciplinary therapies for children with developmental disabilities in underserved communities in the greater Denver area. <b>Therapies for Hope</b> programs are offered during school breaks and include a sibling program, transportation, and meals to mitigate barriers for marginalized families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p>Tennyson Center’s <b>BRANCH</b> project empowers children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma to heal and change their life’s story bravely and safely through educational and therapeutic services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p>Qualified ECSE-licensed teachers and therapists conduct the <b>Rise School of Denver</b>’s mission to provide the highest quality early childhood education for all children, including children with developmental disabilities in an inclusive setting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> </ul>






<b>Projects Serving Teens &amp; Early Adulthood: 152 unique individuals benefited from \$908,494 from Mill Levy-funded projects</b>		
	<p>The <b>RAMP</b> project provides evidence-based, career focused mentoring and career exploration opportunities for youth with disabilities and other challenges. The RAMP Youth Intensive Services project targets eligible youth in and out of foster care to promote a successful transition into early adulthood in a peer-oriented, adult- and community-supported environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p>Cottonwood Community Alternatives <b>Residential Program</b> offers Personal Care alternative housing model options in an inclusive community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p>Accessing Community through <b>Digital Citizenship (ACDC) program</b>. This would be a pilot course for a 12-week program in computer/tech literacy and safe, independent internet access for people with I/DD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> </ul>


	<p>The <b>Jovial Gardens</b> project converts twenty-five lawns and public spaces into garden classrooms in low-income Denver neighborhoods. Utilizing the classrooms, individuals with IDD engage in job training and learn marketable skills in “seed-to-table” programming. Opportunities include growing produce, harvesting crops, nutritional planning and learning to make healthy meals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p>The <b>Revel Lounge</b> project offers an environment where people with and without disabilities can connect, work, learn, build relationships, and thrive together. There are also opportunities for individualized behavior therapy in a variety of non-traditional settings from the REVEL Supports program.</p> <p><b>Revel Employment</b> offers post-secondary education and competitive employment for transition-aged youth and adults. It also offers forward thinking educational and employment opportunities that challenge ableism, stereotypes, and limiting beliefs to meet modern needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>TACT</b> is a trade and technical training program aimed at supporting youth and young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). TACT’s goal is to increase students’ proficiency in their marketable interest(s), imparting skills and confidence needed for workplace preparation and future employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Show + Tell</b> provides parents and transition-age youth with information and training about disabilities, children's legal rights, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), and resources in the Denver Metro area. Show + Tell focuses efforts towards underserved BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) families and connects them with the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>



	tools they need to help their children develop essential life skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> </ul>
--	---	---

**Projects Serving Adults: 176 unique individuals benefited from \$1,154,982 from Mill Levy-funded projects**

	<p><b>Access Gallery</b> is an inclusive nonprofit organization that engages the <b>community</b> by opening doors to creative, educational, and economic opportunities for people with disabilities to access, experience, and benefit from the arts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Activity Options</b> staff provide small groups, weekend, and evening community activities, and overnight travel within Colorado and nearby states for eligible individuals. Project participants choose interest areas such as music, theater, local events, physical activities and/or social opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreational</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Colorado Fund for People with Disabilities</b> seek out potentially eligible individuals at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness through their <b>Mission Supports</b> project. If the eligible person wants to pursue support services, the Mission Supports team provides intensive case management and mentorship to complete the eligibility and enrollments process for long-term services and supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> </ul>

**Projects Serving Adults cont.**

	<p>The Easter Seal’s <b>Supported Employment</b> project provides employment services to assist people with IDD to attain competitive and integrated employment (CIE) through job coaching, skills training, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
---	--	---

	<p>placement. Their model also supports people with IDD and co-occurring mental illness, allowing supported employment for eligible individuals with behavioral health conditions to work regular jobs of their choosing.</p>	
	<p><b>GLOBAL Inclusive College Certificate</b> is a higher education program that provides a collegiate experience for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The Wayfaring Band (TWB)</b> provides real-world opportunities for individuals with IDD to practice independent living skills and build genuine relationships with other individuals with and without IDD. They have opportunities to develop their capacity to make choices and self-advocate through anti-ableism and anti-racist education, socialization, and transformative adventure travel experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreational</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> </ul>

## Community Initiative Highlights

**El Grupo Vida,** a Mill Levy Program, through El Grupo Vida, has been helping immigrants, and new arrivals with IDD as well as their families by providing connections to



education, health, housing, disabilities systems, and community resources. This includes support ranging from county shelters to long-term housing. El Grupo Vida organized two activities that brought together a group of community organizations to support families with children, youth, and adults with IDD in shelters or transition housing this past year. These activities aimed to guide these families and individuals through available services and to follow up with basic needs such as clothes, food, diapers, and hygiene products. El Grupo Vida operates an exchange boutique and food pantry where families can donate items they no longer need, spend time volunteering, and take what they need, including wheelchairs.



**BehaviorSpan** was founded by J.J. Tomash, BCBA-D in Colorado in 2015 as a small company that provided ABA therapy to just a few clients. Now, BehaviorSpan has ABA centers in Aurora, Wheat Ridge, and a Mill Levy-funded location in Denver.

BehaviorSpan aims to provide the most effective Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for children and has carefully created environments to capture developmental opportunities for children to learn and grow, ensuring that the skills they learn help them in all environments.

# Communications & Outreach

Community outreach provides RMHS with opportunities to connect with Denver residents, build community partnerships, share thought leadership-based articles and resources, and extend our reach so all eligible individuals know how to access support and services through RMHS programming and Mill Levy resources.

2023 Highlights	
Number of Events:	In-person: 46 Virtual: 8
Number of People Reached through Newsletters:	3,594
Number of People Reached through Events:	62,700
People Reached through Social Media:	15,521
Amount spent in Outreach Materials:	\$24,082

## 2023 Mill Levy Community Forum:

This virtual presentation was held on September 4, 2023, to learn how the Mill Levy Program at RMHS connects students, families, and educators with tools to thrive this school year and beyond. 50 people attended virtually.



# Summary

RMHS provides service coordination and direct services to adults and children with IDD in Denver and the surrounding areas. As the CMA and single point of entry for individuals seeking assistance for needs related to IDD, RMHS is in the best position to meet this community’s needs. RMHS has remained steadfast in the goals of the Mill Levy Program as well.

RMHS is grateful to the City and County of Denver for its generosity to people with IDD. We are honored to serve these individuals every day. RMHS is resolved in our commitment to embracing challenges and creating responsive and innovative solutions through Mill Levy funding as demonstrated throughout this year. We were not only able to reshape existing programs, develop new service options, and fill systems gaps, but we also continued to provide individualized wraparound services that enhance people’s quality of life and well-being. This makes a world of difference for the people we serve and their families, supporting people in living life in full color to create a vibrant Denver community.

