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# Mill Levy Advisory Council

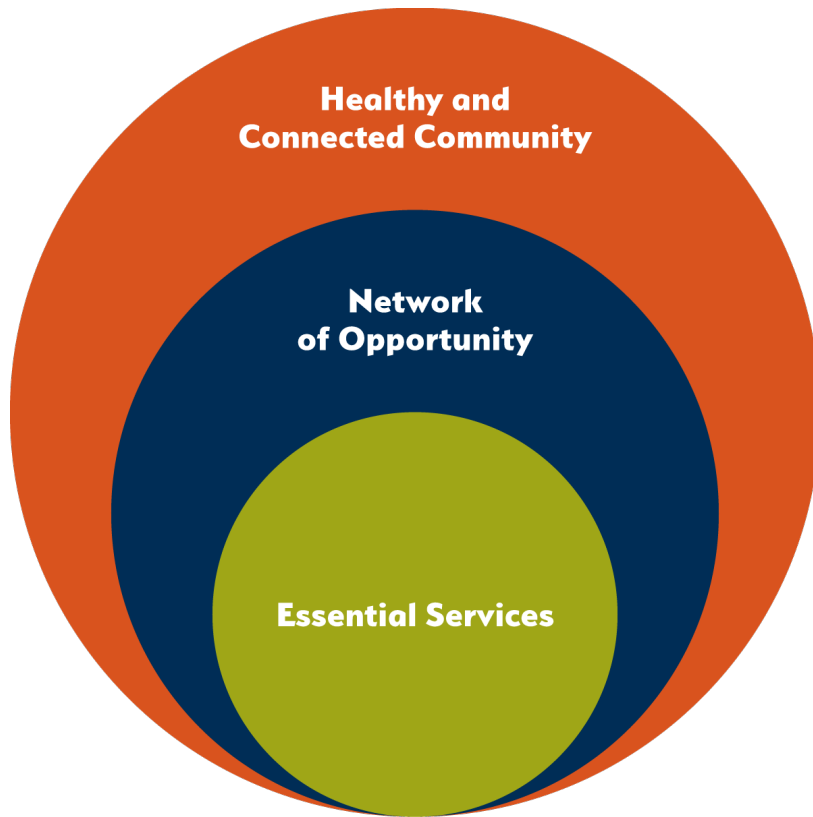
*Opportunities to serve Denver residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)*

Denver Human Services

Safety, Housing, Education, and Homelessness Committee | June 19, 2019

# Denver Human Services: Human *Together*

Human *Together* is the strategic framework for DHS through 2021. It informs and guides our work across the department and into our Denver communities.



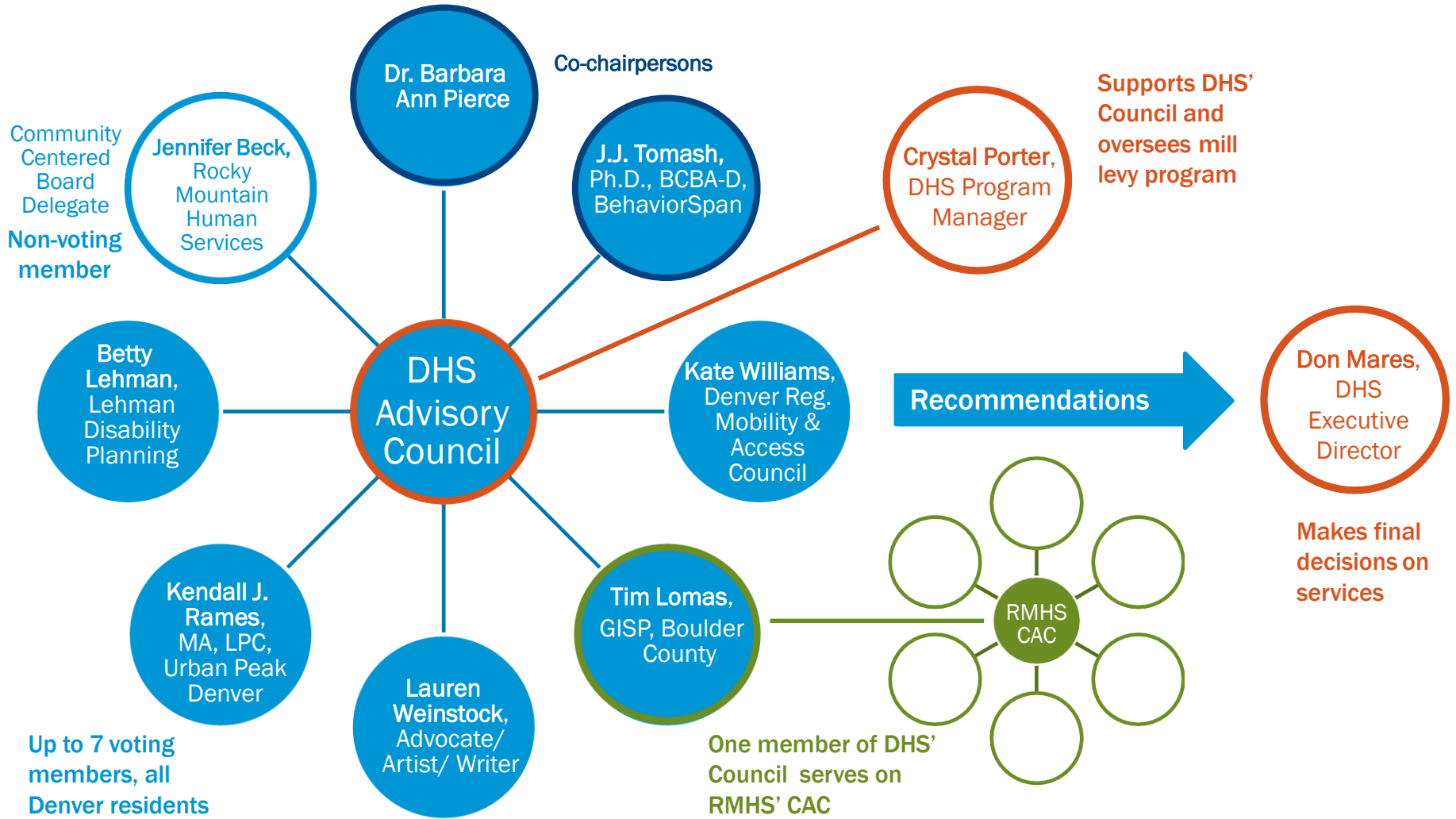
- Supporting a **healthy and connected community**.
- Partnering to build a **network of opportunity** that identifies root causes and addresses the needs of the whole person and whole family.
- Providing quality, timely **essential services** with integrity, kindness, and respect.

# DHS Mill Levy Program

The DHS Mill Levy Program manages taxpayer funds dedicated to services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Denver.



# Mill Levy Advisory Council



# Mill Levy Advisory Council Timeline

November 2018:  
Request for  
Information

January 2019:  
First advisory  
council meeting

April/ May 2019:  
DHS investigation of  
recommendations



October 2018:  
[DHS Needs  
Assessment](#)

December 2018:  
Appointed advisory  
council members

April 2019:  
First recommendations  
to DHS for review

**June 2019:  
Draft Request  
for Proposal**

# Advisory Council Meetings

7 advisory council meetings convened from  
Jan – June 2019 with 25+ guests

Meetings are open to the community and include a  
public comment period

- Call-in option provided for all meetings
- Outreach via DHS website, social media,  
email, community meetings

# Mill Levy Advisory Council Priorities

## Initial priorities:

- Enhancing access to existing or critical resources
- Greater understanding of the mill levy
- Cultural sensitivity and inclusion
- Communications and outreach

## Current priorities to be explored:

- Affordable housing
- Transitions services
- Mental health

DHS currently  
has approx.

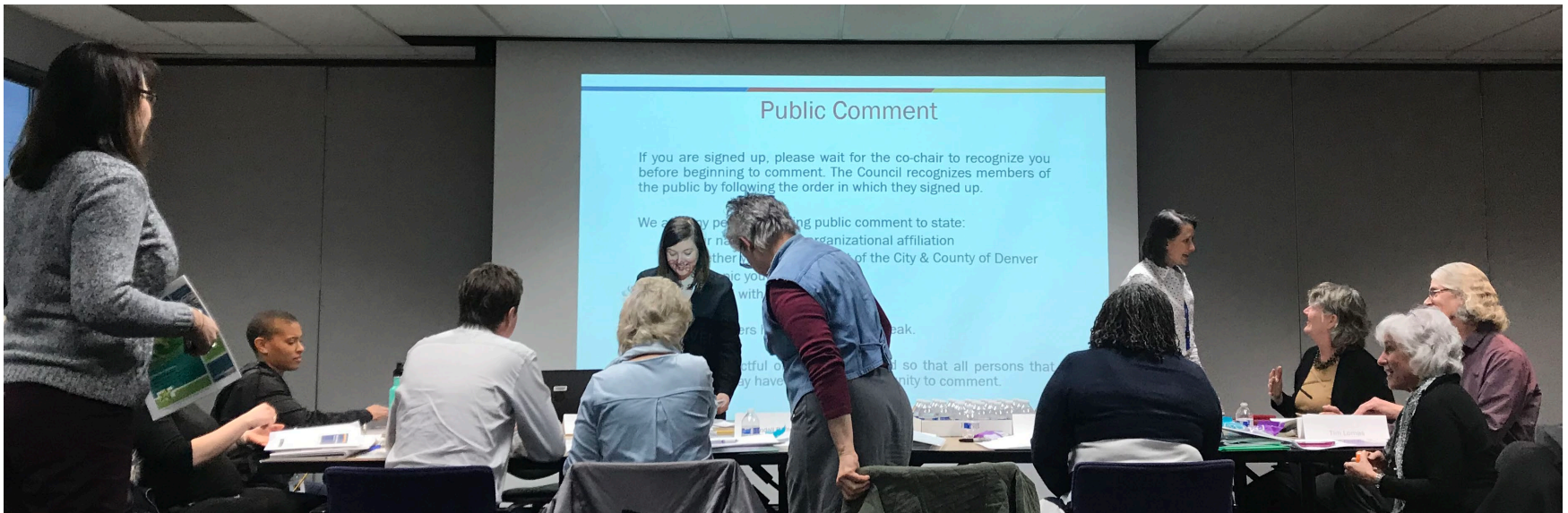
**\$10.7M**

in unspent funds  
from prior years  
to distribute

**Guiding values: courage, loyalty, empowerment, sustainability**

# Commitment to Bold Programs

- Explore dynamic, innovative models to adapt or enhance service delivery
- Harness the creative energy and ingenuity of our local business community to pioneer new programs





# The Shining Beautiful Podcast

-through RMHS client assistance program-



16 episodes

Welcome to The Shining Beautiful Series Podcast where we celebrate the brilliance of community in action in the lives of people with disabilities.

## The Shining Beautiful Series Podcast

tangoresults@gmail.com (tangoresults@gmail.com)

Education

★★★★★ 5.0, 2 Ratings

[Listen on Apple Podcasts ↗](#)



JUN 4, 2019

### Technology Tuesday. Technology Supported Employment >

How does a woman who can't walk or talk run a small business? With technology supported employment, Mikelle has been working steadily for 20 years.

[▶ PLAY](#) 17 min

MAY 28, 2019

### Mom to Mom...Vision. Education. Adulthood >

Listen to two veteran mom's discuss the importance of having a clear vision for our children with disabilities starting when they are in young. Learn effective strategies for getting the best from school systems, planning for adulthood including employment and creating a home of their own.

[▶ PLAY](#) 27 min

MAY 21, 2019

### Extraordinary Women (Who just happen to have Cerebral Palsy) >

Inspiration fires us up. It helps us see ourselves beyond our current vision. Mikelle inspired Win to become an author and speaker. Win inspired and coached Mikelle and Katherine on the intricacies of podcasting.

# Pizzability

-through RMHS community agency initiatives-




Special Olympics

SHARE A STORY


50 GAME CHANGERS

PLEDGE




## PIZZABILITY


### ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT MENU




Select the product you wish to borrow. Lend us your ID and we will lend you the equipment.




**Utensils:**




**Weighted Utensils**  
Heavier to reduce spilled food from shaking hands



**EasyHold**  
Added security to keep your fork in hand




**Rocker Knife**  
One handed cutting




**Bendable Utensils**  
Adjustable head for an easier time moving food to your mouth. Also, a larger grip for those with arthritis!

**Plates & Bowls:**




**EzPz Happy Mat & Happy Bowl**  
Stabilized surface which improves posture, decreases choking & extends meal time. Ask for a blue mat for added contrast for people with low vision!  
\*Also available for purchase\*




**Plate Guard**  
Creates a barrier to help scoop food on your utensil

**Cups:**



**Nosey Cup**  
The cutout decreases coughing & choking by reducing the need to flex your neck to take a sip



**Double Handled Mug**  
Two handles to keep the mug in your hands

# Leading the Way

From the [Boulder County Needs Assessment report](#), Nov. 2018:

## “ Mill Levy Accountability and Reporting

The recommendations that follow are based on **best practices implemented in Denver** following their audit, and seek to protect Boulder County, grantees receiving dollars from the Mill Levy, and most importantly individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities being served by these tax dollars. These recommendations seek to ensure that funds continue to support and meet the needs of Boulder residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. ”

First in the state to shift I/DD mill levy funding practices:

- Community Centered Board contract on 100% [reimbursement](#) basis
- Community feedback informs programming of taxpayer funds
- Boosting transparency and understanding of mill levy funded services

# Looking to the Future

- How can we best use mill levy funds to serve Denver residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?
- What opportunities are there to make a lasting impact?
- How will we continue to engage the community and stay connected to residents with I/DD to inform projects funded by mill levy dollars?



## 1. Equity & Access

Ensure every individual in Denver has access to the support that they need to live a healthy and high quality life.



## 2. Safety & Wellness

Support and advance sustainable health, wellness, and safety outcomes for the community.



## 3. Connectivity

Increase connectivity as a department to improve community partnerships, reduce internal silos, and work collaboratively with city and state partners.



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# Appendix

## *Mill Levy Advisory Council*

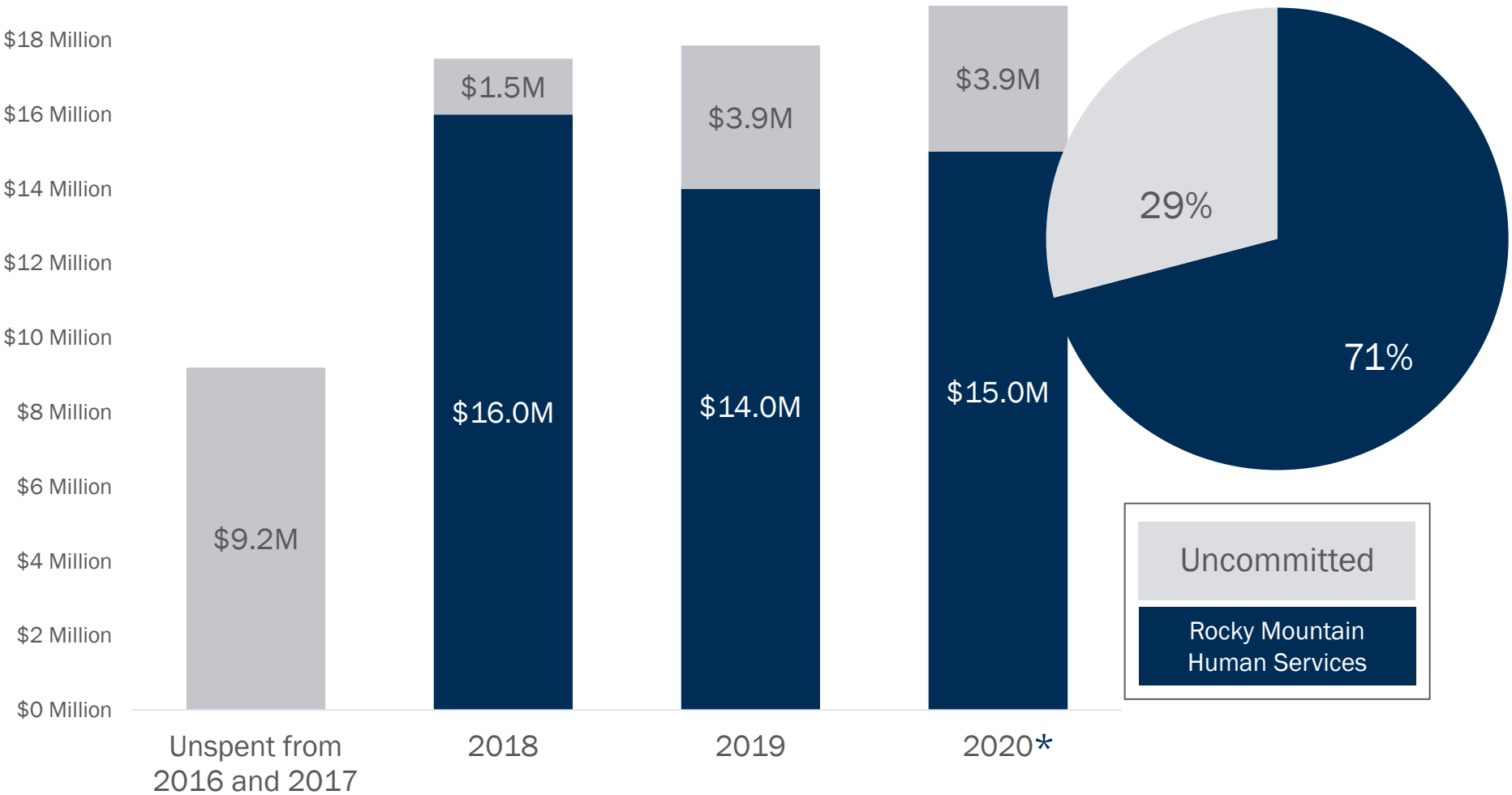
# Denver Residency Guidelines

- Informed by D.R.M.C. § 53-550 (c) and Medical Services Board Rule 8.607.1(F)
- Denver's City and County limits are the same; however, a person could have a Denver mailing address and not be a Denver resident, or vice versa. DHS primarily uses the Assessor's Office property records to determine residency.
- DHS has provided guidance for mill levy funded services that may result in **indirect** or **spillover** benefits, as well as transition of services (90 days).
- Children with I/DD in DHS custody are considered Denver residents regardless of their current placement.



# Projected Funding Available (2018 to 2020)

\$20 Million \*Preliminary certified assessed valuation data will be available from the City Assessor's Office in August or September.

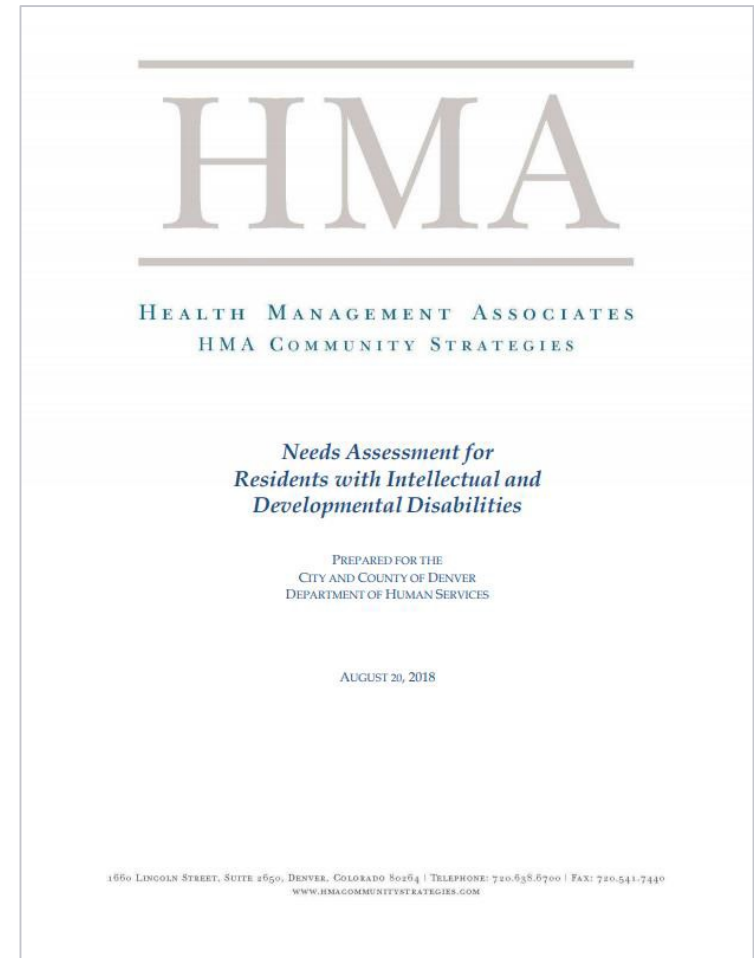


# Where to Find the Needs Assessment

The full needs report is available on DHS' website:

[https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/692/documents/iddmillevy/DHS\\_IDD-needs-assessment-final-report.pdf](https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/692/documents/iddmillevy/DHS_IDD-needs-assessment-final-report.pdf)

*Additional needs assessment details can be found on slides 16-19.*





# Needs Assessment: First Tier Recommendations



DHS should establish a formal structure like an advisory council to help disburse dedicated mill levy revenue.



DHS should explore ways to relieve the burden of housing costs for Denver residents with I/DD and providers who otherwise cannot afford to live in Denver.



STATE

DHS should encourage the employment of people with I/DD in Denver.



STATE

DHS should focus on addressing the needs of those on the waiting list for services.



DHS should develop resources to support transitions to adulthood for people with I/DD.



DHS should enhance the capacity to provide mental health services for people with I/DD who also have a mental health diagnosis.



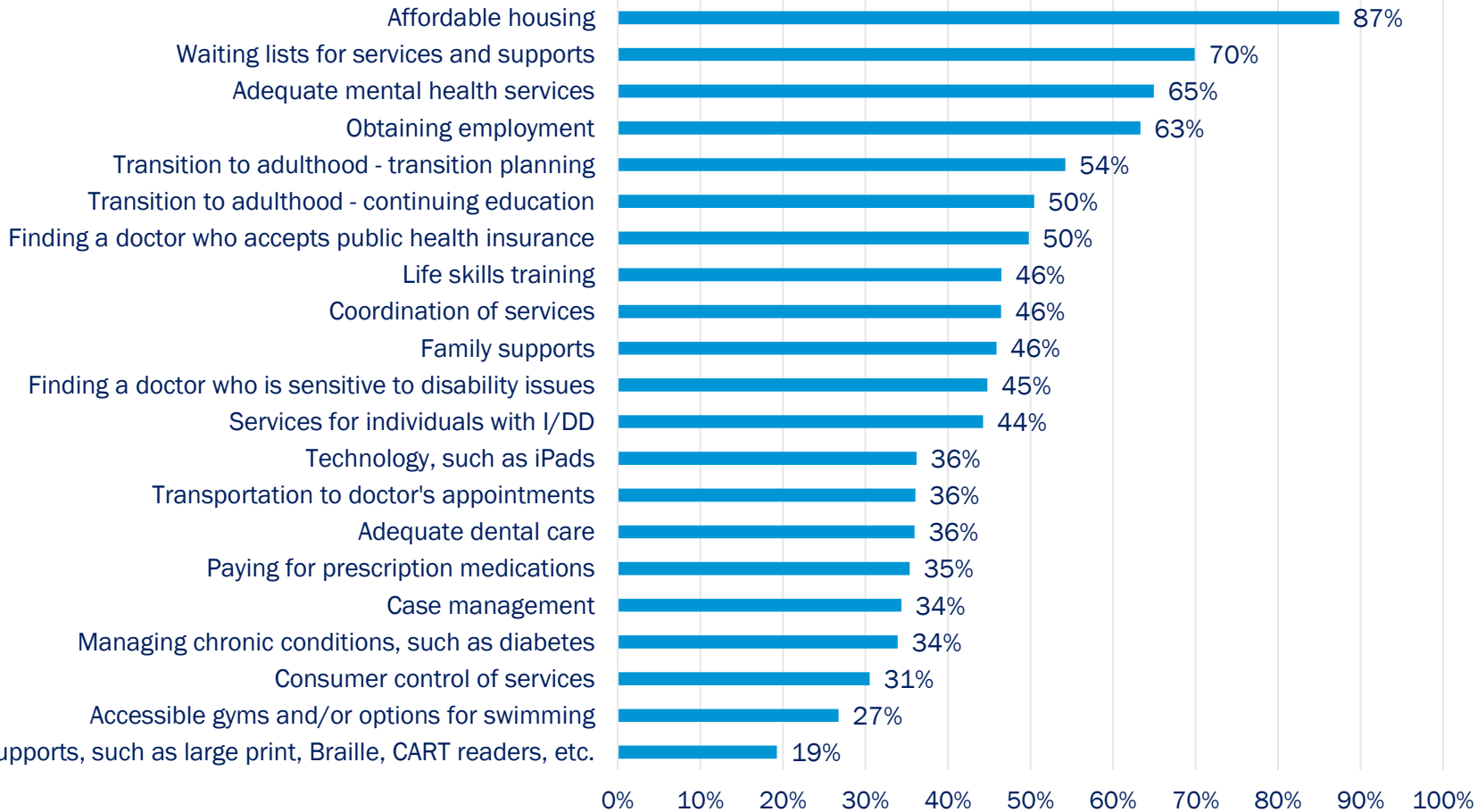
WORK IS ONGOING – see [priorities](#) slide



ON HOLD – monitoring changes at the State level

# Needs Assessment: Big Problems

## Percent of all respondents indicating an issue was a “Big Problem”



# Biggest Problems by Respondent

Respondents were asked to indicate if something was a “Big Problem,” “Small Problem,” or “Not a Problem”

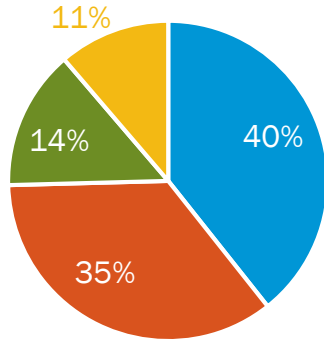
## Top Five Problems

- 1. Affordable Housing 
- 2. Obtaining Employment 
- 3. Waiting Lists 
- 4. Transitions 
- 5. Mental Health 

	Overall	Providers	Recipients of Services	Other
1. Affordable Housing	Big	Big	Big	Big
2. Obtaining Employment	Big	Big	Big	Big
3. Waiting Lists	Big	Big	Small	Big
4. Transitions	Big	Big	Small	Big
5. Mental Health	Big	Big	Small	Big

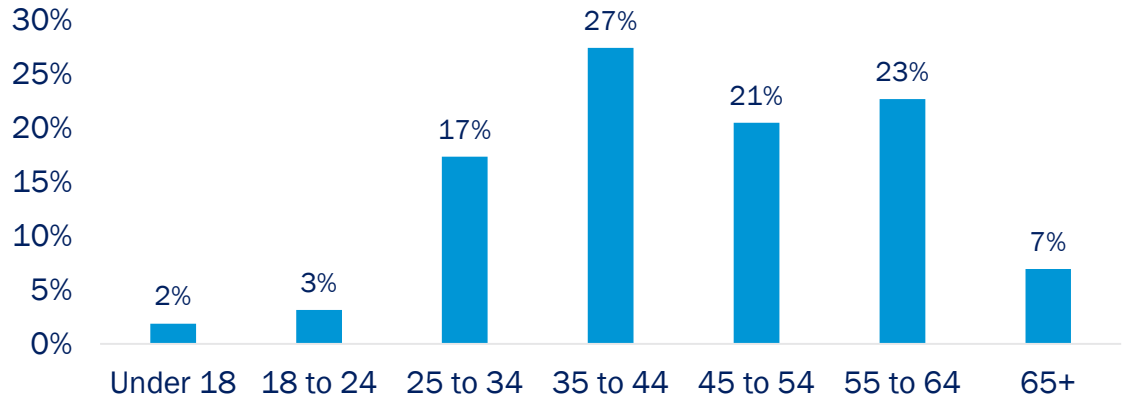
# Needs Assessment Survey Demographics

## Respondent Type

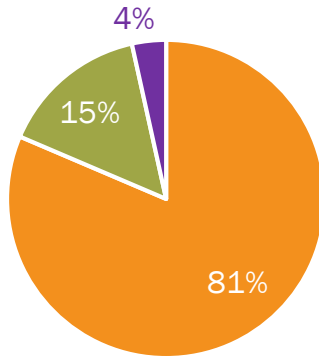


■ Recipient of Services     ■ Provider of Services  
■ Other     ■ No Response

## Age

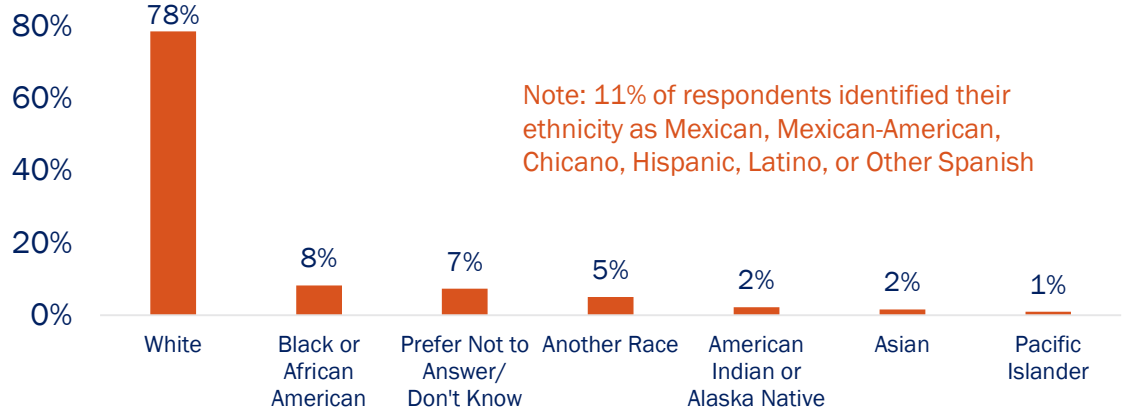


## Gender



■ Female     ■ Male     ■ Other

## Race



# Local Funding for People with I/DD

COUNTY	2018 LEVY	2018 REVENUE FOR PEOPLE WITH I/DD	PAYMENT METHOD TO CCB
Denver	1.000 mill	\$17.5M	Reimbursement/Rates (2018-2020 contract)
Arapahoe	1.000 mill	\$10.2M	Monthly Installments (2018 contract)
Jefferson	1.000 mill	\$9.4M	Monthly Installments (2018 contract)
Boulder	1.500 mill**	\$7.9M	Quarterly Installments (2017 contract)
Douglas	1.000 mill	\$6.3M	Monthly Installments (2018 contract)
Larimer	0.750 mill	\$4.1M	Monthly Installments (No contract)
Adams*	0.257 mill	\$1.7M	Quarterly Installments (2018 contract)
Broomfield*	1.005 mill**	\$1.4M	Quarterly Installments (2018 contract)

\* Not voter approved

\*\* For services for people with I/DD and people with mental health issues