

Grant Approval Staff Report

Date: November 24, 2025
To: Douglas County Board of County Commissioners
Through: Douglas J. DeBord, County Manager
From: Jennifer L. Eby, AICP, Director of Community Services
CC: Jennifer A. D'Ambrosio, Community Programs Coordinator
Allison E. Cutting, Supervisor, Community Services
Rand M. Clark, CCAP, NCRT, Assistant Director of Community Services
Subject: **2025 Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy grant awards approval in the amount of \$500,710**

Board of County Commissioners' Business Meeting

December 9, 2025 @ 1:30 p.m.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 28 organizations submitted 43 grant applications for the Developmental Disability Mill Levy (DDML) competitive grant program. Applications included requests for a variety of services, programs, and activities to serve residents with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD). The DDML Advisory Council evaluated all applications and has prepared funding recommendations totaling \$500,710 for approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

II. REQUEST

Staff requests approval of the 2025 DDML grant awards in the amount of \$500,710.

III. BACKGROUND

In November 2001, the citizens of Douglas County approved a one mill property tax to be used for the benefit of citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. The County is the designated collection and disbursement agent for all property taxes within Douglas County, including DDML. The County has historically distributed 93% of the mill levy funds to Developmental Pathways and 1.5% is used for Treasurer's fees. The remaining 5.5% is retained to be distributed through the competitive grant process.

A seven-member Advisory Council and County staff established review criteria and developed a weighted evaluation tool as an objective rubric to guide discussion and make funding recommendations. The review criteria considers if a project meets a BCC core priority, the number of Douglas County residents each organization plans to assist, and the overall impact of the proposed project. The completeness and quality of the applications, organizational budgets, community partners, and leveraging data are also evaluated through this review process.

IV. DISCUSSION

On July 16, 2025, 43 applications totaling \$1,635,725 in requests were received from 28 organizations. The 2025 competitive grant budget is \$500,710. The competitive grant applications included requests for a variety of services, including transportation, therapeutic services,

employment programs, socialization and personal development, infrastructure or capital improvements, equipment, and respite care. The Advisory Council reviewed all applications and recommended funding 28 applications from 20 organizations to the BCC at a Work Session on November 10, 2025. The BCC directed Staff to prepare the recommendations for formal approval. at this Business Meeting. The complete list of funding recommendations is attached.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends approval of the 2025 DDML grant awards in the amount of \$500,710 as it complies with all County approval standards and policies.

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2025 Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy Grant Awards

Organization and Project Description	2025 Request	2025 Award
Active Existence Kidz Gym, Ltd - Common Area Improvements Local business offering adaptive gymnastics and sensory-based programs for children with IDD seeks to undertake exterior site improvements for accessibility and safety.	\$47,500	\$0
Adam's Camp - Building Independence, Leadership, and Social Connections Nonprofit offers 5-day summer camp to IDD individuals aged 9+, as well as Falcon Leadership Program, where experienced campers take next steps in their development.	\$70,076	\$54,659
Affinity Ranch - Scholarships for Adaptive Horsemanship Nonprofit provides an Adaptive Horsemanship Program for individuals with IDD so they can experience the therapeutic benefits of working with equine partners.	\$60,000	\$34,800
The al-Naas Civic and Cultural Foundation - I/DD Asylum Access for Refugee Families Organization combines diagnostic support and comprehensive asylum application assistance to refugees with IDD.	\$25,000	\$0
Amazing Care - Pediatric Mental Health Counseling Local provider launches professional counseling services for children with IDD and their families.	\$30,000	\$0
Amazing Care - Pediatric Physical Therapy Program Expansion Local provider launches pediatric physical therapy services for children with IDD and their families.	\$20,000	\$0
Best Buddies International, Inc. - Douglas County Citizens Project Nonprofit provides community-based inclusion services for Douglas County adult residents with IDD through a friendship program.	\$15,000	\$8,700
Broken Tree Community Center - Event Program Nonprofit provides year round opportunities for community engagement and personal development for individuals with IDD.	\$21,300	\$12,354
Compassion Adult Daycare - Funding for Vehicles Grant funds would be used to purchase two vehicles used for participant outings.	\$155,000	\$0
Easterseals Colorado - Yay! Camp Six-week summer day camp allows children ages 7-18 to engage in social, recreational and artistic activities, providing respite for caregivers.	\$20,000	\$13,600
Easterseals Colorado - Discovery Club Saturday recreational program for children and teens aged six to 18 with IDD provides caregiver respite once a month throughout the school year.	\$12,000	\$8,160
Family Voices Colorado - Navigation and Advocacy for Douglas County Nonprofit provides resource navigation services and state-level advocacy for individuals with IDD and their families.	\$20,000	\$13,600
Feel the Beat, Corp - Movement Instruction for Douglas County Nonprofit provides inclusive dance programming to engage individuals of all abilities through use of vibrotactile flooring and specialized programming.	\$20,000	\$13,600
Highlands Ranch Community Association (HRCA) - Therapeutic Recreation Nonprofit offers scholarships for an inclusive community-based program at four recreation centers for Highlands Ranch residents ages three and up.	\$37,000	\$28,860
HighPointe Services - Opening Trails Nonprofit offers a new outdoor leadership program for adults with IDD.	\$75,880	\$25,000
HighPointe Services - Equity on Wheels Funds would be used to purchase a wheel-chair accessible vehicle to transport participants.	\$70,250	\$0
The Hive - Inclusive Recreation For-profit organization offers a variety of classes, activities and creative camps for children and adults with IDD, giving respite to caregivers.	\$65,000	\$30,000

The Hive - Bee's Knees Kits For-profit organization produces curated activity kits for individuals with IDD support fine motor development, sensory integration and emotional regulation.	\$45,000	\$0
The Hive - Crafted Futures For-profit organization offers employment skill development opportunities to individuals with IDD.	\$73,000	\$0
Integrated Speech & Behavior - Inclusive Communication Infrastructure Local provider provides technology to severe non-speaking and minimally verbal children seen in clinic.	\$19,510	\$0
Integrated Speech & Behavior - Security System Installation Local provider seeks funding to install a security system in new clinic treating children with IDD.	\$16,000	\$0
Jewish Family Service of Colorado, Inc. - Integrated Adaptive Bike Program Scholarships Scholarships will provide IDD riders with safety education, individualized bicycle riding instruction and all of the necessary supports.	\$12,000	\$8,160
Lone Tree Arts Center - Sensory Inclusive Programming Funds support sensory friendly programming through locally based performances.	\$12,500	\$9,750
Lone Tree Arts Center - Usher Training and Job Resource Fair Funds will be used for employment initiatives, support and curriculum development for usher trainees, workshops, and job fair coordination.	\$7,500	\$5,850
The Mane Mission - Group Support Nonprofit will use funding to expand staffing and support ongoing animal care and maintenance for its therapeutic day programs.	\$50,500	\$17,500
Parker Parks and Recreation - Adaptive Swim Program Funds would be used for scholarships to provide instruction to teach lifesaving skills in and around water and also to pay for qualified instructors and necessary equipment.	\$11,224	\$7,632
Parker Parks and Recreation - Therapeutic Recreation Funds will be used to offer individual, family and group scholarships for programs that promote personal development, independence and fitness, as well as to purchase equipment and supplement wages for support staff.	\$28,200	\$19,176
Seb's Recreation Center - LifeLinks Mobility Project Funds would be used to support staffing and transportation for nonprofit's wellness initiative.	\$18,500	\$0
Sky Cliff Center - Vehicle Purchase Funds will be used to purchase a used 12-passenger van for transporting participants to and from day care and community outings.	\$10,446	\$10,137
South Suburban Therapeutic Adaptive Recreation - STAR Club Program offers community trips, recreation, cultural events and leisure programming two mornings a week during the summer to facilitate independence and socialization skills.	\$16,895	\$9,799
South Suburban Therapeutic Adaptive Recreation - DC Friday Fun Program provides respite care for families with children ages 13 and up on the six Fridays during school year when no classes are scheduled.	\$6,819	\$3,955
Tall Tales Ranch - Resource Center Elevator Funds would be used to purchase, install and maintain the elevator for the Resource Center at neurodiverse living and inclusivity hub.	\$45,000	\$30,600
Tall Tales Ranch - Workforce Development Expansion Nonprofit assists adults with IDD with job training, employment readiness and individualized support.	\$10,000	\$6,800
The Third Place - Sensory-Focused Family Community Center Sensory -focused community center offers custom sensory gym, calming breakroom, therapeutic murals, sound-dampening, anti-elopement gates, and caregiver seating.	\$78,133	\$30,000

The Third Place - Community Connections Scholarships would provide free access to community center offering opportunities for recreation and social connection.	\$45,000	\$30,600
To The Rescue - Wheelchair-Accessible Vehicle Funds would be used to purchase a wheelchair accessible van to transport participants to vocational training.	\$45,000	\$0
Town of Castle Rock - Therapeutic Recreation Program Scholarships Individual and program scholarships would include athletics and movement, camps, community opportunities, cultural arts, social programming and special events for residents with IDD.	\$20,000	\$13,600
Town of Castle Rock - Adaptive Swim Lesson Scholarships Funds would be used for scholarships to provide instruction to teach lifesaving skills in and around water to individuals with IDD.	\$8,000	\$5,440
The Traveling Gnomes - Scholarships for Inclusive Travel Experiences Scholarships will enable DC residents with IDD to participate in inclusive day trips and overnight programs.	\$36,000	\$0
The Traveling Gnomes - Wheelchair-Accessible Minivan Funds would be used to purchase a wheelchair accessible van to transport participants on inclusive and accessible day and overnight trips.	\$45,452	\$0
UpRoutes - Douglas County For-profit seeks support to launch a six-week program for small groups, building resilience and self-efficacy through outdoor skills like climbing, snowshoeing, and peer support.	\$127,630	\$0
Wellspring Community - Van Replacement Funds will allow the non-profit to update its fleet, ensuring reliable and consistent transportation.	\$61,410	\$35,618
Wellspring Community - Adult Day Community Outings Funds will cover admission costs for day program outings to venues such as museums, recreation centers, group classes, and similar activities.	\$22,000	\$12,760
	\$ 1,635,725	\$ 500,710