

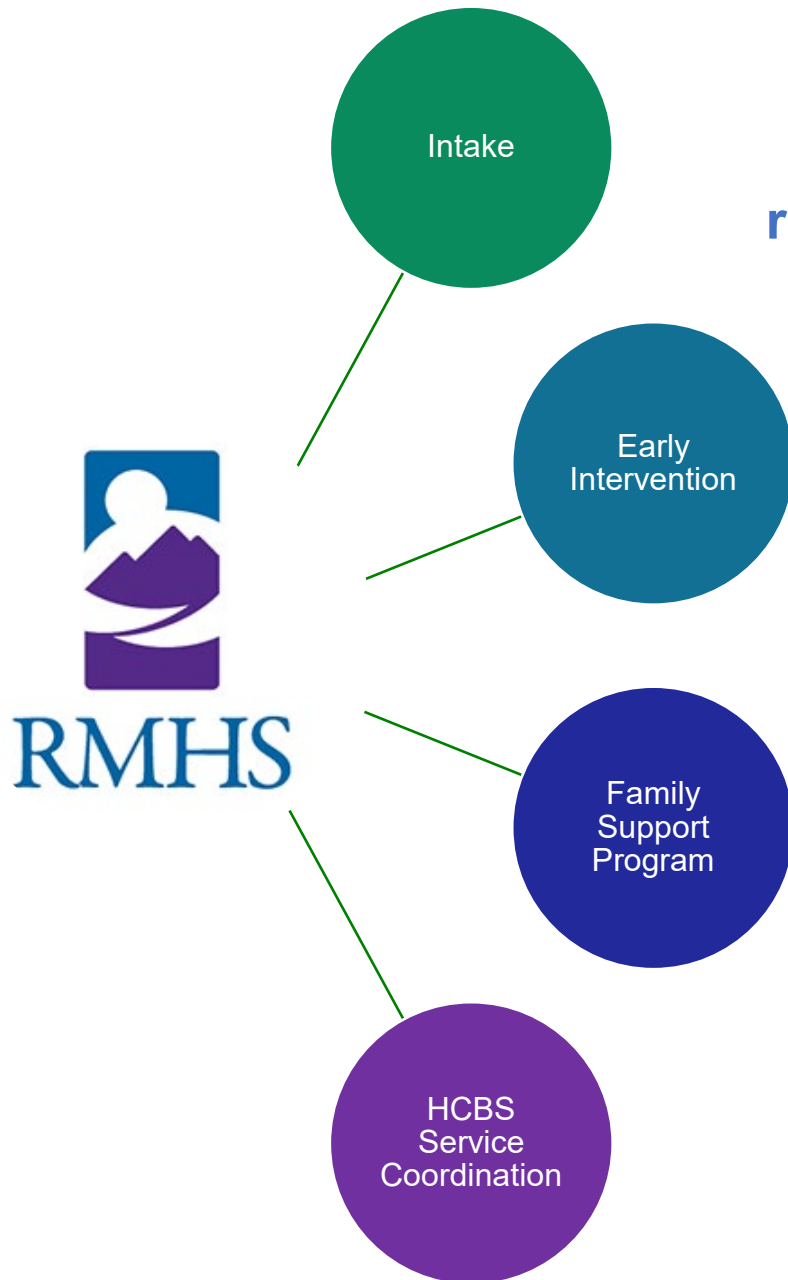


**Shari Repinski**  
**Executive Director**

# Mill Levy Program 2020 Annual Report

## Safety, Housing, Education & Homelessness Committee

May 19, 2021



**RMHS' role provides direct access to deliver mill levy funding comprehensively and expeditiously to Denver residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) or developmental delays.**

By virtue of being Denver's Community Centered Board (CCB), RMHS is essential and required for the delivery of all services. RMHS is designated by or contracts directly with the State to:

- Determine I/DD eligibility for Denver residents.
- Provide Early Intervention services
- Provide case management and perform administrative functions for state funded I/DD programs and Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) across all long-term care waivers in Colorado.

# Program Goals



**Increase Access to Services**



**Increase flexible service and provider options to meet individualized needs**



**Ensure equitable and inclusive practices to address diverse people and needs**

# People Served

4,549 Individuals



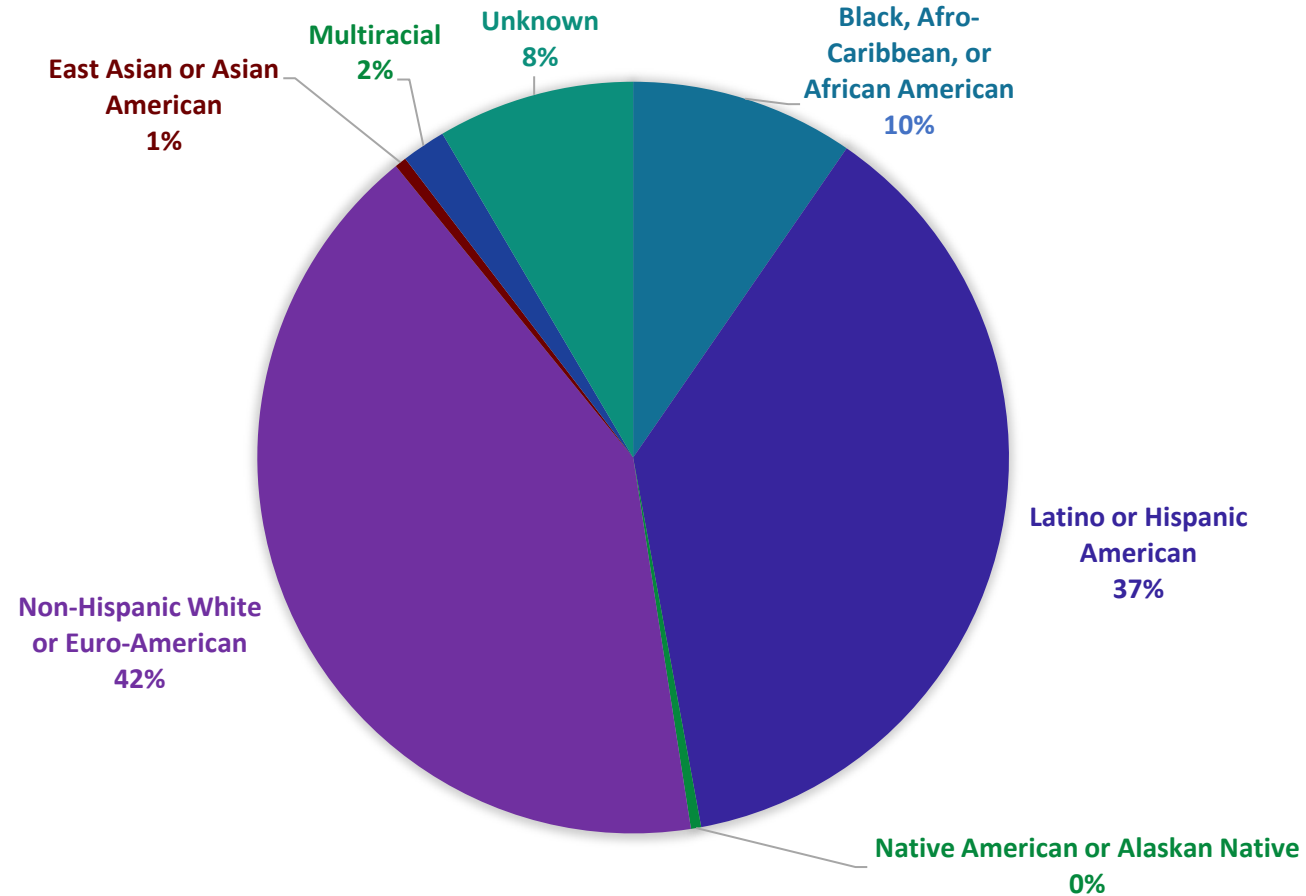
1,025  
Adults



2,295  
Children

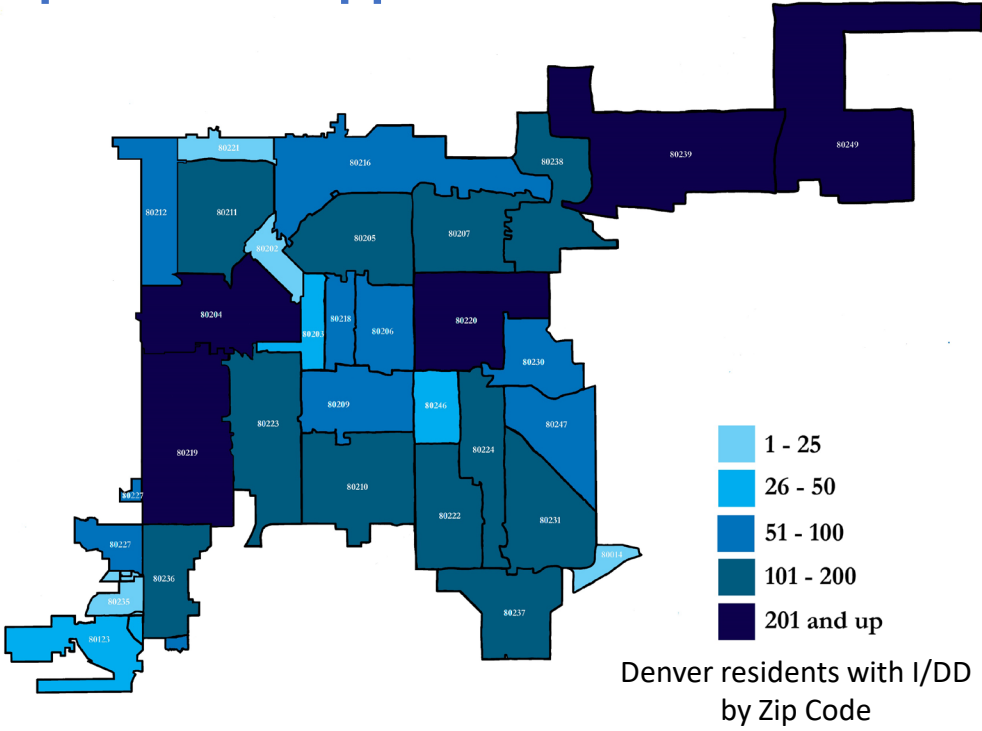
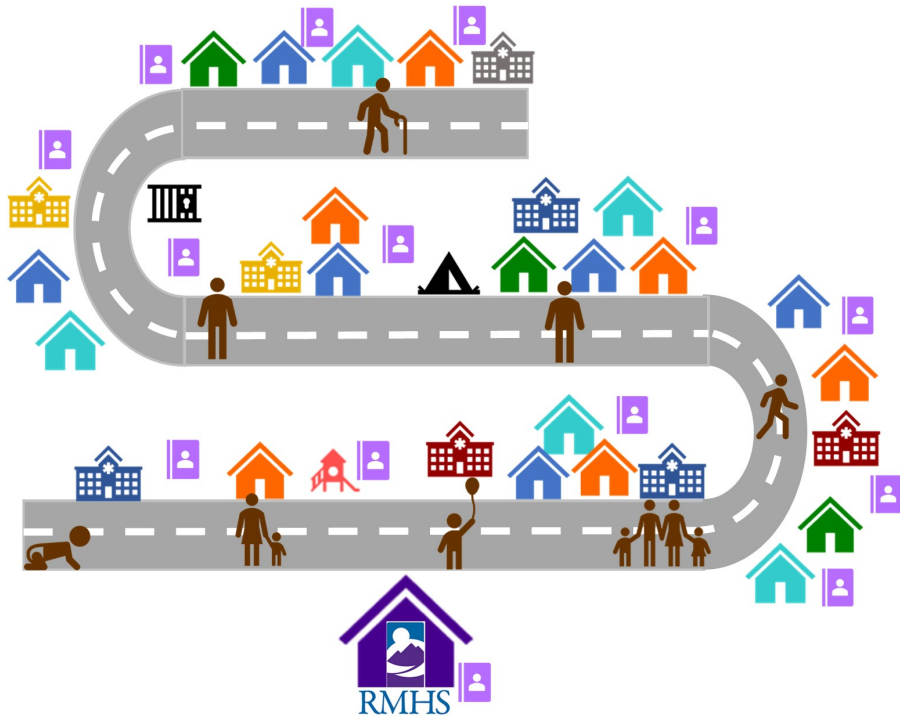


1,229  
Infants/Toddlers



# Community Centered. RMHS Supported.

Service Coordinators assist Denver residents with I/DD and their families to navigate a complex I/DD service system with multiple intersections across many systems to ensure support needs are met across the lifespan. RMHS provides support to individuals and families in their community of choice.



-  Service Coordinator
-  Govt Agency
-  Colorado Access
-  MHCD
-  Provider
-  Preschool/Childcare
-  Hospital/Healthcare
-  School/Districts
-  Shelter
-  Legal System
-  Nursing Facilities
-  State Facilities

# Based on Need, Focused on Outcomes

The Mill Levy Program team continually monitors trends and solicits feedback regarding relevant and current system needs. This was particularly critical during 2020 throughout the pandemic when services were disrupted resulting in unique support needs.

## Mill Levy Priority Funding Areas



## Social Determinants of Health



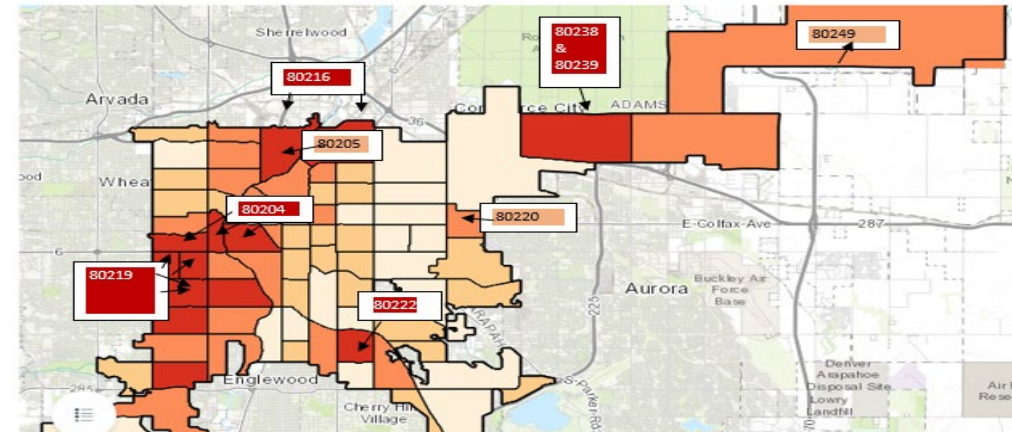
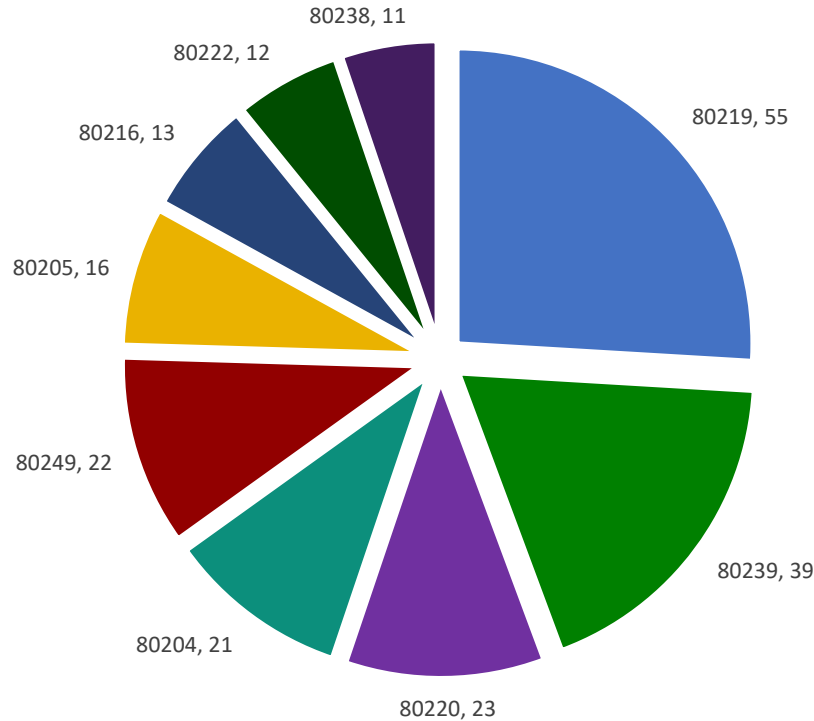
Source: Health.gov

\*Recommended by RMHS Community Advisory Council and adopted Fall 2020

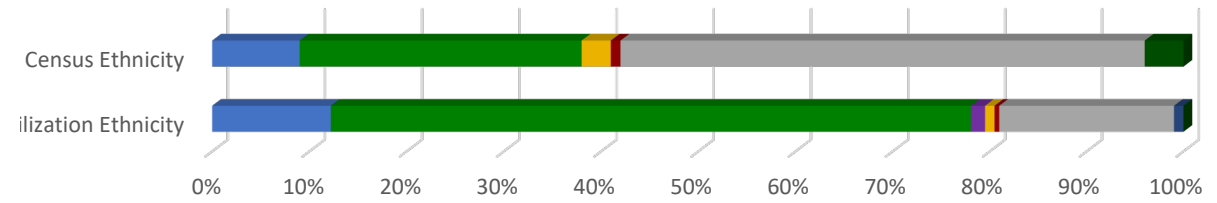
# Housing Stabilization Assistance

Early in the pandemic, DHS provided RMHS additional funds to address the significant housing crisis, promote stability, and keep individuals safely in their home.

Housing Stabilization Assistance by Zip Code



Covid 19 Impact and Housing Stabilization: Comparison of Communities of Color



- Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American
- Latino or Hispanic American
- Middle Eastern or Arab American
- Multiracial
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- Non-Hispanic White or Euro-American
- Unknown
- Asian

# Ongoing Response

The Mill Levy Program team responded immediately to individual requests and continued to assess and address emerging needs through 2020.

## Dependent Care

- Allows parents to focus on the child with I/DD during a telehealth session or doctor's appt, IEP meeting or during remote school.

## Educational Supports

- Pay for a family selected provider to provide support in the remote classroom.

## Education Supplies

- Purchase individualized school supplies, not provided by the schools, to meet the learning needs of the child with I/DD.

## Homemaker Services

- Support with housecleaning, meal planning and other necessities to support a home environment conducive to learning and wellbeing.

## Internet Service

- Ensure affordable and reliable access to internet service to be able to stay connected and build virtual connections.

## Technology Devices

- Laptops, tablets, Chromebooks and other devices are available through our individual requests.

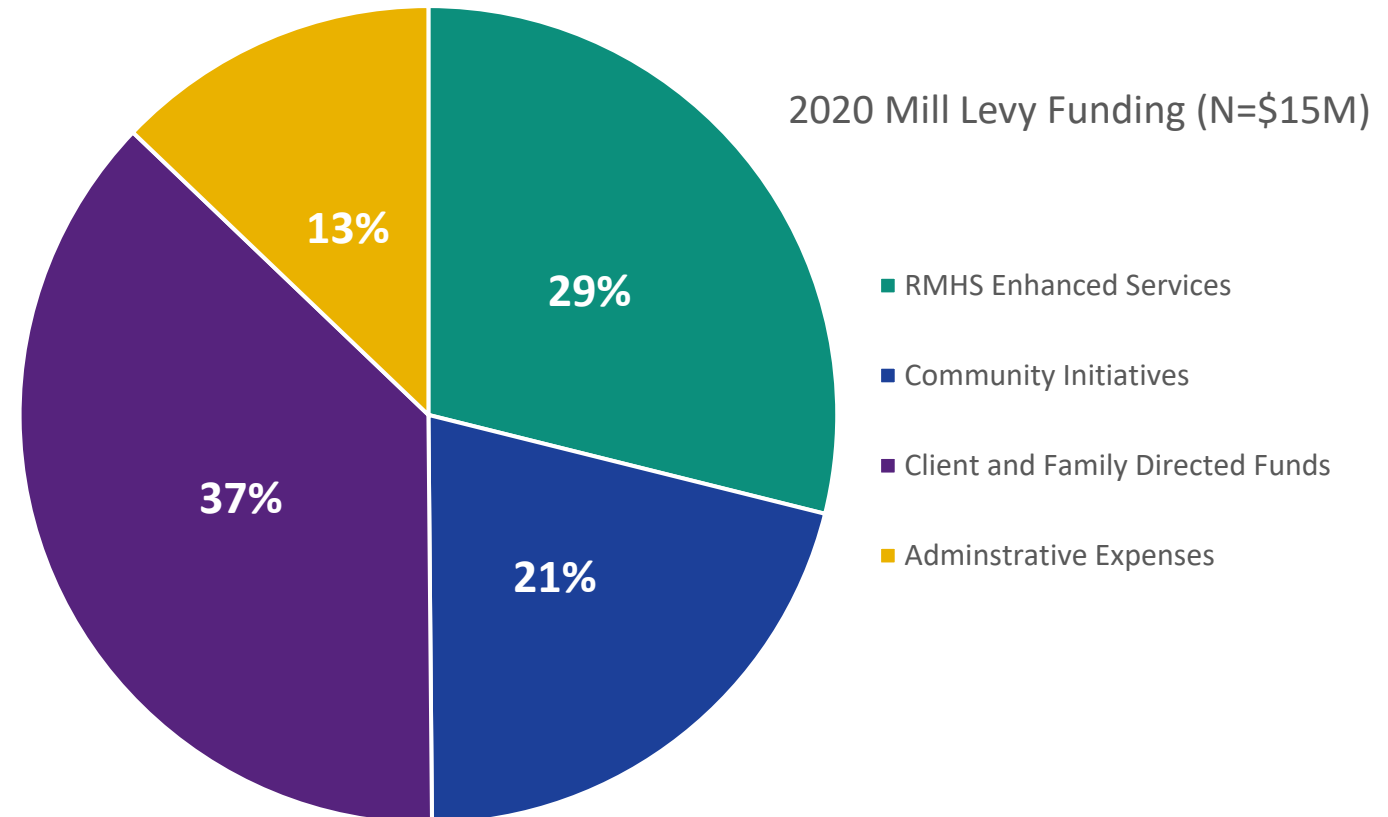
## Technology Support

- Supports resources to teach skills needed to thrive in the virtual world.

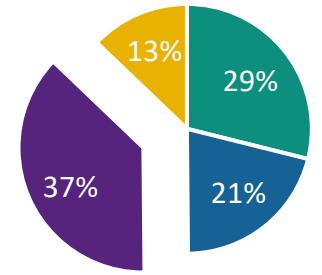


# 2020 Distribution of Mill Levy Funds

- **Client & Family-Directed Funds** allow direct access to mill levy funds to meet individual needs through Individual Requests and MLSPs.
- **RMHS Enhanced Services** reduce caseloads, support non-RMHS clients, target additional areas of client support, address system gaps, and enhance clinical programs.
- **Community Initiatives (External Projects)** support to individuals through local businesses that provide unique I/DD services and support in a priority funding area.

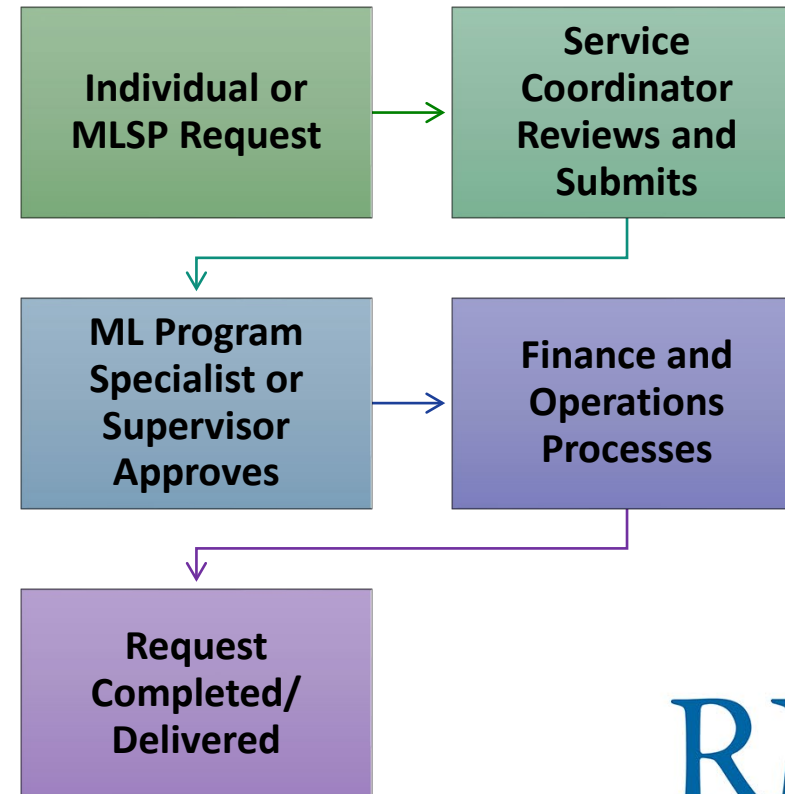
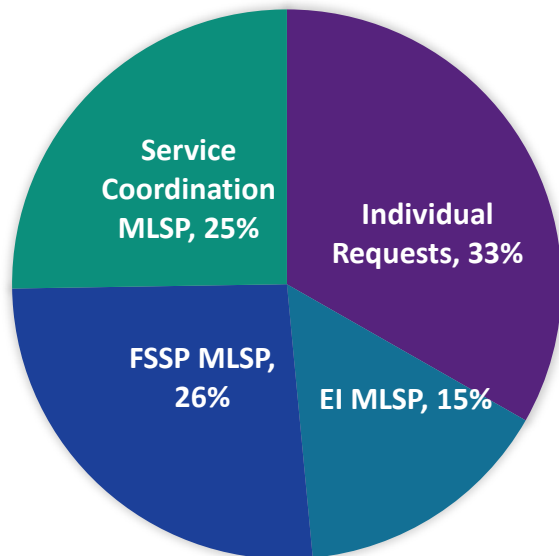


# Client & Family Directed Funds



RMHS provides an equitable and efficient mill levy request process for Denver residents with I/DD, regardless if they receive case management services through RMHS. Individuals can directly access this process through an Individual Request or Mill Levy Support Plan (MLSP).

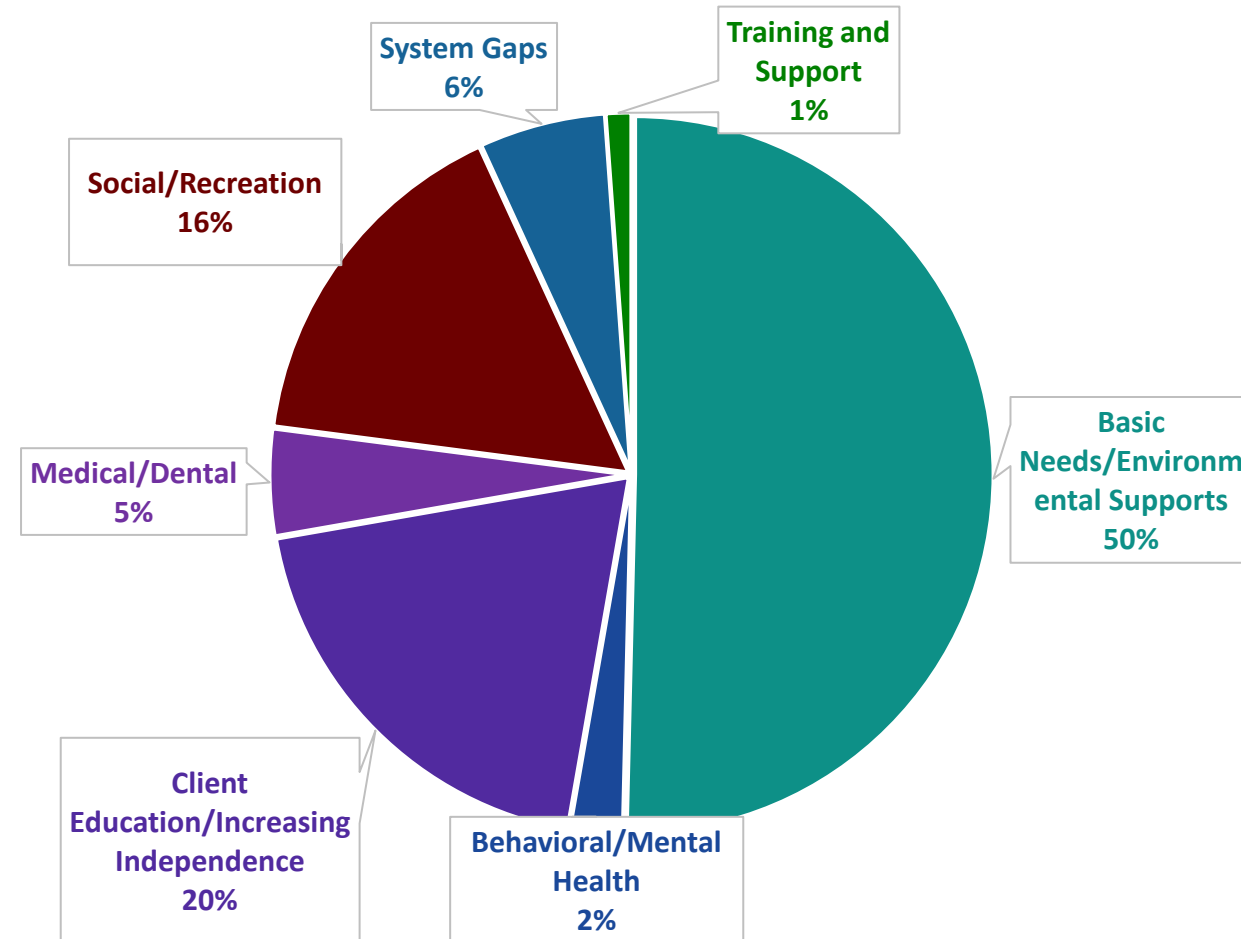
## CLIENT AND FAMILY DIRECTED FUNDS (N=\$5.35M)



# Individual Requests

Mill levy funded \$1,778,382 across 3,740 Individual Requests to meet unique needs that are not available through traditional services and supports with only a 2% denial rate.

Horseback Riding Tour	Education Supports during Remote Learning	Tablets and Laptops
Keyboard to assist a non-speaking person communicate through music	Behavior Services while on the waitlist	Sign language classes for parents to communicate with their child
Adaptive bike to increase independence and participation in family outings	Insurance copay for a speech device to assist a child's communication	Housing stabilization for individuals and families
Meal planning services	Car seats, cribs, beds, home safety items	Dental implants for an individual that could not tolerate dentures



# Mill Levy Support Plans

Service Coordinators are required to meet with people supported no less than once a year to identify program specific support needs and develop an individualized service plan. If the individual's needs exceed available funding through the program, the Service Coordinator offers each Denver resident with I/DD an MLSP to enhance their service plan.

## Early Intervention MLSPs

1,513 Infants/Toddlers

4+ Visits Annually

\$777,043 Mill Levy Funds

3,091 MLSP Services

## Family Support MLSPs

1,131 Children

1+ Visits Annually

\$1,370,133 Mill Levy Funds

2,013 MLSP Services

## HCBS MLSPS

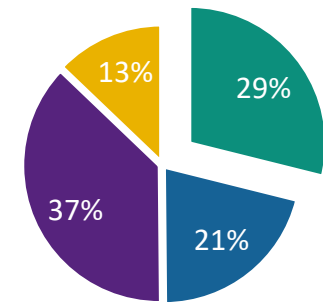
1,943 Residents

4+ Visits Annually

\$1,350,003 Mill Levy Funds

2,376 MLSP Services

In 2020, RMHS contracted with 122 Program Approved Service Agencies (PASAs) to provide MLSP services.



# RMHS Enhanced Services

RMHS' core functions and direct service delivery provides the backbone to identify mill levy funding opportunities to benefit more than 4,500 Denver residents with I/DD.

## Intake

- Increases time spent with each Denver resident during eligibility and enrollment process to provide options counseling and assess needs that could be met through mill levy funding.

## Early Intervention Services

- Reduces wait time for children from birth to age 18 to receive assessments for developmental delays and disabilities

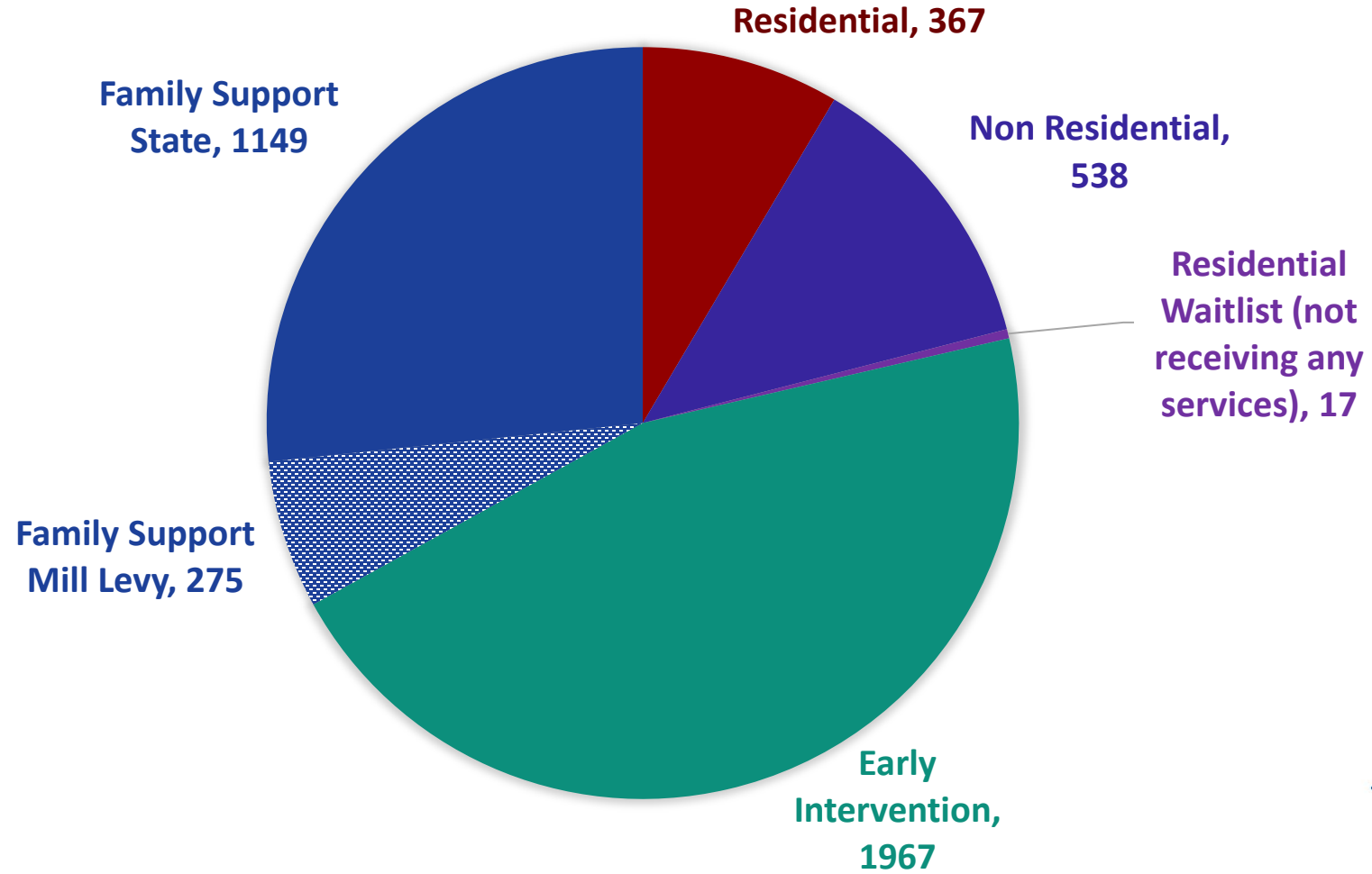
## Family Support Program

- Provides additional funding beyond state dollars for direct services and case management and eliminated the waitlist for 275 individuals in 2020

## Service Coordination

- Reduces caseloads and supports functions that are not for eligible for reimbursement through Medicaid or state funded programs.

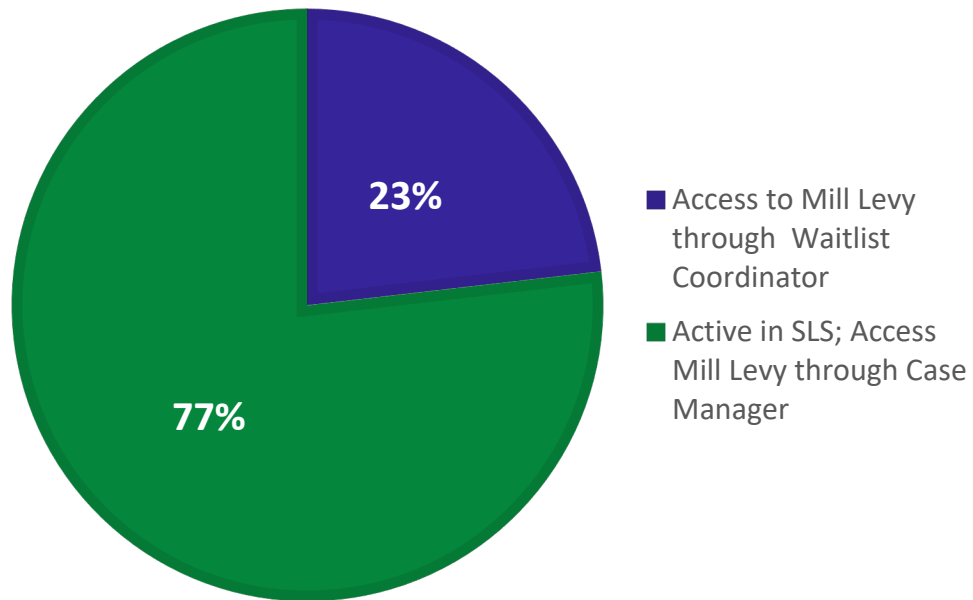
# Access to Services



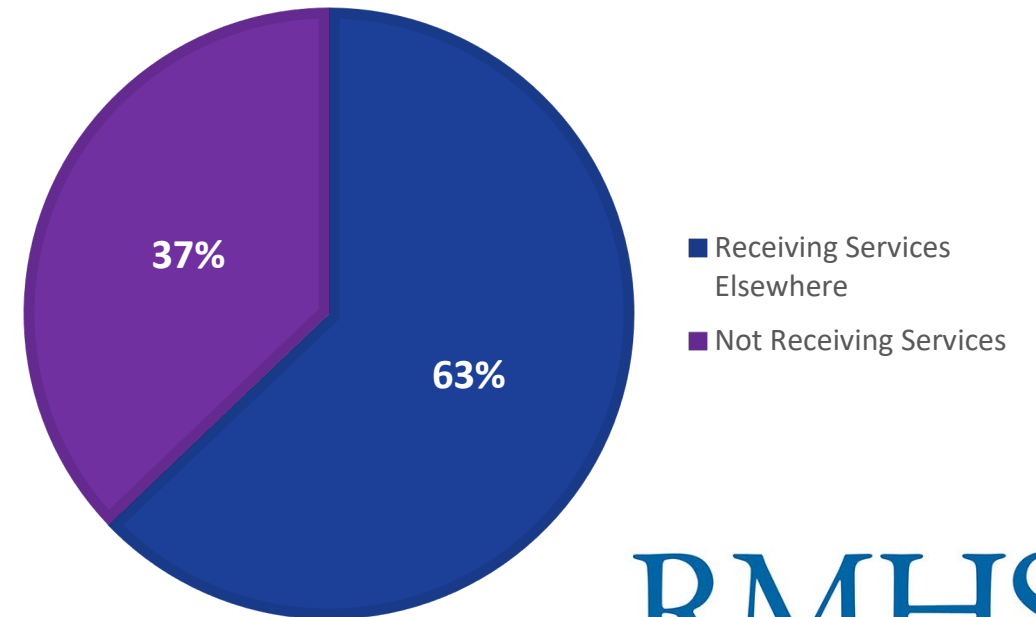
# Residential Waitlist

There is no waitlist for mill levy funds. Denver residents can access services and supports through mill levy funding regardless of their current program enrollment.

RMHS CLIENTS ON RESIDENTIAL  
WAITLIST

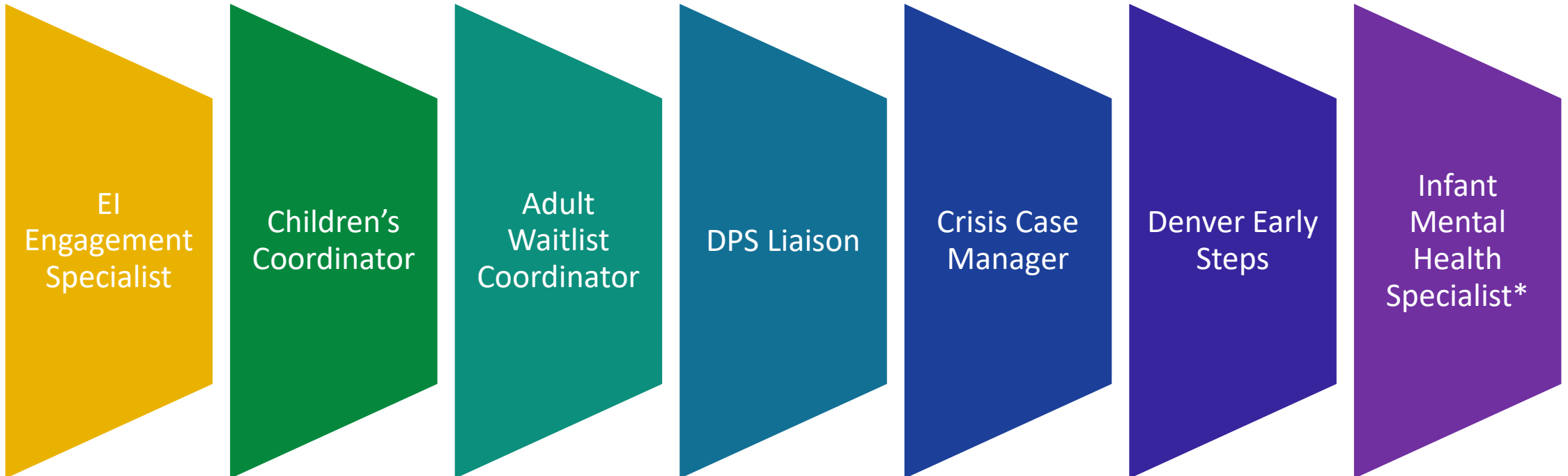


OF THOSE SERVED BY WAITLIST  
COORDINATOR, TOTAL=106



# RMHS Enhanced Services

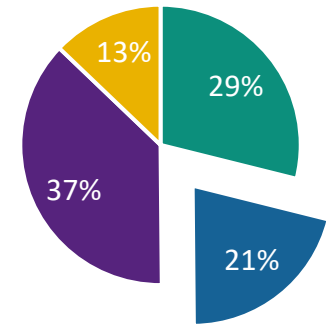
RMHS uses mill levy funds to address acute individual and system needs through RMHS Initiatives, which include dedicated staff positions and targeted programs.



\*Hired March 2021



# Community Initiatives



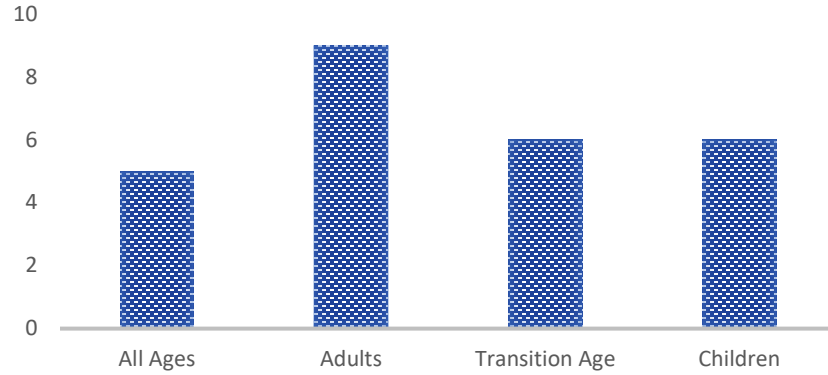
RMHS Mill Levy Community Initiatives collectively utilized \$2,904,740 in mill levy funding and impacted nearly 2,000 Denver residents with I/DD and/or their family/caregiver.



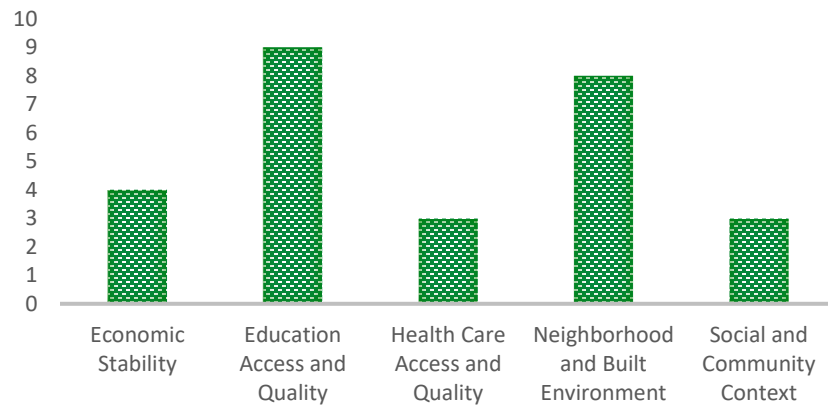
- Funding opportunities for community agencies to propose unique and innovative programs that would otherwise not be available through current funding sources.
- Awarded through a competitive bid process, with collaboration and input from the RMHS Advisory Council

# Community Initiatives

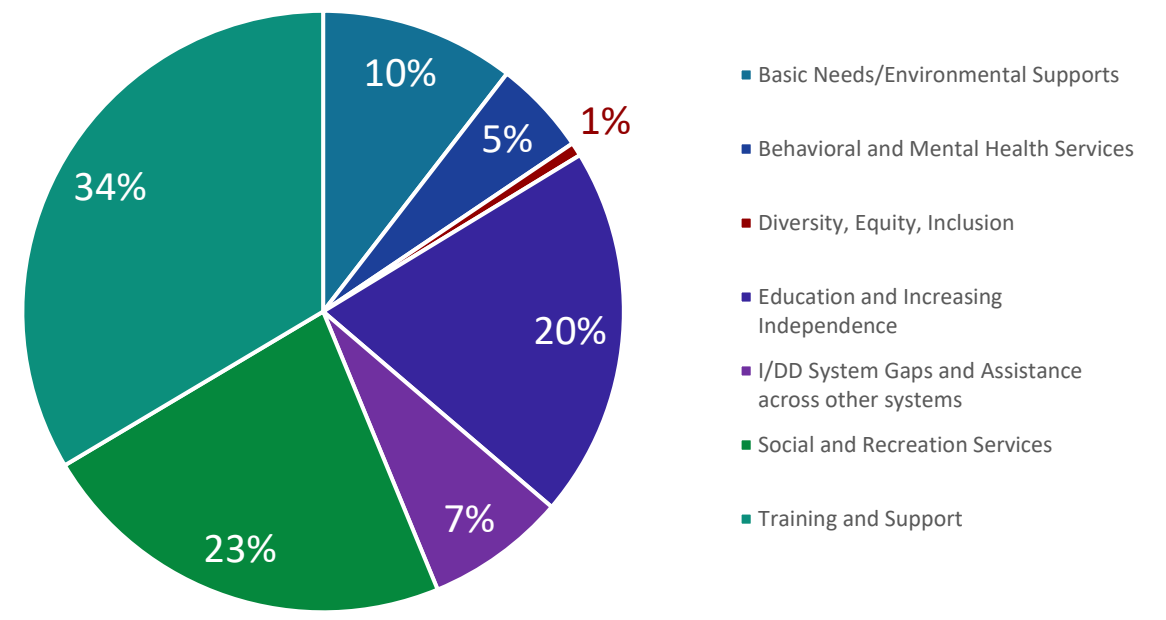
TARGET AGE GROUP



PROJECTS BY SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



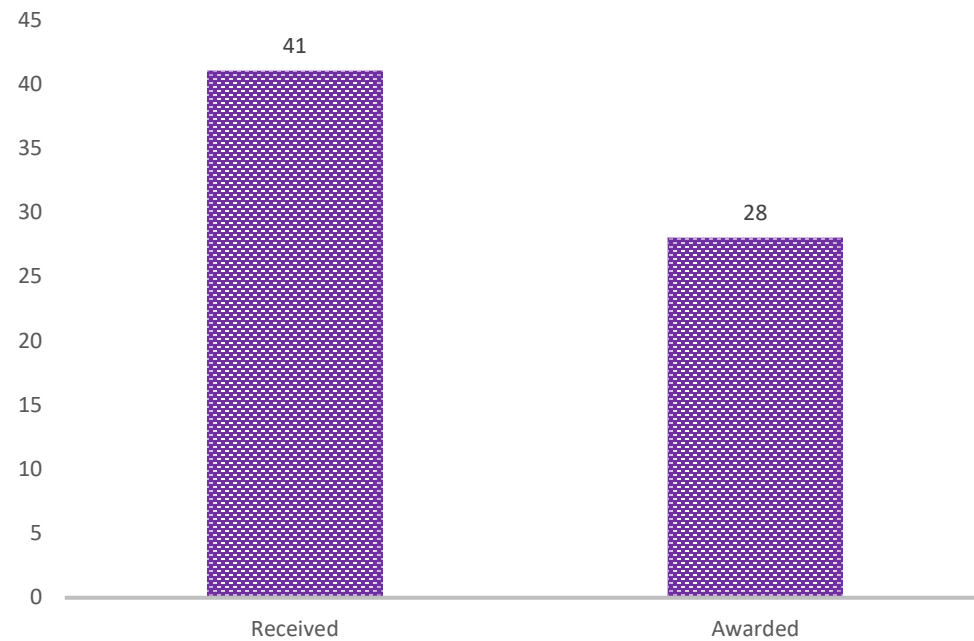
2020 BUDGET AMOUNT BY PRIORITY FUNDING AREA



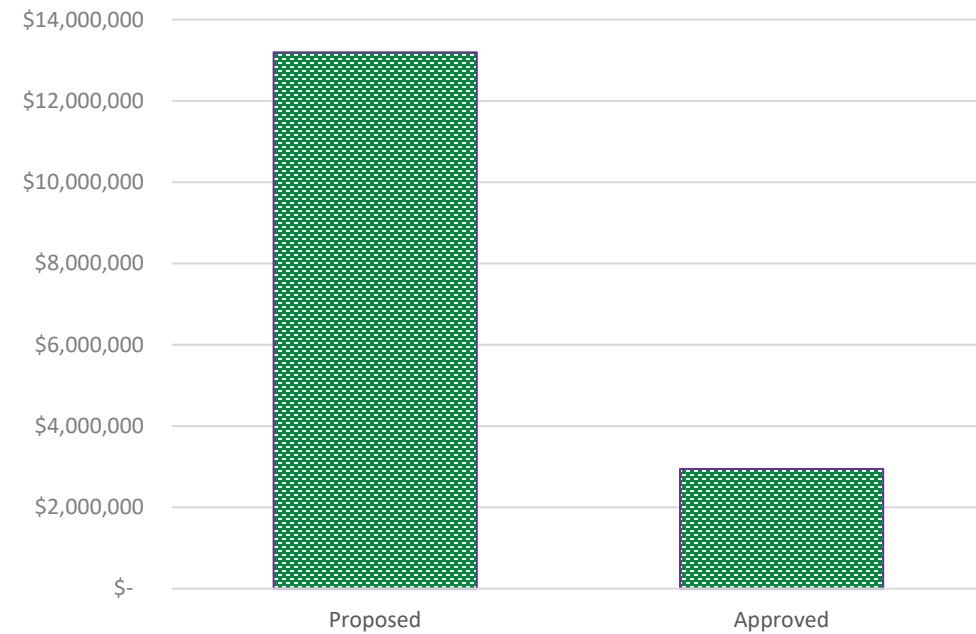
# Community Initiatives

## Proposals Received for 2020 Funding

NUMBER OF PROPOSALS

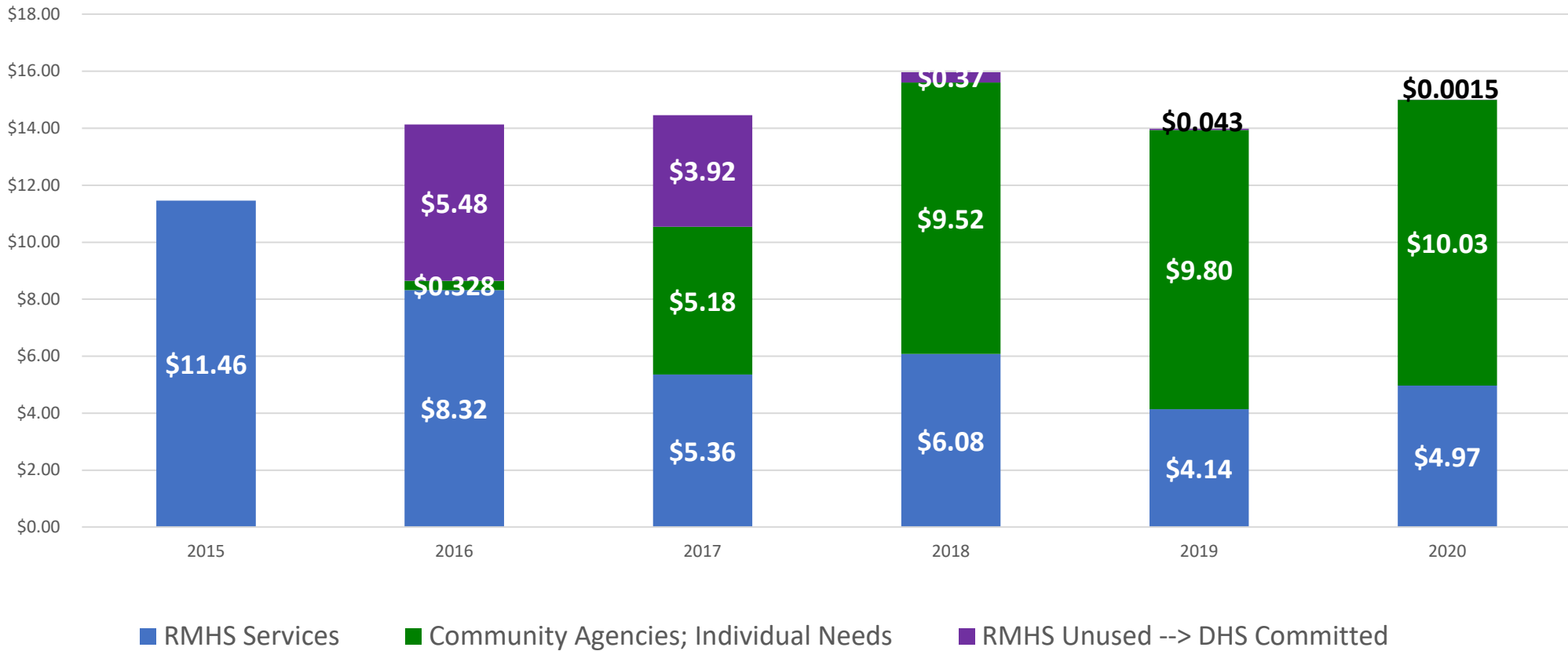


DOLLAR AMOUNT



# RMHS Mill Levy Program Evolution

In Millions\*



\*Rounded to nearest hundredth

## **Executive Team**

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# Appendix

# RMHS Enhanced Services

## Communications & Outreach

- Quickly adjusted to support Denver residents with I/DD and their families during the ongoing public health crisis
  - Created a new community resource newsletter and an expanded, online resource library
  - Created COVID-19 specific website pages to share latest guidance and resources.
  - Participated in various virtual resource fairs and conferences including, Mill Levy Community Forum, Rocky Mountain Syndrome Association, Grupo Vida, and Healthy Baby Summit



# RMHS Initiatives

## EI Engagement Specialist

- Increase engagement during all stages of the Early Intervention program
- Identify needs, gaps and barriers to improve services and experience for all participants
- Develop programming and supports to best meet needs
- Provide easier access to supports and services

## Children's Coordinator

- Provides education and options counseling regarding RMHS and other services
- Identifies family needs that may not be covered under the Family Support program or private insurance
- Maintains the Mill Levy not in program (NIP) caseload



# RMHS Initiatives

## Adult Waitlist Coordinator

- Provides service coordination to individuals who were:
  - Not eligible for long term care Medicaid
  - Enrolled in a non-I/DD Medicaid waiver (Elderly, Blind, Disabled Wavier, CMHS, HCA)
  - Enrolled in case management services with another CCB and reside in Denver.
- Monitors HCBS-DD waitlist status
- Provides options counseling to individuals and families regarding available services and supports through Medicaid waivers, mill levy funding and/or community resources.

# RMHS Initiatives

## DPS Liaison

- Coordinates communication with Denver Public Schools
- Connects families seeking eligibility and enrollment with the RMHS Intake Coordinator for DPS
- Connects families that are enrolled in services with their Family Support program service coordinator
- Supports families in receiving ample IEP and educational supports
- Participates in DPS SEAC Special Education Advisory Committee
- Provides options counseling and support to families during key milestones to ensure continuity of services

## Crisis Case Manager

- Provides support or functions as lead service coordinator in crisis/emergency situations
- Develops relationships and liaises with other emergency programs and resources to assist Denver Residents with I/DD
- Attends the RMHS Human Rights Committee to support Denver residents with I/DD and provide resources that are available to support that individual.
- Trains service coordination on community resources

# RMHS Initiatives

## Children's Clinical Services

- In 2020, the Mill Levy Program funded \$1,027,140 in clinical services and supports
  - 3,000+ Assessments
  - 51,996 Treatment Services
  - Eliminated waitlist for children under 3 for diagnostic assessments for autism
  - Virtual training programs for parents
  - Training for Clinicians
  - Clinical Support Supplies
  - Play and Learn Library
  - COVID Safety Kits

## Infant Mental Health Specialist

- Provides direct mental health services and consultation to infants and toddlers and their families.
- Provide families, service coordinators, and therapists with information related to social-emotional development and mental health.
- Provide guidance to therapists on selecting, administering, and interpreting social-emotional screening and assessment tools and findings.

# RMHS Initiatives

RMHS quickly responded to a sudden system change that would leave more than 400 Denver infants and toddlers without access to Early Intervention services by developing the DENVER EARLY STEPS PROGRAM to fill the resulting gap.

- The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) responded to the state budget crisis by promulgating an emergency rule which shifts the threshold for EI services in Colorado from a 25% delay to a 33% delay (12 CCR 2509.10 Vol 7.901).
- As Denver's Early Intervention services provider, RMHS assessed the needs of children no longer eligible for State Early Intervention programs and made strategic recommendations on how mill levy funds could pivot quickly to meet a critical need for Denver families.

