



# 2022 Mill Levy Program Annual Report



***Working Together for Denver***

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

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

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# Introduction

For more than 30 years, Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS), a non-profit human service organization, has been and remains Denver's access point for Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) services, providing both service coordination and direct services. As the State's designated Community Centered Board (CCB) for Denver, RMHS is the only authorized agency to determine IDD eligibility for Denver residents and contracts directly with the State to provide Early Intervention services for Denver's eligible children with developmental delays. RMHS also provides CCB and Single-Entry Point (SEP) administrative and case management services for long term services and supports across all ten Colorado Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waivers and state funded IDD program.

In 2003, Denver voters generously approved a one mill property tax levy to benefit Denver residents with IDD. The Denver Human Services IDD Equitable Access to Services (IDDEAS) Program contracts with RMHS to successfully manage the majority of those funds because of our vital role in Denver's IDD service delivery system. As the CCB, RMHS has the closest proximity to Denver's eligible residents and is best positioned to ensure efficient access and flexible



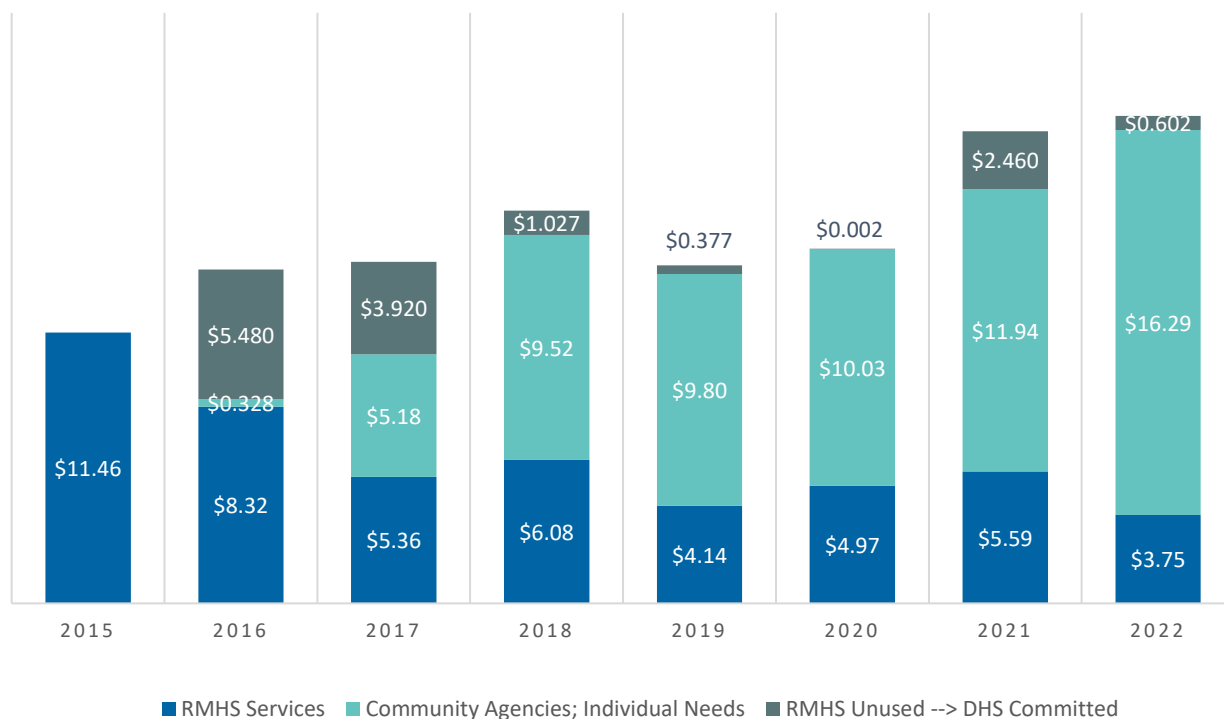
options for Denver residents to utilize mill levy funds. This direct access and flexibility along with our strong relationships with other CCBs, providers, and advocacy groups gives RMHS the farthest reach to ensure that each Denver resident with IDD has access to mill levy funds to meet their individualized needs, regardless of whether they receive service coordination through RMHS.

Individuals and families impacted by developmental delays and IDD interface with multiple systems as they navigate through an extremely complex and often confusing system. RMHS reduces the number of times that individuals and families must tell “their story” by supporting them across their lifespan to access the services and supports they need to live the life they envision. The mill levy funds’ inherent flexibility allows RMHS to cut through red tape and quickly respond to relevant needs of the individuals we support every day.

# 2022 Mill Levy Program Reporting

This report covers the contract period of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, and will demonstrate RMHS's year over year track record to judiciously spend the mill levy funds within the parameters of the contract and in response to individualized and collective needs.

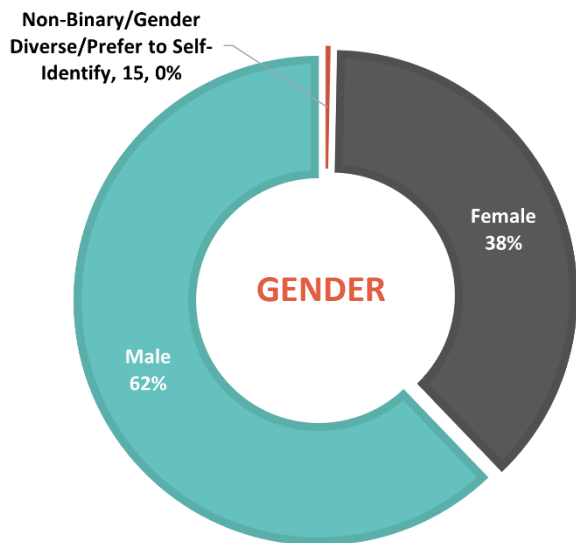
## Historical RMHS Mill Levy Funding Allocation (In Millions)



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 many moving parts to ensure that eligible Denver Residents have access to mill levy funded programs and services while expending the appropriated funds in compliance 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 continue to best meet eligible Denver residents' needs at the individual, group, and system levels, as evidenced in the pages to follow.

# Demographics

In 2022, the RMHS Mill Levy Program served 4,740 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

**1,502**

Infants and toddlers from birth to 3 years

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

## Children & Families Program

**2,059**

Infants, children, & youth from birth through 17 years

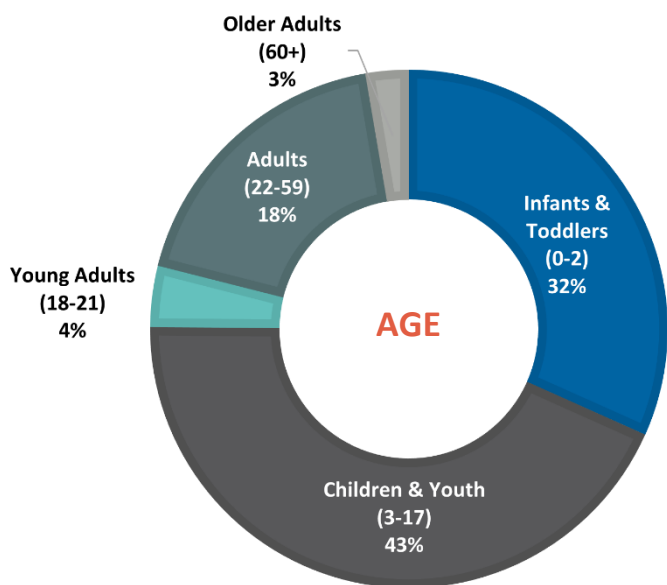
- Children's Extensive Support (CES) Waiver, Children's Habilitative Residential Program (CHRP), Family Support Services Program (FSSP), and Mill Levy Not-in-Program access

## Adult Service Coordination

**1,179**

Adults from 18 years of age through the lifespan

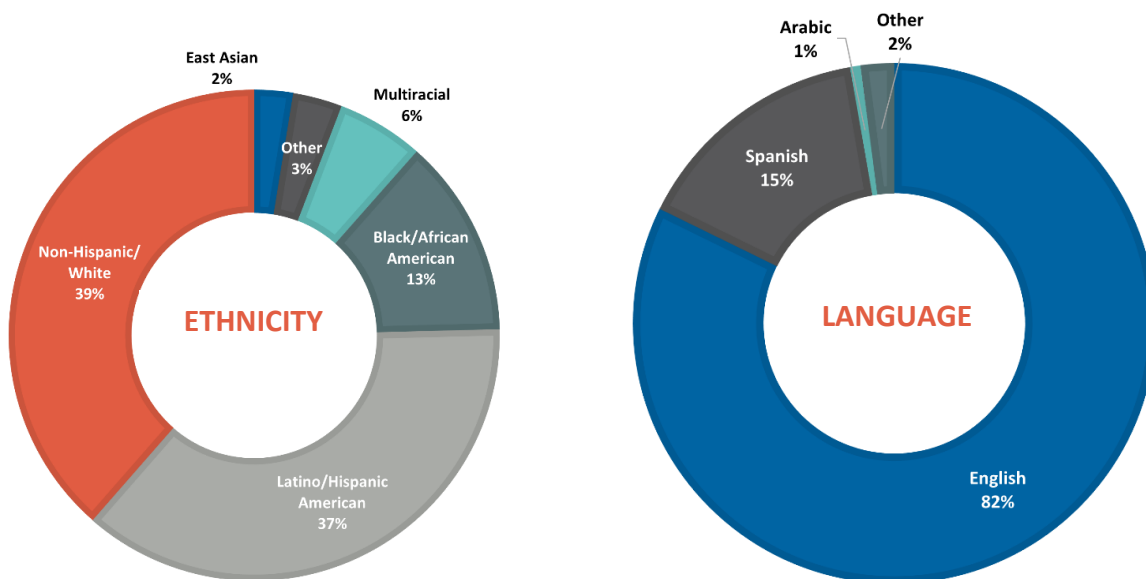
- Developmental Disability (Comprehensive Residential) Waiver, Supported Living Services (SLS) HCBS Wavier, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA), State SLS, and Mill Levy Not-in-Program access



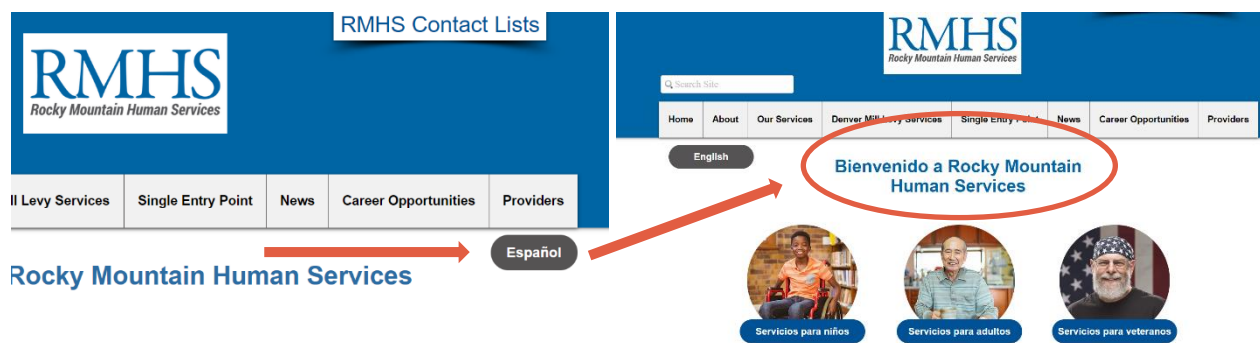
## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

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 7% also speak a language other than English.**



RMHS employs staff that reflect Denver's demographics, including bilingual staff that demonstrate competency in the native language of many families and individuals that we serve. If RMHS does not have staff that speak or written materials in a particular language needed, we contract with interpretation and translation services. Spanish is the most prevalent need and as such the RMHS website offers a Spanish option with the click of a button.



# Mill Levy Funding

RMHS has focused on building a comprehensive Mill Levy Program that prioritizes people over bureaucracy by leveraging the inherent flexibility of the mill levy ordinance and funding stream. The Mill Levy Program team cuts through red tape to increase access to services and flexible service and provider options to quickly respond to relevant needs of the individuals we support every day to live the life they envision.

## Empower

- Denver residents with IDD to directly access mill levy funds to meet their unique needs for services and supports

## Support

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

## Provide

- Additional support across departments and programs to eliminate wait lists, enable service coordinators more time to work with clients, and enhance clinical programs

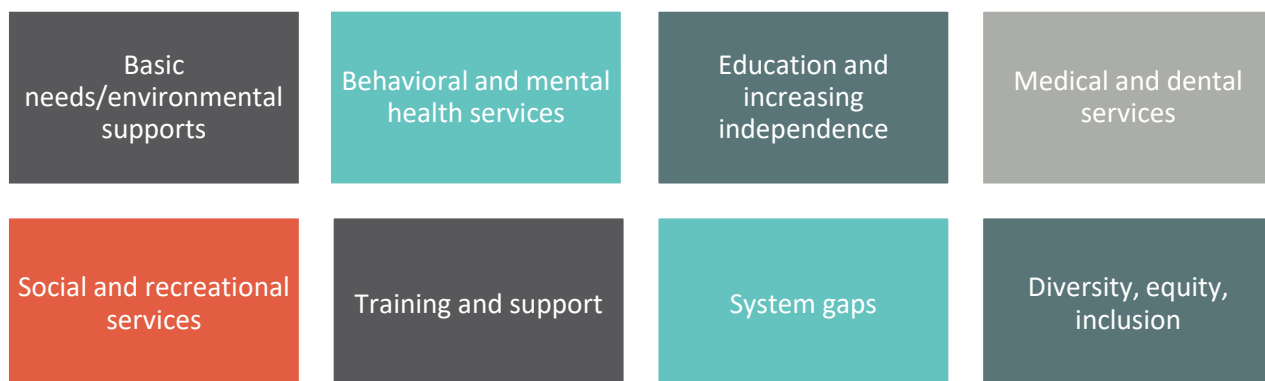
## Community Advisory Council

The Mill Levy Program hosts the Community Advisory Council (CAC) whose 2022 membership included eight members comprised of IDD professionals and service providers, IDDEAS Advisory Council liaison, parents, advocates, and an eligible Denver resident. Membership represented several different ethnicities and cultures along with diverse personal and professional perspectives.

The RMHS CAC advises the Mill Levy Program on mill levy expenditures, IDD system changes, and policy development and implementation. They also make annual recommendations regarding Mill Levy Program goals, funding priorities, and overall program objectives and specific initiatives. Since 2016, RMHS has collaborated with the RMHS CAC to identify relevant priority funding areas for each year's funding opportunities. Over time these have evolved into consistent areas of need by which the Mill Levy Program tracks funding efforts.



## Mill Levy Program Key Funding Areas



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

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. In August 2022, RMHS adopted the following priority funding areas to guide 2023 funding decisions:

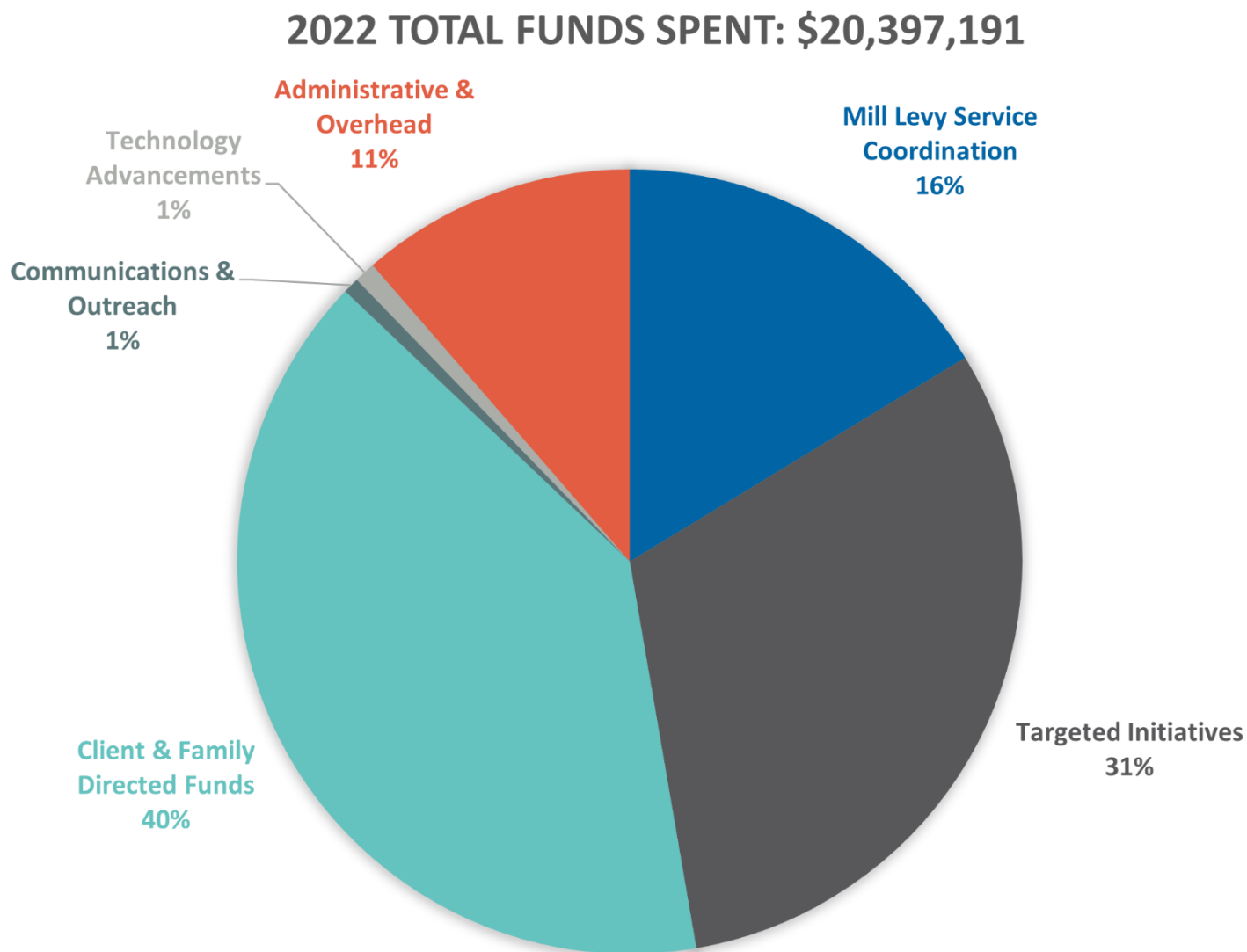
Crisis Support (all ages)	Mental health and emergency residential supports and stabilization
Post Covid Support (all ages)	Programming aimed at regaining skills and/or abilities diminished during the pandemic due to isolation, less access to services, etc.
Outreach & Navigation (all ages)	Connecting families and adults with RMHS and other relevant resources, supports, and services.
Post-secondary education and competitive employment (Youth & Adults)	Forward thinking educational and employment opportunities that ableism, stereotypes, and limiting beliefs to meet modern needs.

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 supports through a variety of mechanisms, which also represents the agreement between RMHS and the IDDEAS program regarding the distribution of mill levy funds.



**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 and stakeholder and Community Advisory Committee (CAC) input to identify IDD service delivery needs, support gaps, and annual RMHS Mill Levy Program priority funding areas. 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 technology advancements, such as improving the internal client management system, to best benefit mill service access, resource engagement, and service coordination for Denver eligible residents.

## Client & Family Directed Funds

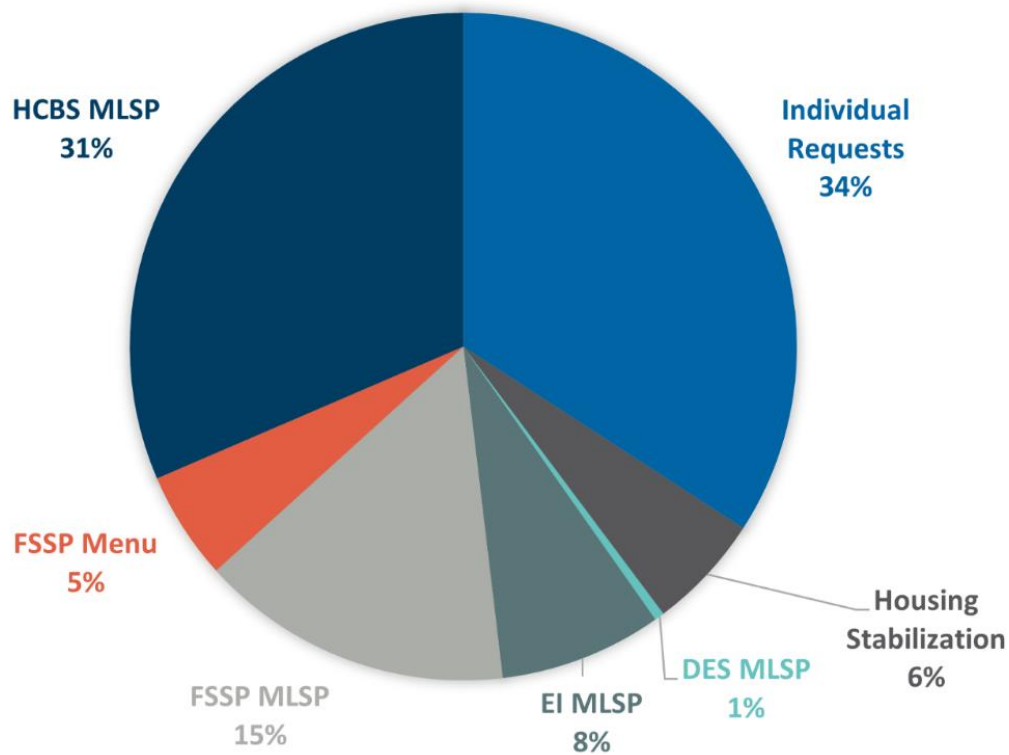
As the CCB for Denver County, RMHS is best positioned to ensure that each eligible Denver resident has access to mill levy funds. RMHS simplifies access for individuals and families through processes such as annual service planning and quarterly contacts to support eligible residents in accessing mill levy funding to meet their unique needs.

If an eligible resident does not receive services from RMHS, not to worry – RMHS’ Not-in-Program Mill Levy Access Coordinators assists eligible residents to submit an Individual Request(s) or create a Mill Levy Support Plan (MLSP).

**The Mill Levy team strives to be the “Easy Button” in a complex system by providing equitable, simple, and direct mill levy access for ALL eligible Denver residents.**

**In 2022, eligible Denver residents and their families utilized over \$8.1 Million to meet their individualized needs -- a 26% increase from the previous year!**

## Client & Family Funds 2022 Distribution



## Client Story: Home Mod Impact

After having a stroke, Steve was unable to independently shower, use the bathroom, or complete his personal care. Through Mill Levy, Steve remodeled his bathroom to increase his independence and safety. A walk-in shower, vanity, a toilet at the right height, and heat elements were built into his space. Steve loves his bathroom, is so proud to be independent, and enjoys showering daily. His family shared a personal thank you note outlining the impact that these bathroom adjustments made on Steve's life. They mentioned this difference would not be possible without the support of Mill Levy.

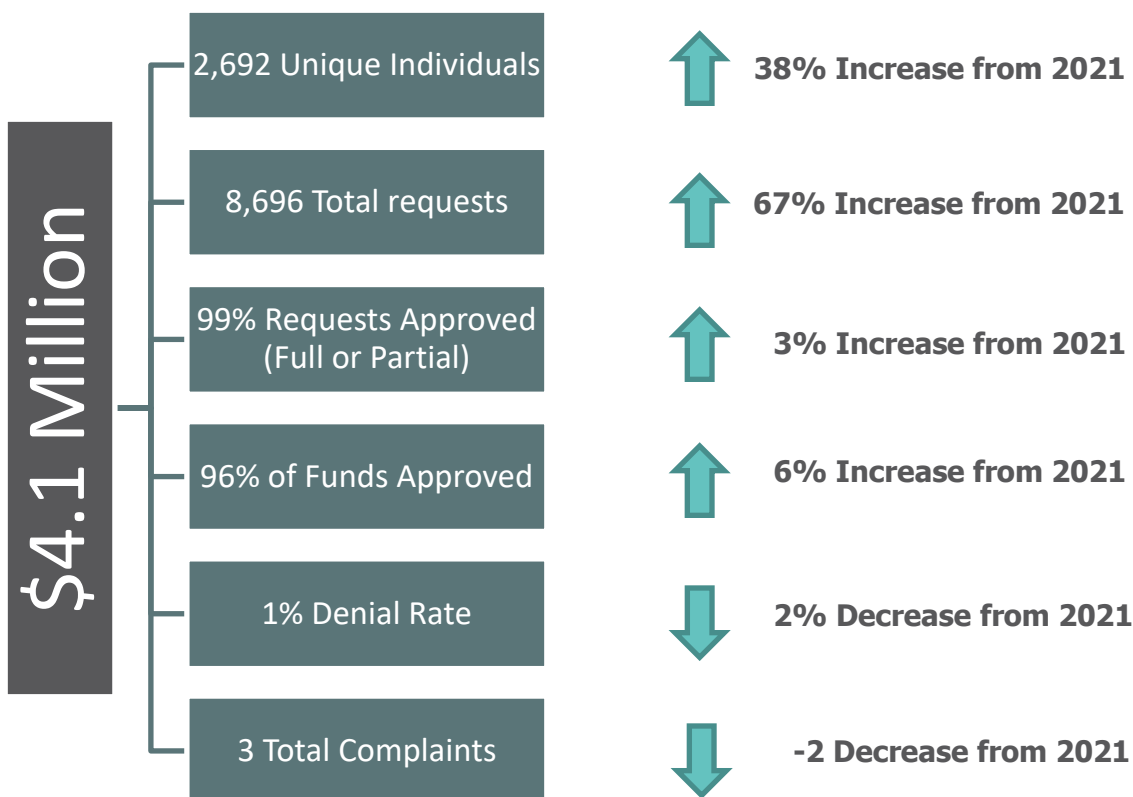


**Individual Requests** continue to be the most popular component of the RMHS Mill Levy Program. These requests allow eligible Denver residents and their families and caregivers to quickly submit funding requests to support individualized needs. If the request meets the IDDEAS program funding standards, the Mill Levy Program team does everything possible to make it happen through an efficient request, review, and approval process.



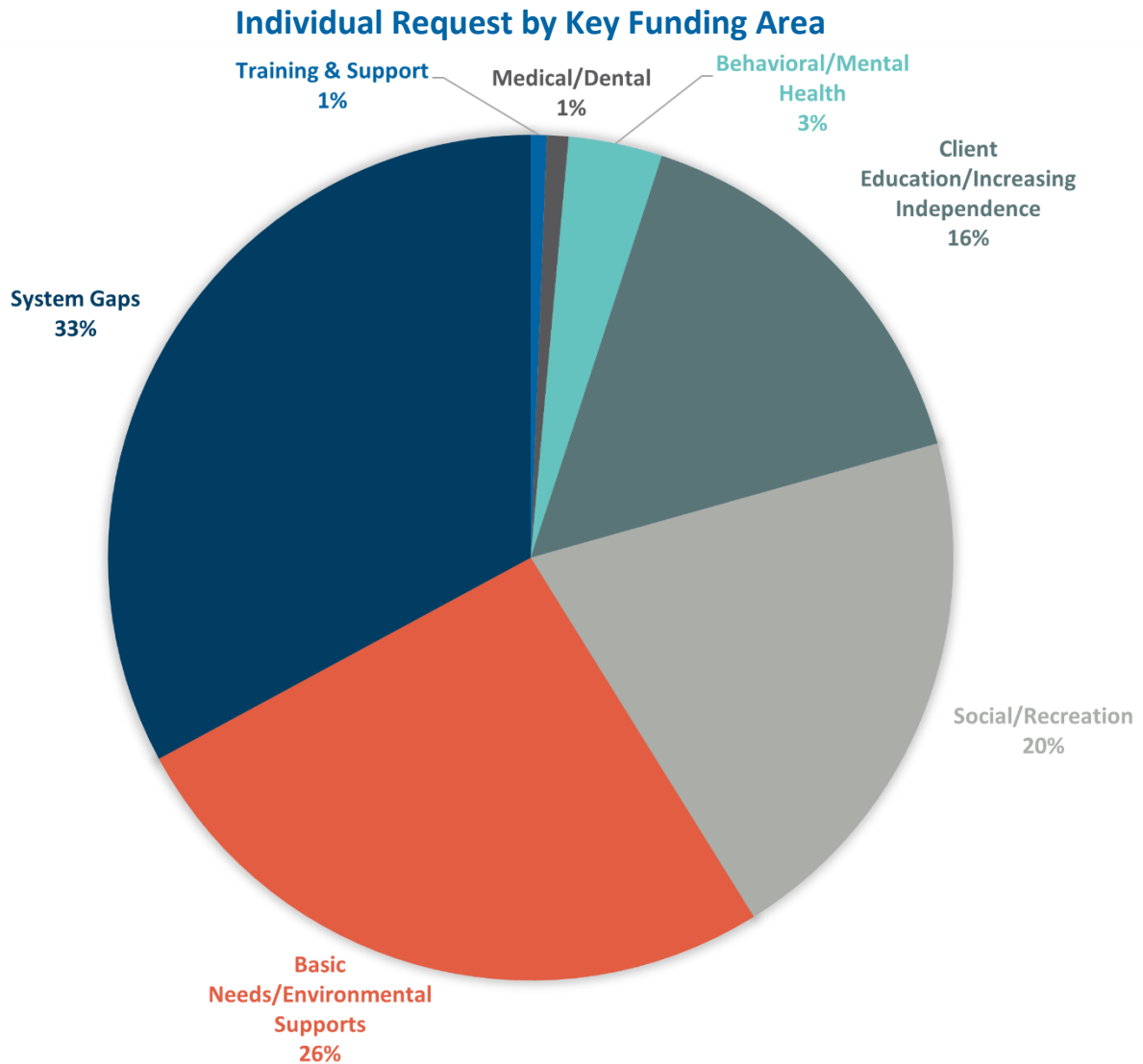
The Mill Levy Program had another record-breaking year in 2022 with 8,696 total Individual Requests submitted by 2,692 unique individuals – 742 more individuals than the previous year.

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



RMHS has an established complaint process for individuals to voice their concerns regarding the outcome of their individual 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, 2022, RMHS received 3 complaints, which the Mill Levy Director resolved through the complaint process.

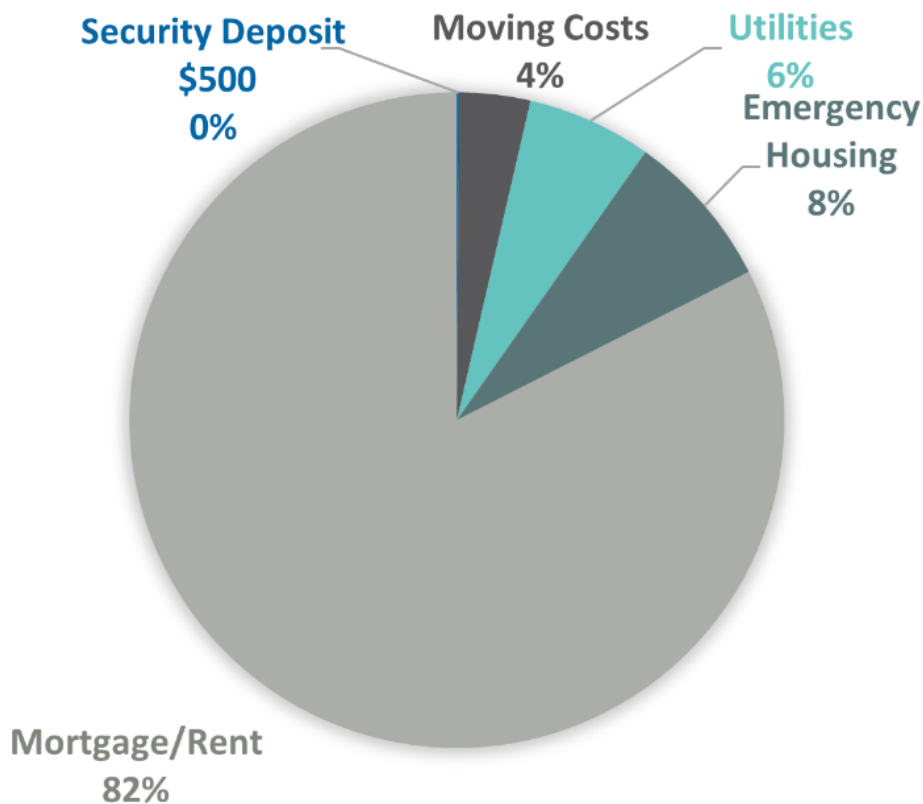
In 2021, 100% of individual request approvals benefited eligible Denver residents and fell under one of the Mill Levy Program Key Funding Areas:



**Housing Stabilization Assistance** provides immediate, short-term assistance for housing stability to eligible Denver residents experiencing homelessness or challenges that put their housing at risk. In response to the pandemic, RMHS and DHS partnered in 2020 to highlight the availability of funds earmarked for this purpose. The response validated the perceived hardships that families faced due to the rising cost of living coupled with socioeconomic impacts of the global pandemic. Housing crises continued into 2022 and this mill levy funded service has become a significant support to eligible Denver residents and their families. Service Coordinators work with individuals and families to develop a stabilization plan that accompanies each request.

In 2022, 243 unique Denver households benefited from \$479,099 to cover rent, mortgage, emergency housing, utilities, security deposits, and moving costs to stabilize a housing crisis.

### Housing Stabilization Assistance by Category



## A Glimpse into 2022 Housing Stabilization Assistance

### **TWO BROTHERS FIND A PERMANENT SOLUTION**

When an aging parent can no longer support her eligible son, mill levy funds covered inspection costs that allowed him to purchase a home with his brother.



### **RENT AND WRAP AROUND SERVICES OFFER MORE THAN HOUSING STABILIZATION**

An eligible resident loses their job due to mental health challenges. Mill levy funds paid for two months of rent, counseling, psych evaluations, and intensive supports to find employment.

### **ELIGIBLE PARENT & ELIGIBLE CHILD FIND RELIEF DURING ROUGH TIMES**

Making ends meet solely on SSI income is always challenging, but add unexpected health issues and it becomes impossible. Mill Levy funds helped this family get caught up on past rent and utilities to get back on their feet.

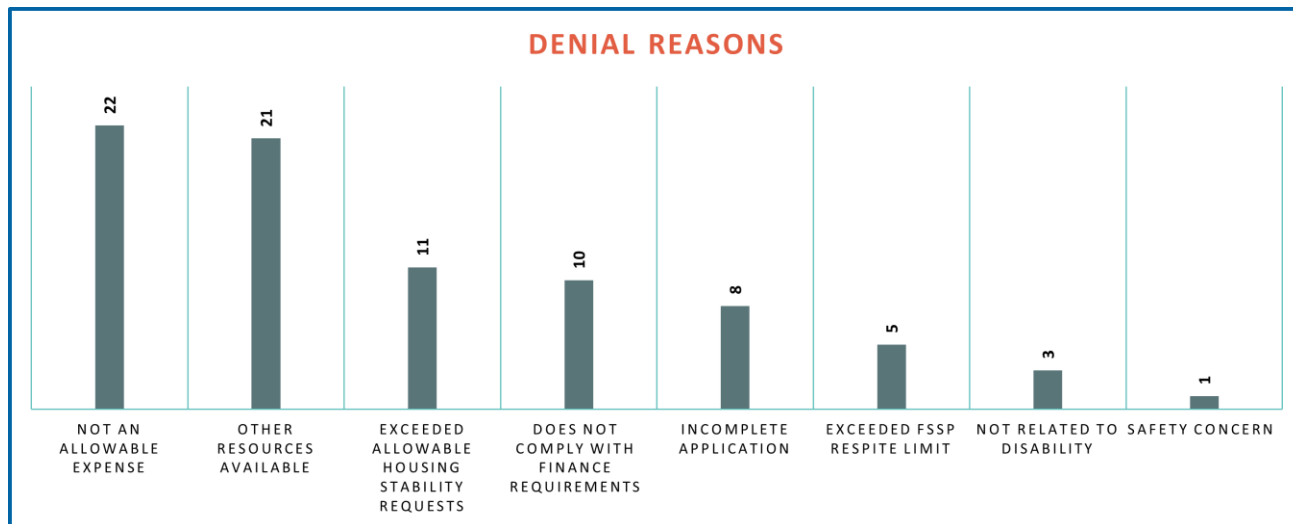


### **UNDOCUMENTED SINGLE MOM FACES EVICTION & NO OTHER RESOURCES**

Eligible teen had COVID 3 times in a few months. His single mom cleans houses and does not have paid leave. Mill levy covered their past due rent and utilities to bridge the gap while she helped her son regain his health.



**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 8,696 requests received, only 81 requests were fully denied, resulting in a 1% percent denial rate, reflective of the Mill Levy Program’s motto and commitment to make sure 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.



**Mill Levy Support Plans** (MLSPs) fill system gaps and provide additional services that are unfunded or underfunded by Medicaid or other resources. MLSPs are developed using both public funds and private insurance to address the developmental and support needs of the individual receiving services. Service coordinators offer MLSPs for each Denver resident with IDD enrolled in the 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 2022 \$596,149 mill levy dollars funded EI MLSP services to benefit of Denver children with developmental delays.**

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 care giving 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 IDD or developmental delay. FSSP funding is determined by a child and family's Most in Need (MIN) assessment that is completed by our Family Support Service Coordinators. Mill levy funds 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 over \$1.5 Million total approved -- mill levy funds covered a third of it.**

In 2022, RMHS also offered the FSSP Mill Levy Menu which included the same resources provided in Early Intervention MLSPs with addition of the Sensory Menu.



**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 2022, \$1,147,781 mill levy dollars funded FSSP MLSPs and \$396,953 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 2022, \$2,379,680 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**

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, are not eligible for Medicaid long term care, or receive case management outside of RMHS.

**MLSP PROVIDERS.** RMHS contracts directly with PASAs to provide MLSP services. RMHS chooses to engage PASAs for this work because the State designates them as qualified providers for IDD services and ensures proper monitoring and oversight.

**In 2022, on average, RMHS contracted directly with 141 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

A parent used Mill Levy Service Plan to receive books and toys from Timbuk Toys for their child. Mom shared that when she opened the package and her son was represented in the book they received, she felt so seen and excited to share it with her son. One of the books was all about engineering, and the child represented on the cover was also black. She said it caught her eye and she felt so wonderful about it!



# 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 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.

**On average IDD service enrollment processes take 180 days -- mill levy funds ensure eligible residents stay connected to services and supported in their daily lives.**

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 authorize 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	2,690	\$554,078
Family Support Services Program	1773	\$904,516
HCBS and State SLS Services	1200	\$1,248,050
<b>Developmental &amp; Behavioral Health Department</b>		
Early Intervention Services	2149	\$618, 899
<b>Mill Levy Program</b>		
Mill Levy Access Coordinators	125	\$58,452

**Mill Levy Access Coordinators** actively manage a Not-in-Program caseload. The Mill Levy Program strives to proactively identify eligible Denver residents that may not be receiving services through RMHS CCB services for a variety of reasons including:

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

<b>Mill Levy Access Coordinators 2022 Active Caseload</b>	
<b>Active with another CCB</b>	15
<b>Not on waitlist - no other services</b>	10
<b>On Waitlist - receiving no other services</b>	19
<b>On Waitlist - with other services</b>	27

<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

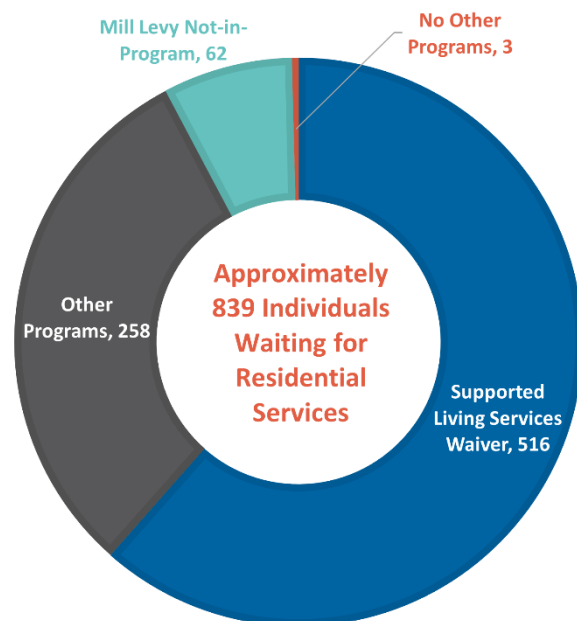
Develop and authorize RMHS Mill Levy Support Plans (MLSP) to meet unmet needs and facilitates, review, and authorize Individual Requests.

Identify and provide 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 the other state funded programs, the Mill Levy Access Coordinator can easily target outreach efforts.

At least once a year, the ML HCBS service coordinators contact known eligible residents who are not regularly receiving service to offer access to mill levy funding through individual requests and MLSPs.

In 2021, the Mill Access Coordinators managed 36 MLSPs and utilized nearly \$34K through 176 Individual Requests.





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 DPS Liaison and EI Engagement Specialist. In addition, mill levy funded Community Initiative partners actively refer Denver residents with IDD to RMHS.

## 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 2022, RMHS utilized \$6,319,391.56 in mill levy funds to meet system gaps, extend our reach to ALL eligible Denver residents, and ensure people waiting for other services or seeking eligibility or services were accessing mill levy-funded**

RMHS uses mill levy funds to staff positions, which provide targeted service coordination to Denver residents with IDD that do not receive RMHS CCB case management services. In 2021, 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 2023 are shared below:

### Infant Mental Health Specialist

This role provides families, service coordinators, and therapists with information related to the social-emotional development of children 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 2022, the Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Clinician expanded direct client services to include ongoing individual sessions, gap support sessions, and informational calls to families transitioning home from the NICU. A portfolio for endorsement as an Infant Mental Health Specialist was submitted to the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health. Group supervision framework was created, and reflective supervision was implemented for key employees.

#### Vision for the Future

“In 2023, we will bring reflective supervision to the department and develop additional connections with community providers to increase referral options for families and staff.”

## Early Intervention (EI) Engagement Specialist

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

### Key Accomplishments

In 2022, the EI Engagement Specialist provided multiple training courses to pediatric practices and Early Head Start programs across Denver. We connected with over 30 families to complete evaluation reschedules, options counseling, and resource navigation support. The Engagement Specialist was appointed secretary of the NICU Consortium Partnership, working to support families across the state of Colorado as they transition out of the hospital and into home-based care. In addition, the person in this role helped to fulfill 33 funding requests for meal delivery and infant supplies packages for families receiving support from the Transition Home Program.

### Vision for the Future

“Looking forward to 2023, the EI Engagement Specialist role will Increase communications and host special events for families involved with Developmental and Behavioral Health programs; to develop community among families of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities.”

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

This role is responsible for direct contact with Denver Public School (DPS) district, 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 assisted 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/developmental disability (ages 5-17). ML Children’s Access Coordinators and School & Community Service Liaisons work in a hybrid model.

### Key Accomplishments

In 2022, the School & Community Services Liaisons and ML Children’s Service Coordinators developed resources for DPS staff, teachers, and families which detailed the benefits of the services provided. The School & Community Service Liaisons partnered with internal and external initiatives to conduct focused trainings offered to families, school staff, and professionals. In addition, they partnered with the Department of Education, Colorado’s Sequencing of Services for students and youth with disabilities. School & Community Services Liaisons are steering committee member for Project SEARCH: Preparing young people with significant disabilities for success in competitive integrated employment. Ninety two families received support with options counseling and assistance with disability determination and the

intake process.

#### Vision for the Future

“The DPS Liaison & Mill Levy Service Coordinators envision strengthening their collaboration with DPS and other community agencies who provide services and supports to students and young adults with IDD, ensuring a strong community support network that facilitates individual success.”

### Denver Early Steps (DES) Program Manager

This role oversees the service coordinators and clinicians who provide services and support for families who have a child in the DES program.

#### Key Accomplishments

In 2022, the DES program provided 22 diagnostic evaluations for children over the age of three. Eighty four children received support that included service coordination and therapy. This program conducted two community screening events and provided screenings free of charge. A family social group was created, allowing parents to share and learn about topics related to child development and parenting. 67 children from the NICU received support in the Transition Home Program.

#### Vision for the Future

“In the next year, we will expand the screening program and groups offered to families and continue to close service gaps for children in Denver. “

### Crisis Case Manager

This role provides trauma-informed care and consultations for families, children, and adults with complex needs who are in crisis situations.

#### Key Accomplishments

In 2022, the Crisis Case Manager consulted over 63 individual cases, expanded professional relationships and provided education to forensic service departments within the criminal justice system. The person in this role also increased and developed resource references for topics such as affordable housing, substance use disorder treatment, and Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) care management. The Case manager collaborated in 10 stakeholder meetings monthly or quarterly.

#### Vision for the Future

“In the next year, we will refine creative and effective strategies and expand professional relationships with metro hospitals in effort to increase collaboration.”

# Mill Levy Access Coordinators

RMHS served more than 4,700 unique Denver residents with IDD in 2022. Most of these individuals receive service coordination through RMHS CCB programs. When services are received outside of RMHS, RMHS Mill Levy Access Coordinators step in and assist individuals not tied to these programs for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to:

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

**In 2022, the Mill Levy Access Coordinators maintained an active caseload of 71 unique individuals and facilitated 125 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 wait list for residential services as one way to identify these

Mill Levy Access Coordinators 2022 Active Caseload

Active with another CCB	15
Not on waitlist - no other services	10
On Waitlist - receiving no other services	19
On Waitlist - with other services	27



individuals. Because RMHS is the CCB for Denver, and the Single-Entry Point (SEP) for the other state funded programs, the Mill Levy Access Coordinator can easily target outreach efforts.

## Client Story: Meeting Unique Needs

Camila is 7 months and has been diagnosed with Down Syndrome. Recently, Camilla had open heart surgery and has a recovery time of 8 weeks. At first it was very difficult to carry her, and she would spend most of her time just lying down in her bassinet. By accessing Mill Levy, Camilla now has a comfortable swing so she can sit instead of laying down all day. Her mom shared, “I would like to thank RHMS and the Mill Levy department for their funds provided to help out families like mine, and for being part of Camila’s journey.”



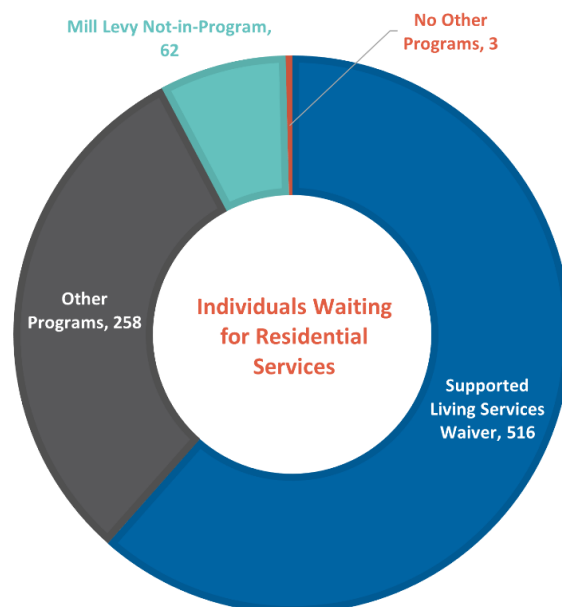
## Early Intervention Initiatives

### 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 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, comprehensive, diagnostic evaluations and high-quality EI professional service 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. These infants have a categorial diagnosis making them eligible for early intervention services, but there can be several week delays before services begin. In 2022, RMHS provided services and support to 67 infants and their families through the mill levy funded Transition Home Program (THP). This program eases the transition from the hospital to a home setting during what can be a sensitive and challenging time when many parents find that they need additional support while waiting for EI services to begin.

### Denver Early Steps

In 2022 RMHS provided EI services to 84 children with developmental delays that no longer qualified under the State’s eligibility threshold. Mill levy funding provides comprehensive service coordination that mirrors the requirements in the state funding EI Program as well as the enhanced services that mill levy covers in other RMHS programs.

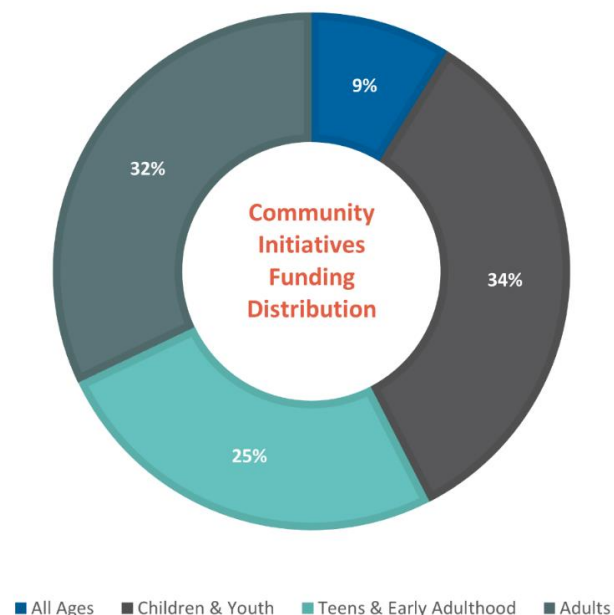
### Non-EI Children's Clinical

The RMHS children’s clinical team provided diagnostic evaluations for 22 children that 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 also eliminates typically long wait periods for Denver families with children in this age group.

## 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 not available 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 2022, renewed 24 Community Initiatives contracts and awarded two new community initiatives through the annual funding opportunity process. In 2022, Community Initiatives utilized \$3,753,401 in mill levy funding to further provide innovative & unique services for eligible Denver residents of all ages.






## Projects Serving All Ages: 1,017 unique individuals benefited from \$330,646 from mill levy funded projects




	<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, and 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 not limited to, preparing simple and complex wills, revocable living trusts, special needs trusts, financial power of attorney documents, uncontested guardianships/ conservatorships, ABLE accounts, probate administration, and advanced medical directives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Needs &amp; Environmental Supports</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> </ul>
	<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, and 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 are trained to provide the same support to their peers that are new to parenting a child with delays or an IDD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</li> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> </ul>



<b>Projects Serving Children &amp; Youth: 2,023 unique individuals benefited from \$1,262,708 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. These youth have exhausted other treatment and provider options and 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>

Projects Serving Children & Youth cont.		
	<p><b>BehaviorSpan</b> provides center-based Early Intervention ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) services. The Denver center will work children between 18 months and 7 years old, providing up to 40 hours of learning for each of 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 carry out the <b>Rise School of Denver's</b> 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: 210 unique individuals benefited from \$956,256 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>The <b>Jovial Gardens</b> project converts 25 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Social &amp; Recreation</li> </ul>

	non-traditional settings from the REVEL Supports program.	
<b>Projects Serving Teens &amp; Early Adulthood cont.</b>		
	<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>Wash Park Dentistry</b> will create a Sensory Adapted Dental Environment (SADE) so that children with developmental disabilities, sensory processing disorders, and autism can receive comprehensive dental care at a dental home that is built with their needs in mind.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Show &amp; Tell</b> provides parents and transition age youth with information and training about disabilities, children's legal rights, the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), and resources in the Denver Metro area. Show and Tell focuses efforts towards underserved BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) families and connects them with the tools they need to help their children develop essential life skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Increasing Independence</li> <li>• Training &amp; Support</li> <li>• System Gaps</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</li> </ul>

<b>Projects Serving Adults: 223 unique individuals benefited from \$1,203,791 from mill levy funded projects</b>		
	<p><b>Access Gallery</b> is an inclusive nonprofit organization that engages the community 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>Fully trained and certified <b>Activity Options</b> staff provide small group, weekend, and evening community activities, as well as 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>Colorado Fund for People with Disabilities through their <b>Mission Supports</b> project seeks out potentially eligible individuals at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. 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</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>

	process for long-term services and supports.	
<b>Projects Serving Adults cont.</b>		
	<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 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>	<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>Laradon and the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD)</b> operationalize their partnership to provide mental health services for dually diagnosed eligible individuals. This partnership sets out to increase cross-cultural competency and increase the availability of providers able to work within this population.</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

**Access Gallery's** "99 Pieces of Art on the Wall" was a collective show where over 100 community artists created a piece of art for the 99 Pieces of Art on the Wall Fundraising event. Twenty-two studio artists participated with their work hung next to other well-known artists in the community. An additional six individuals also helped on the planning committee and worked the night of the event. This event raised more than \$23,000 for the programs and services Access Gallery provides.

Access Gallery has paid out a total of \$15,562 to 39 artists, through contracts and commissions. Twenty-one recipients were artists with IDD that live in Denver County.



Seven Access Gallery artists are serving on a leadership committee helping to provide insight and add their voice to the services provided. Five artists participated in the Portrait Slam Night, a fun night of portraiture and community. The artists created unique, portraits and character art in real time for gallery guests!

**Show & Tell** participated in the March for Peace Fair at the Denver Broncos Boys and Girls club in Northeast Denver to connect with and make an impact in the community. The 3.1-mile hike began and ended at the team-sponsored Boys & Girls Club of Denver.





# 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.

2022 Highlights	
Number of Events:	In-person: 22 Virtual: 8
Number of People Reached through Newsletters:	2,017
Number of People Reached through Events:	60,948
People Reached Through Social Media:	15,763
Amount spent in Outreach Materials:	\$18,532

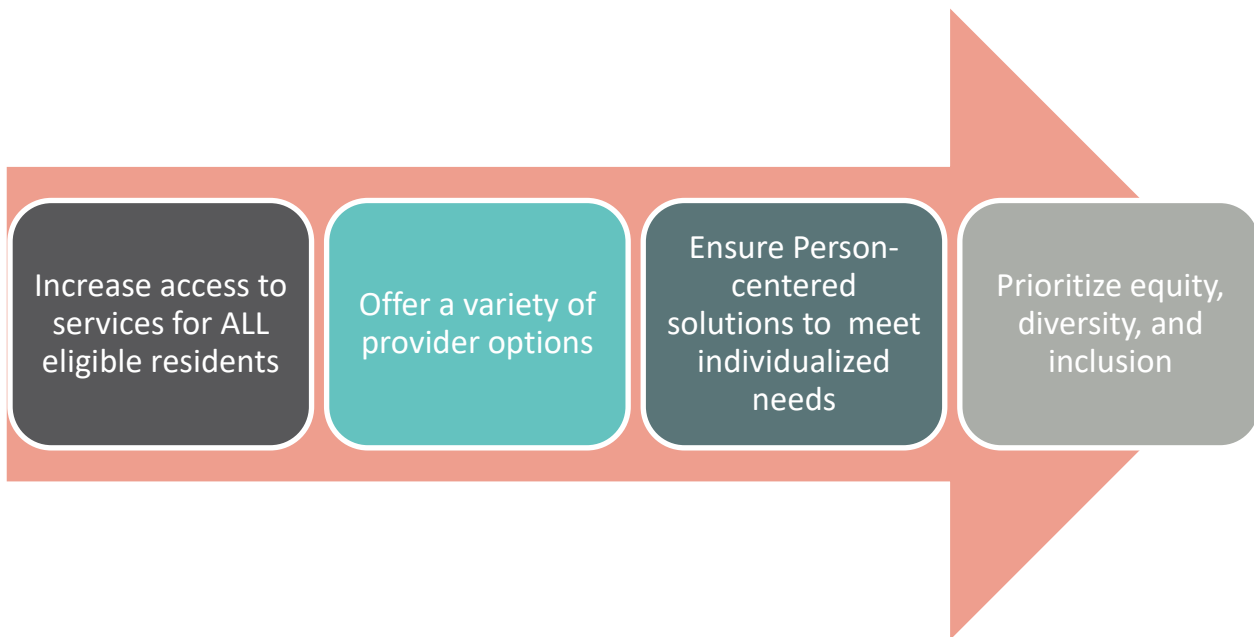
## 2022 Mill Levy Community Forum:

This virtual presentation held on December 14, 2022, was designed for families, individuals, providers, staff, and community members to learn what supports the Mill Levy Program offers and how those services can be accessed. Ninety-three people RSVP'd for the event.



## Summary

RMHS provides service coordination and direct services to adults and children with IDD in Denver and surrounding areas. As the CCB 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 to:



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 embrace challenges, and to create 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 continued to provide the individualized wrap-around services that enhance people's quality of life and wellbeing, making a world of difference for the people we serve and their families.