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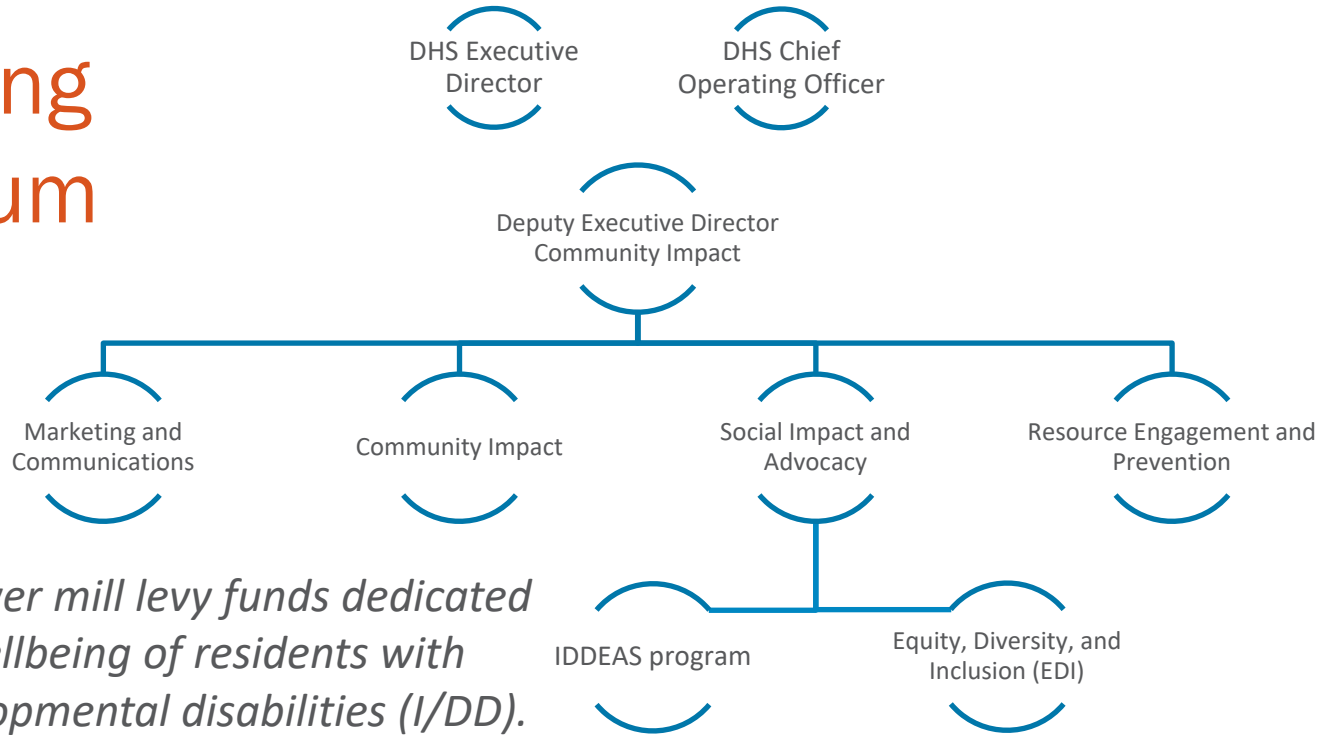
# Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Equitable Access to Services (IDDEAS) program

*Denver Human Services*

*July 20, 2022*



# Reorganizing for maximum impact



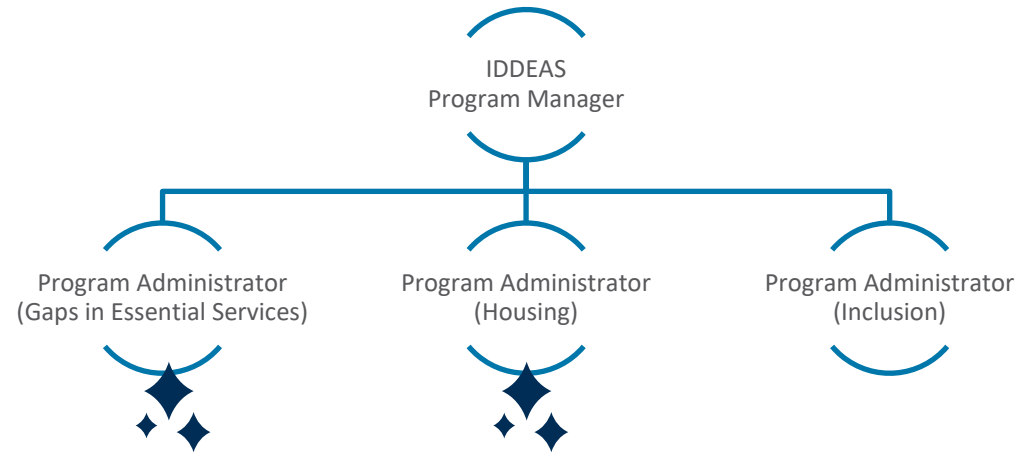
*IDDEAS oversees Denver mill levy funds dedicated for the benefit and wellbeing of residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).*



We are growing our team to ensure we have a healthy, functioning program which can:

- **Engage stakeholders more**, where they are and in a way that is accessible to them
- **Be responsive** to recommendations
- Continue to **expand our reach** including: new service development, equitable access to local services, education, and advocacy
- **Integrate accessibility** in DHS's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) journey

# IDDEAS program





# Fund 13304



Fund balance:  
**\$23.6M** as of  
01/2022



Based on current projections, our models show IDDEAS funding commitments will begin to **reduce the fund balance** in 2023.

- Sustainability is a key consideration when evaluating funding options

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# Accessible, affordable housing

DHS's 2018 needs assessment elevated affordable housing as the number one challenge facing residents with I/DD.

Because of the complexity of housing needs and desires, we sought more information from our community and key stakeholders over the past three (3) years.





# Inclusive Housing Denver (IHD) process

## Website (sent invite to 70+ organizations)

Summer 2021

- Expanded Presentation & Survey
- Plain-Language Presentation & Survey
- Spanish caption and translation for both versions



## 2 Live Virtual Presentations with Q&A

April 14 & May 6, 2021

- Sign-language interpretation
- Spanish translation

[www.InclusiveHousingDenver.org](http://www.InclusiveHousingDenver.org)



## 2 In-person Focus Groups

June 3 & September 11, 2021

- Individuals with I/DD who have recently or are currently experiencing homelessness
- Metro Autism Consortia, support and resource group for autistic adults



- 104 survey responses collected; 41% of participants identified as people with I/DD
- 10 steering committee organization partners
- HOST collaboration – special thanks to Megan Yonke



# Key findings: Visibility and data

Challenge: The I/DD community is experiencing a (somewhat invisible) housing crisis and minimal data existed about needs and desires in Denver.

Solution: The Inclusive Housing Denver report begins to shed light on affordable, inclusive housing needs for people with I/DD in Denver. IDDEAS will continue to advocate and collaborate with housing industry partners to improve visibility and data to inform real world solutions.

“

“Many of us in the housing industry don't understand the need for housing for people with I/DD specifically and how unique their needs are, and so this process is our foundation and the start to adapting the policies to meet that need.”

Ann Watts, Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Community Access Team Manager



*Ann also attended our June 2022 workshop and provided “updates from the field.” She is **activated** in her role to improve access to housing vouchers for people with I/DD.*



“

“I wonder if one of the things we need to talk about is inter-agency engagement where people with I/DD have not typically been discussed or represented, specifically in planning and zoning contexts. And perhaps most importantly, coming up with a strategic plan to engage developers and landlords.”

**Troy Mack, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, Director of Research and Development**



## Key findings: Empowering partners

Challenge: Leaders and partners primarily responsible for housing strategies and solutions do not feel knowledgeable about people with I/DD and their specific needs.

Solution: Explore networking, education, and funding opportunities that support partners throughout Denver and Colorado to expand their knowledgebase, so they are empowered as agents of change.





# IDDEAS Advisory Council recommendations

!	Recommendation	Status
!	DHS should make housing the priority for uncommitted Mill Levy funds.	IMPLEMENTED.
!	Convert or upgrade existing properties for accessibility in Denver.	UNDER REVIEW.
!	Offer more housing vouchers or other funding mechanisms to encourage housing stability.	UNDER REVIEW.
!	Advocate to the State on issues that are critical to Denver as they relate to housing.	IN PROGRESS.

! – indicates recommendations the IAC considered high priority.



# IDDEAS Advisory Council recommendations

!	Recommendation	Status
-	Explore providing seed/ grant (i.e. planning) monies for community housing projects	ON HOLD.
-	Incentivize builders to create I/DD inclusive housing.	UNDER REVIEW/ ON HOLD.
-	Investigate and identify landlord and builder concerns with renting and creating housing tailored to the I/DD community to inform an outreach plan.	UNDER REVIEW.
-	Create a housing and lifespan navigator program to help residents with I/DD understand, plan for, and pursue housing opportunities in Denver.	UNDER REVIEW.



# Reimagining good stewardship

- ❖ Multi-faceted approach
- ❖ Cultivating strong partnerships that are human-centered and community-driven
- ❖ Collaborative yet **independent** relationships based in integrity, communication, and trust

# Questions?



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# Appendix

*Denver Human Services*  
*July 20, 2022*



# Where we've been

## 2019

- ❖ Advisory Council seated and engaged (January 2019-present)
- Three (3) community inclusion programs via contracts –\$809k
- ❖ Inclusive Housing Forum hosted by DHS and Advisory Council

## 2020

- New program identity from “Mill Levy” to “IDDEAS”
- Housing Stabilization Assistance emergency contract –\$464k
- Point b(e) CIF contract, mini projects for inclusion –\$1.3M
- ❖ Ordinance revisions in response to community engagement

## 2021

- ❖ IDDEAS communications assessment with GroundFloor Media
- Denver START for IDD-mental health service contract –\$6.1M
- ❖ Inaugural public rulemaking process to establish program rules
- ❖ Inclusive Housing Denver report and Local Leaders Workshop

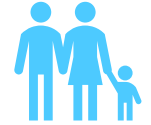
❖ indicates activities or events that emphasized community voice and stakeholder engagement



# IDDEAS in 2021



IDDEAS funds provide services for over **4,500** Denver residents with I/DD per year



**8** advisory council recommendations received



IDDEAS held **ten (10) active contracts** in 2021, six (6) in 2020, and only one (1) in 2019



In 2021, the network of community service providers that received IDDEAS mill levy funds included **204 agreements\***

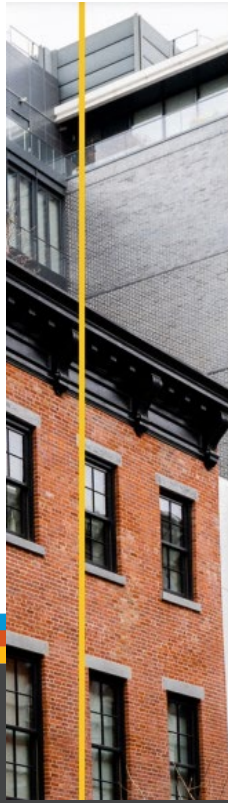


\*This count does not include other active partnerships we maintain outside of funded contracts and subcontracts.



# Inclusive Housing reports

- [Inclusive Housing Denver report](#)
- [Neuro-Inclusive Housing Leaders Workshop](#)



## IDENTIFYING HOUSING AND SUPPORT NEEDS OF DENVER COUNTY RESIDENTS WITH Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities at Risk of Displacement or Homelessness

June 2022

## Neuro-Inclusive Housing Leaders Workshop







# IHD Local Leaders Workshop (LLW)



View Local Leaders Workshop Recording: <https://bit.ly/3CnHAQM>

- Conducted virtually Sept 2021
- 51 diverse, cross-sector leaders attended from 33 organizations – see some of our guests in the image to the left.

**28%** of participants were professionals in the housing industry who do (did) not have an awareness of the daily needs of people with I/DD



# Top 5 Opportunities from Sept 2021 LLW

- 1 Prioritize people with I/DD for affordable housing funding streams
- 2 Legislative ask: Tie a housing subsidy with Medicaid HCBS waiver services
- 3 Strategic plan to engage developers and landlords
- 4 Streamlining eligibility and documentation for currently disconnected programs
- 5 Series of workshops like this one to drill down on future needs and "asks"

*Opportunities #1, 2, 3, and 5 were further prioritized and reflected in recommendations DHS received from our IDDEAS Advisory Council (IAC) in November 2021.*

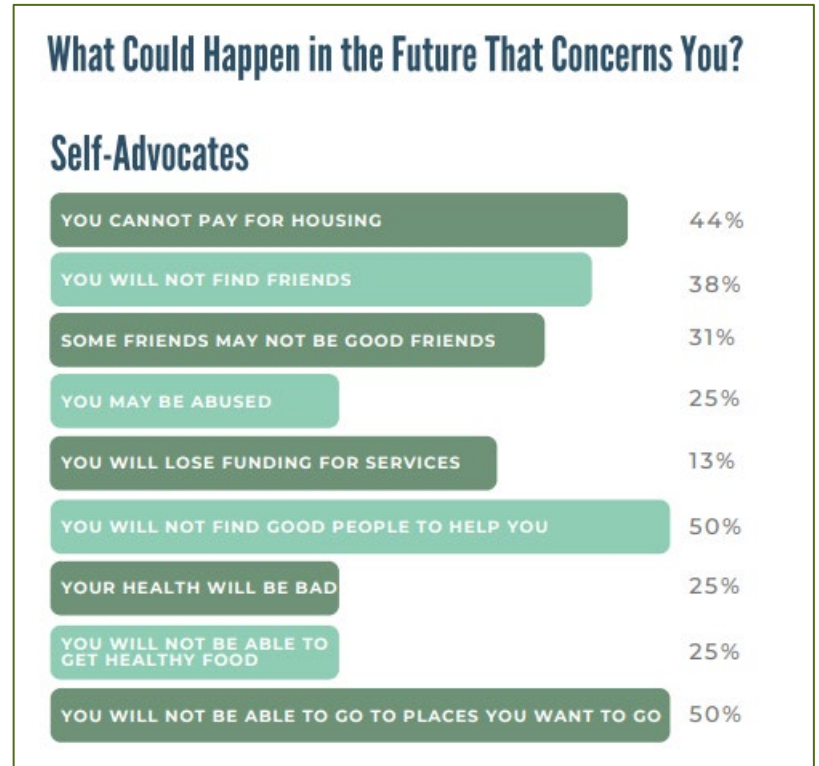
*(see [slides 9-10](#)).*



# Key findings: Stakeholder fears

This graphic shows a summary of 42 responses collected from stakeholders through the Plain Language survey.

These concerns are top of mind as we explore policy needs and potential housing funding opportunities such as: stability, sustainability of funding, isolation, transportation, food access, and safety.





# Housing Leaders Workshop: June 2022

- Our inclusive housing movement is growing: 40+ organizations represented in June
- Working together to develop a roadmap of neuro-inclusive housing solutions across orgs/ industries in Colorado





# IDDEAS Pillars of Service

Our pillars framework guides funding and services development, with equitable access and improved quality of life as guiding principles.





# RMHS Mill Levy Program

2022 renewal term executed with a \$21M budget.

- Significant increase for Client/Family Directed Funds (\$6.1M).
  - Saw a **39% increase** in total client assistance requests from 2020 to 2021
  - **1,950 unique clients** served through client assistance in 2021 (up from 1,078 in 2020)
- **Right now!** Heavy partnership with DHS on:
  - Evolving local mill levy early childhood programs to respond to resident needs as well as shifts in services provided by the State of Colorado
  - Enhanced outreach including new service offerings and community partnerships to bridge equity and access gaps for residents with I/DD who may also be a part of other diverse communities in Denver, such as immigrants, refugees, English as a second language and English language learners



*Hear directly from RMHS in their 2021 annual report following this presentation.*

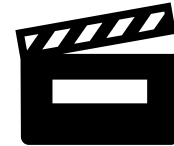




# Denver START Clinical Team

Crisis intervention planning and systems capacity building model for I/DD-mental health services in Denver – *\$6.1M commitment over 3yrs*

- RMHS has recruited **30+ community partners** for the Denver START Advisory Council. The first DSAC meeting was held on May 11, 2022.
- Soft service launch began June 2021: currently serving **10 clients**.
- Full launch scheduled for **Thursday, September 22, 2022**. Save the date!



[Rosa: Shining Her Light](#)



# Point b(e) Strategies

Manages the [Creative Ideas Fund \(CIF\)](#) to reduce isolation, loneliness, and disengagement from services for residents with I/DD – *\$1.3M contract*

- Point b(e) works with a Community Council (CC) of 20 community members to set funding priorities and inform an accessible funding process. The CC scores applications, along with Point b(e) staff who then make awards.
- CIF highly values projects that demonstrate diverse leadership such as leaders with I/DD as well as BIPOC and LGBTQ leaders.
- \$600,000 in mill levy funds available to be awarded to applicants in 2022-23. Project budgets are limited to \$2k-20k per award.
  - Point b(e) awarded \$380k to 22 organizations in Round 1 Funding, Spring 2022
  - Round 2 Funding applications closed July 15, 2022. More awards anticipated soon







# Community Inclusion projects



Community Counts!: 36 community inclusion classes, featuring panel speakers with lived experience.

**\$498k commitment**  
*Contract ends August 2022*



Autism Community Store: sensory inclusion assessments, trainings, and resources for 10 (community partner sites).

**\$109k commitment**  
*Contract ends Oct 2022*



Disability Inclusion Program: disability etiquette training and employment consults for 18 organizations.

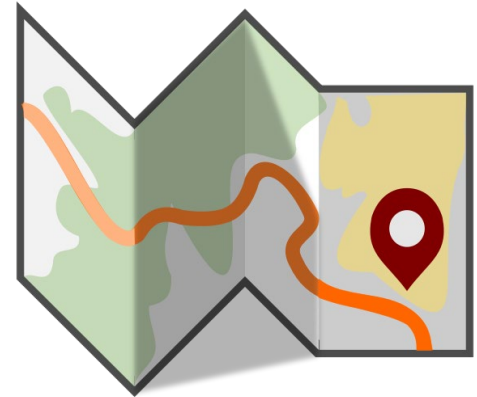
**\$202k commitment**  
*Contract ended Feb 2022*



# IDDEAS communications services

## GroundFloor Media support for inclusive and accessible communications

- Completed communications assessment in 2021, including focus groups and stakeholder engagement
- Scoping work for execution of messaging and communications plan
- Services we may engage will be billed to the IDDEAS administrative costs budget, as allowed in ordinance
- Systems Map deliverable for individuals and families coming soon!





# Accountability takes a village

The IDDEAS RMHS [Community Centered Board](#) Mill Levy contract is far and away the largest contract at DHS.

We meet with RMHS throughout the month, with various touchpoints across our teams.

- Most RMHS invoices are reviewed by sampling process
- Questioned costs regularly resolved each month

★ Full reviews of June + October 2021 invoices – over **\$1M** each – found **less than 1%** in disallowed costs.

4

DHS internal audit reviews completed with RMHS in 2021



RMHS accepted all recommendations