



PASCO Picayune

SERVING COLORADO'S DISABILITY COMMUNITY

The Newsletter That Serves its Readers

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Things are moving quickly right now in the Colorado Medicaid world. Conversations surrounding significant cap restrictions, potential cuts, and austerity measures are becoming increasingly common.

While certainly not ideal, PASCO has, in its 34 years of existence, weathered similar storms before. Through those experiences, several truths have remained constant and continue to guide us today:

1) We Are Stronger Together

Now is not the time for division, partisanship, or infighting. As tempting as it may be to listen to the loudest voices on social media, the truth is often far more complex and nuanced. Let's lean into collaboration and compassion.

Partnering with organizations such as [Family Voices of Colorado](#), local [Arc](#) chapters, and [Parent to Parent of Colorado](#) can help us navigate confusion, share reliable information, and provide support where it's most needed.

2) Stories Have Power

Stories — paired with photos and testimonials — bring the human experience to life. They help policymakers, advocates, and community members understand the real-world impact of their decisions.

By openly sharing the daily challenges, joys, and heartbreaks that come with disability and caregiving, we help bridge the gap between legislation and lived experience. Your voices, your stories, and your images make the difference.

3) All Politics Are Local

Policy begins close to home. Take time to connect with your [state](#) and [federal](#) representatives — they need to hear from the families and individuals directly affected by these changes. A key factor influencing today's fiscal environment is [TABOR](#) (Taxpayer Bill of Rights), a part of the Colorado Constitution that prevents the state from retaining budget surpluses. As a result, surplus funds must be returned to taxpayers, which greatly influences the resources available for essential human services. Medicaid—along with K–12 education—represents one of the two largest budget categories in the state, making community advocacy more important than ever.

Moving Forward

Though we face uncertainty, we face it together. PASCO's strength continues to come from our community — from families, caregivers, and individuals who show up for one another with courage and heart.

Let's stay informed, stay connected, and most importantly, stay united as we navigate the road ahead.



PASCO Staff at Disability Right Advocacy Day (DRAD) at Capital February 2026

Home Builders Foundation

Apply for Assistance

The Home Builders Foundation builds independence for individuals and families most in need by completing home modifications to enable greater access, safety and mobility. Each project must meet our requisite criteria, and all projects are considered based on funds and resources available when applications are received.

Apply Online Here: hbfdenver.org/apply-for-assistance/

Contact our office for more information: 303-551-6721 Admin@hbfdenver.org

PASCO CORE VALUES

- ACCOUNTABILITY**
- TEAMWORK**
- ADVOCACY**
- LEARNING**
- ETHICS**



Dear PASCO Family,

As we move through this busy season, I want to take a moment to share some important updates from the state level and reflect on the incredible work happening within our community. It has been a privilege to spend time meeting with many of your families recently; these interactions—along with the heartening feedback from our clients and caregivers—remind me daily of why we do what we do. Our team remains deeply committed to the **Family Caregiver Model**, ensuring that choice and independence stay at the forefront of home health care across Colorado.

Advocacy is more critical now than ever. We are currently navigating a challenging fiscal landscape as the [Colorado Senate](#) reviews the 2025–26 state budget. Medicaid costs are driving significant budgetary pressures, leading to a projected **\$1.3 billion decrease** in available General Fund revenue compared to the previous year. In response to these shortfalls, the state has implemented several **austerity measures**, including a **1.6% reduction in overall rates** for Medicaid providers. We are carefully monitoring this legislation and staying active in the community to ensure that the voices of those we serve are heard by lawmakers. Our goal is to protect the essential services that our families rely on while adapting to these state-level financial constraints.

On a much brighter note, it is time to look forward to some well-deserved fun! I am thrilled to announce that our **Summer Celebration** is officially on the books for **Friday, June 26th at Clement Park**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our clients, caregivers, and staff to come together, relax, and celebrate the strength of our PASCO family.

Thank you for your continued dedication and for being the heart of this organization.

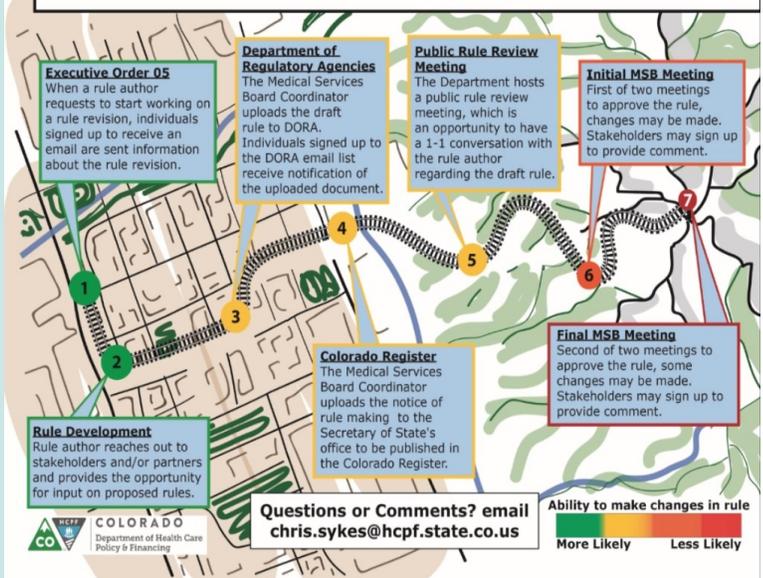
Warmly,

Jeff Daignault
CEO, PASCO



Jeff Daignault
PASCO CEO

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR RULEMAKING



Join Guided By Humanity for Strut & Roll, an inclusive runway experience celebrating confidence, creativity, and joy!

STRUT & ROLL:

Fashion Meets Accessibility

The afternoon includes a *panel discussion* with seasoned adaptive models, a *self-confidence workshop*, *insider runway tips and tricks*, and a *live rehearsal* experience with photographers to help you own your strut & roll!

Date: 3-29-26

Time: 2:00pm-5:00pm

Location: Global Down Syndrome Foundation, 3239 E 2nd Ave, Denver, CO 80206
Registration Required



Be Here. BE YOU. Be in Community.



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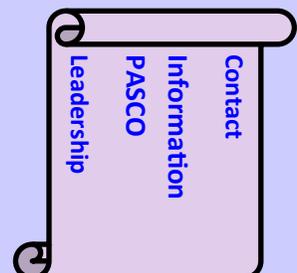
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GLOBAL
DOWN SYNDROME FOUNDATION™

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY DANCE PARTY



Join GLOBAL to celebrate this EPIC Dance Party in recognition of three copies of the 21st chromosome (3-21)! Celebrate with food, drinks and dancing!

REGISTER



Friday, March 20, 2026



Cherry Creek Shopping Center



6:00 to 9:00PM

For more information

Visit: globaldownsyndrome.org | Call: 720-548-5630

Email: events@globaldownsyndrome.org



CONNECT WITH OTHER
DADS IN A CASUAL SETTING

THE DAD CONNECTION

Offering Connection and Support to
Dads Raising Kids with Disabilities &
Special Needs

We meet for dinner
the second Friday of
every month at
5:30pm. Rotating
locations in Boulder
County.

We envision a community in which fathers and father-figures have ongoing access to the resources necessary to provide them with the education, care, and emotional support they need to navigate parenting a child with developmental delays, special needs, and disabilities.

To join us, email
markreinfeld@yahoo.com

RIDE LOCAL WITH COOP RIDESHARE

ABOUT US

- ✓ ON-DEMAND & PRE-SCHEDULED RIDES
- ✓ DIA RIDES
- ✓ DRIVER-OWNED
- ✓ LOCAL



SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD



**\$5 OFF
FIRST RIDE**
CODE: FIRSTRIDE



**\$7 OFF
DIA RIDES**
CODE: DIARIDE



LEARN MORE: www.coloradodriversonline.com | info@coloradodriversonline.com

Inclusive Higher Education at MSU Denver

MSU Denver provides inclusive higher education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities through academic access, campus participation, and career development.

Attend the
Spring 2026 Inclusive Higher Education
Information Session: Learn more about MSU
Denver's inclusive programming.
Thursday, February 26, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/46cu3yun>
ihes@msudenver.edu



Inclusive Higher Education Solutions
School of Education

Policy Pulse: Developmental Pathways (DP) & Community Resources in a Time of Change

In the previous Policy Pulse posts, we've shared updates about [Colorado's budget process](#), the [federal government](#), and [proposed changes to Medicaid](#). These policy conversations can feel confusing at times, and for individuals with disabilities and their families, they raise very real questions about services, stability, and what comes next.

At Developmental Pathways (DP), our priority remains the same: supporting individuals with disabilities and helping individuals, families, and providers feel informed, prepared, and connected as best we can. DP is not the decision-maker when it comes to state or federal policy. Funding levels, program requirements, and budget priorities are set at the state and federal levels, including by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF), which oversees Colorado's Medicaid program. DP's role is to carry out these required changes and support individuals and families affected by them. DP also works with advocacy groups, community partners, policy and decision makers, families, and individuals to share how policy decisions impact real people and essential services.

Many People Are Feeling the Strain

Across our community, people are asking important and understandable questions:

- What happens if the state budget gets tighter?
- Could Medicaid services change?

Where can our family go if we need additional support? We recognize that the rising cost of living and pressure on public programs are creating stress for many households. While most outcomes remain unknown, DP is committed to clear communication, steady support, and sharing resources to help families navigate these challenges.

Resources You Can Use Right Now

DP Resource Library

Our [Resource Library](#) is a collection of tools and information in one place, such as:

- Disability-related services and supports
- Food and housing resources
- Mental health and behavioral health supports
- Community events and trainings
- Caregiver tools and education
- Advocacy updates and policy information

If you're not sure where to start, the Resource Library is a great first step.

DP Local Programming

DP's [Local Programming](#) helps fill gaps beyond traditional waiver services. Using mill levy funds, donations, and grants, Local Programming provides direct, flexible support to individuals, families, and providers. Local Programming may assist with needs related to:

- Medical and dental expenses
- Accessibility supports
- Health, safety, and supervision
- Caregiver support

Short-term assistance during difficult or transitional periods

To learn more about eligibility or how to request support, connect with your Case Manager or visit the [Local Programming](#) .

Community Supports

Families may also find help resources through:

- County human services departments:

[Arapahoe County Human Services Department](#)
[Douglas County Human Services Department](#)
[Elbert County Human Services Department](#)

[Colorado PEAK](#)

- Behavioral health centers

Local food banks and nonprofit organizations

Many of these supports can be found in [DP's Resource Library](#).

Staying Ready For What Comes Next

DP continues to closely monitor policy developments at the county, state, and federal levels. Our goal is to implement any required changes thoughtfully and with as little disruption as possible for individuals and families.

We will continue to share timely updates through the Policy Pulse blog series, email communications, social media, and virtual town halls.

Save the Date
Long Term Services and Supports
Virtual Town Hall

- April 7, 2026
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

More details and registration information will be shared soon.

Catch Up on Recent Policy Pulse Blogs

If you missed earlier posts in the series, you can read them here:

[Inside Colorado's Budget Process for 2026](#) (includes list of advocacy agencies)
[Federal Government Shutdown](#)

[Medicaid Basics & What HR1 Means for Colorado](#)

Together, these posts provide context for the policy landscape and how it connects to services and supports.

We Are Stronger Together

This is a challenging time for many people, but our community is resilient and deeply supportive. DP is here to help, answer questions, connect people with resources, and navigate uncertainty together.

If you need help finding supports, resources, or understanding available options, please reach out via our [contact page](#).

By Matt VanAuken, DP Chief Executive Officer & Executive



Findings

- Video footage of trees swaying can be used to evaluate forest health, and tree plantations are more prone than natural forests to wildfires.
- A Parthian man buried in the Liyarsangbon cemetery with a poorly constructed jar containing bird parts and soot was found to have a three-bladed arrowhead lodged in his right tibia.

Please join us at one of our annual Community Benefit and HTP public meetings where we will share the hospital's current work and create space for community conversation. We are hosting one in-person meeting and one virtual meeting for the Denver metro and Colorado Springs areas. These meetings will highlight Children's Colorado's work to improve the social drivers of health and some of our shared work with partner organizations. Meetings will reflect work and partnerships in each region. Language translation and interpretation options will be available, and food will be provided at the evening, in-person meetings.

As a non-profit pediatric hospital, our bottom line is kids. We put funds back into services and supports that improve the health and well-being of children in our communities. In 2024, Children's Colorado reported more than \$440 million in community benefit activities — activities that went beyond caring for patients and made an impact on our larger community. Some examples include community-based dental screening, running a community garden, school-based mental health services and car seat education for parents.

Every three years, the Hospital Community Benefit Accountability initiative requires non-profit tax-exempt hospitals in Colorado to complete a community health needs assessment and a community health implementation strategy to make sure that hospitals understand and respond to the health and social needs of the communities they serve. The Hospital Transformation Program (HTP) is a statewide Colorado Medicaid project to improve patient outcomes, lower the cost of care, and get hospitals ready for a new payment system. Community engagement is important for both initiatives. Specific locations for in-person events and links for virtual events will be provided to you when you register. We hope you will join us!

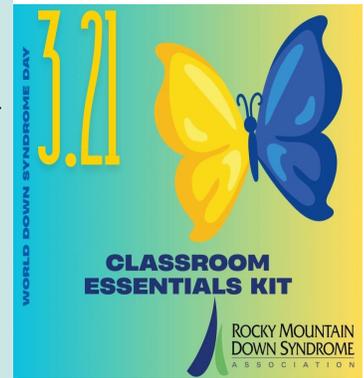
Register here: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx...>

Denver Metro: Virtual
Wednesday, March 4
12 – 1:30 p.m.
Virtual login link provided upon registration

Denver Metro: In person
Thursday, March 5
5:30 – 7 p.m.
In Aurora, specific location provided upon registration

Colorado Springs: Virtual
Wednesday, March 18
2:30 – 4 p.m.
Virtual login link provided upon registration

Colorado Springs: In person
Tuesday, March 31
5:30 – 7 p.m.
In Colorado Springs, specific location provided upon registration



Celebrate World Down Syndrome Day with RMDSA!

In honor of World Down Syndrome Day, Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association (RMDSA) is excited to offer FREE classroom celebration kits for students with Down syndrome to take back to their classrooms and celebrate alongside their classmates.

These kits are designed to help schools celebrate World Down Syndrome Day by sparking age-appropriate conversations, building understanding, and creating meaningful moments of belonging for the entire class

Saturday, February 28
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- Pick up a kit at either location:
- Lone Tree Recreation Center (Lone Tree)
 - Trail Winds Recreation Center (Thornton)

Kits available for:

- ✓ Early Elementary
- ✓ Late Elementary
- ✓ Middle School
- ✓ High School

Please sign up to reserve your kit!
<https://form.jotform.com/260365721254050>

Debunking Myths & Misinformation in Disability Planning



Disability Benefits + Financial Planning + Legal Planning
All require understanding & navigating complicated laws, rules, & regs. Unfamiliarity and complexity can create misunderstanding & lead to the spread of misinformation.

This presentation debunks the top 20 myths.

Presenters:

- Steve Owens, AJ Van Dyke, Dan Lueberrig**, The Legacy Planning Group: Colorado attorneys with over 70 years combined experience providing legal advice & services for families with a family member with disabilities.
- Byron Kish, Esq.**: Senior Director of Disability Benefits Services (DBS) at Easterseals Colorado, over 15 years as a Disability Attorney Advocate.
- Tracy Murphy**: principal, T3 Disability Planning, providing disability benefit & future planning coaching/navigation/clarity for families.

Time of Presentations: start 6:15pm, end 7:30pm with Q&A until 7:45pm.

RSVP required, space is limited: [RSVP: t3disabilityplanning.com/rsvp](https://t3disabilityplanning.com/rsvp)

Dates & Locations:

Wed., March 4 - Eloise May Library
1471 S Parker Rd, Denver, CO 80231

Mon., March 16 - Smoky Hill Library
5430 S Biscay Cir, Centennial, CO 80015

Thurs., March 12 - Southglenn Library
6972 S Vine St, Centennial, CO 80122

Wed., March 18 - Koebel Library
5955 S Holly St, Centennial, CO 80121

Findings

- Macaques were found to be able to keep time with both the Backstreet Boys' "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" and Barry White's "You're the First, the Last, My Everything."
- Scientists suggested that Australia's Cenozoic Era mekosuchine crocodiles were semiarboreal "drop crocs" who ambushed prey by falling out of trees.
- The ancestors of leeches were unlikely to have sucked blood.

DRINK LOCAL. DO GOOD.



= \$1 donated

MARCH 5, 2026, 4:00-7:00PM

@ LIVING THE DREAM BREWERY
(HIGHLANDS RANCH)



Come raise a glass with us at our FUNdraining Happy Hour benefiting Benefits in Action—your trusted community partner helping Colorado residents navigate essential food and health-related benefits.

- Thursday, March 5
- 4:00–7:00 PM
- Living The Dream Brewing (Highlands Ranch)

RSVP: <https://lnkd.in/g45tZs2J>

Every drink you purchase = \$1 donated directly to support Benefits in Action’s work ensuring neighbors access the resources they need to thrive.

- Good drinks. Great people. Real community impact. Bring friends, colleagues, and anyone who loves enjoying a pint for a purpose!

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) is hosting a free informational webinar on February 24 (9:00 – 11:00 AM) to discuss the implementation of H.R. 1.

If you or a loved one relies on Medicaid services, this session will cover critical updates that may affect you, including:

- Updated implementation timelines
- New community engagement & work requirements
- Policy changes for semi-annual renewals
- Strategies to prevent coverage loss

Staying informed is the best way to ensure there are no gaps in the care you receive. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4k2XiHA>

H.R. 1 Medicaid Coverage, Eligibility & Implementation

February 24, 2026
9:00 AM

REGISTER TODAY



CLIMBING TEAMS FOR ALL ABILITIES

MISSION

To promote physical, mental, and social skills through the sport of rock climbing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

VISION

To create a supportive community for people with disabilities to lead healthy and successful lives.

CORE VALUES

- ♥ Equity, Inclusion & Acceptance
- ♥ Community & Teamwork
- ♥ Education & Innovation

JOIN OUR TEAMS
WEEKLY PRACTICES
ALL YEAR LONG!



United
ROCKS
214-769-5916
info@unitedrocks.org
www.UnitedRocks.org



BENEFITS OF ROCK CLIMBING

Rock climbing is a low-impact exercise, which means it is easy on the body, particularly the joints, while still being a great full-body workout.

BUILDS PHYSICAL STRENGTH

Rock climbing is a suitable sport for beginning and advanced climbers alike. It engages and strengthens various muscle groups and improves grip, flexibility, and endurance. It also promotes balance and enhances mobility, contributing to overall physical well-being.

SHARPENS MENTAL SKILLS

Rock climbing, cultivates essential skills like hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness, improves problem-solving skills and concentration, and even bolsters ambition and self-motivation.

PROMOTES SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

The climbing community is welcoming and supportive, embracing newcomers and fostering a sense of community. Participating in this sport not only builds confidence, trust, and happiness but also nurtures valuable communication skills. Rock climbing raises self-esteem and offers an excellent platform for social interaction and connection.

OUR GROWTH SO FAR...



JOIN THE JOURNEY!

United Rocks have created climbing teams for individuals with different abilities. Since our grand opening in 2021, we have established teams in Texas, California, Colorado, Maryland, Virginia and Tennessee. Email us to start a team in your neighborhood!

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

The climbing journey presents unique challenges for individuals with disabilities, such as wearing gear, getting on a wall for the first time, and becoming part of a team. Each milestone represents a victory to be celebrated. At United Rocks, we make it a habit to recognize and praise our climbers as they continuously reach new heights, both literally and figuratively.

BUILDING INVALUABLE SKILLS

Through climbing, participants will cultivate invaluable skills like balance, focus, and communication, fostering their physical, mental, and social growth. Whether you have a child or an adult with an intellectual or developmental disability, or if you simply want to support our mission and community, we invite you to join us on this incredible journey.



FUTURE GROWTH...



STAY CONNECTED

www.UnitedRocks.org
info@unitedrocks.org | 214-769-5916
EIN# 92-1084014

DONATE VOLUNTEER



WINTER OPEN HOUSE

Join us at NeuAbility for s'mores and hot cocoa, a chance to experience the Tek RMD by Matia Mobility, and community vendors.

- GUIDED TOURS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 2PM - 6PM
- TEK RMD DEMOS Neuability, 866 e 78th Ave, Denver, CO 80229
- S'MORES & HOT CHOCOLATE
- COMMUNITY VENDORS





Parent-led AAC Meetups:

For families of individuals who are non-verbal or use augmentative and alternative communication. The space is wheelchair accessible so devices with switches and eye gaze are welcome!





Scan to register for more details!

Last Sunday of the month!
12:00-2:00pm
 February 22nd
 March 29th
 April 26th

Free event!



Generously Sponsored by:



The Sensory Club
 4301 South Federal Blvd
 Englewood, CO 80110



Find Love Safely

Matchmaking + Relationship Support for Adults with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities



Find Love Safely is specifically designed for individuals who:

- Are 18+
- Have an intellectual and/or developmental disability

findlovesafely.com

LEARN MORE





Parent Connect

at Manna Resource Center



What our families have shared:

- "I was alone and lost before. Now I am not alone."
- "Even though it was online, I felt very safe and appreciated the trauma-informed facilitation"
- "I could easily apply the principles each week"
- "I always found something to relate to and reflect on."
- "It gave me an opportunity to remember what it was like to be a teen and allowed me to have more empathy for myself and my child."



Sign Up Today

Efficacy Data 2024:

- 97% of parents felt better equipped to understand their child.
- 95% of parents felt better equipped to understand themselves as a parent.
- 86% of parents saw positive changes in their relationship with their teens as a result of applying what they learned.

What is Connect?

A free 9-week, 90 minute class offered online to caregivers of any capacity. This attachment-based, trauma-informed parenting group is designed for caregivers of pre-teens and teens.

Each session, parents and caregivers learn about parent-teen relationships and adolescent development. They reflect on role-plays and do exercises and discuss new ways of responding to challenging behaviors and intense emotions.

The course is proud to provide facilitators with 30 years of combined experience in the mental health field, digital handouts, weekly email support and discounts on additional consulting services.

Details
 Wednesdays
 March 4 - April 29, 2026
 6:15pm-7:45pm
 Online

Contact us

720-515-8814
 info@mannaresourcecenter.org
 mannaresourcecenter.org



COME DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AT

THE WAYFARING BAND'S ANNUAL
ROCKABILLY ROADHOUSE
APRIL 25 2026 5:30 - 9:00pm

FORNEY MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION
4303 Brighton Blvd, Denver, CO 80216

◆ TICKETS ARE \$50 ◆
special pricing available for band members + kids





SCAN TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET



BRING YOUR I.D. FOR BEER, LIVE TATTOOING, & MORE!

FAMILY FRIENDLY! ALL AGES WELCOME!

ASL INTERPRETED

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network is recruiting for the **Brain Injury Trust Fund Board!**



Brain Injury Trust Fund Board members

- Are appointed by the Governor;
- Guide funding priorities for research, client services, and educational opportunities;
- Assist the board in examining gaps in services.
- Identify needs of the brain injury community; and
- Serve on a subcommittee to further the work of the Board.

You may be a good fit if you...

- Are a professional in the field of brain injury
- Live in a rural or frontier community, or the Northern, Western, or Southwest region of the state

Apply for the MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Trust Fund Board by March 31st!

CDHS encourages people of diverse backgrounds and experience to apply.

Need help filling out your application? [Email us!](#)



Creativity in CHAOS
A Creative Expression Caregiving Support Group

Feeling the chaos of caregiving a child with disabilities?

March 19th 2026 12pm September 17th 2026 12pm

June 18th 2026 12pm December 10th 2026 12pm

To Register

In Partnership




IN LIFE'S MOST BUSY TIMES, WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU. COME JOIN US AS WE TAKE TIME FOR US AND CREATE TOGETHER

VIRTUAL



SCAN HERE

NICU Parent Group

1st and 3rd Saturday of every month @10am



Join virtually, free to attend

Led with compassion by former NICU Parents

We're excited to share that [Love for Lily](#) is introducing another virtual group, meeting the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. The hope is that adding a week-end time will make group more accessible to those who are balancing work and the NICU during the times of our weekday groups.

Our NICU Parent Group is open to all NICU parents, guardians, foster parents, etc. currently navigating the NICU. It's a space for conversation, compassion, and community. The group is at no-cost to participants and is led with compassion by former NICU parents.

Learn more: <https://lnkd.in/gKF74WMk>



Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee (CSEAC) 2026-2027 Application

DO YOU IDENTIFY AS SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY? AND LIVE IN THESE COUNTIES: ADAMS, ARAPAHOE, CLEAR CREEK, DENVER, DOUGLAS, ELBERT OR JEFFERSON?

Join us at our Consumer Feedback Session. We want to learn from you! Help us identify new services or supports that would make a difference in our community and share what's working well. Join us in person or RSVP to join virtually!

Wednesday 3/4/26 from 6:00-7:00pm
201 S. Cherokee St. Unit 100
Denver, CO 80223

ASL Interpreters Available
Additional accommodations are available, email/call to request

All attendees will have a chance to win a gift card in our raffle!

RSVP NOW

Cecilia Aguirre, Chief of Staff
303-733-9324 extension 1090
cecilia@atlantiscommunity.org




A.V. Hunter Trust

Dental	Durable Medical Equipment
Limited to Fillings, Extractions, Partial Dentures, and Full Dentures.	Hearing Aids, Prostheses, Walkers, Standing Frames, Oxygen Concentrators, Vehicle or Home Modifications, and many more items.



Please review these steps to determine eligibility to apply.

- Explore Funding Opportunities
- Review Referring Professional Requirements
- Review Client Requirements
- Submit an Application

Children's Hospital Colorado
Rehabilitation and Therapy Services



Journey to
Adolescence:
"Supporting Deaf
Identity Development
in Teenagers"

We are excited to welcome Dr. Michael Hoffman, a Pediatric Psychologist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, for this presentation. Dr. Hoffman has a hearing difference and uses a cochlear implant and a hearing aid.

Dr. Hoffman will present specific strategies for discussing deaf/hard-of-hearing identity with teens, its intersection with other multicultural identities, and how to support autonomy, a desire for social belonging, and a positive sense of identity. A panel discussion will follow the presentation.

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
6:00-7:30pm MST

This presentation will be hosted through Zoom.
Registration is required by March 23, 2026.
Confirmation, details, and Zoom link will be provided one week prior to the presentation.
Seeking continuing education credit through ASHA.
ASL interpretation and Closed Captioning will be provided.
Spanish interpretation must be requested by March 11, 2026.
Questions? Contact: lynne.canales@childrenscolorado.org
Scan below or follow the link to register:
<https://redcap.ucdenver.edu/surveys/?s=A9MANDM78E77EXRL>



Parents Supporting
Parents through First
Call Training



No family should have to navigate a diagnosis or a NICU stay on their own. Have you and your partner experienced a prenatal diagnosis, a NICU stay, heart surgery, or other medical difficulties with your child? Consider signing up for training to begin offering your support!

Date: March 3, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Location RMDSA Office

Snacks and beverages provided
RSVP required:
familyprograms@rmdsa.org

Ways You'll Support Families

- Connecting with parents in person or by phone
- Supporting families during NICU stays
- Delivering New Parent Packets and meal vouchers to hospitals



Show + Tell



FREE Special Education and
Disability Workshops

FEB 12 6:00 PM	Components of an IEP Coco Kincaid
MAR 12 6:00 PM	LRE & Out of District Placement Stephanie Watson Lewis
APR 16 6:00 PM	Traveling with Kids with Disabilities Coco Kincaid & Stephanie Watson Lewis
MAY 14 6:00PM	504 Plans & OCR Stephanie Watson Lewis
JUN 11 & DEC 10 6:00 PM	Self Care Roundtable Coco Kincaid & Stephanie Watson Lewis
JUL 16 6:00PM	Sexuality & Disability Coco Kincaid
AUG 13 6:00 PM	Friendship Coco Kincaid
SEP 10 6:00PM	IEP Prep Roundtable w/ Student Perspective Coco, Stephanie, & Jah-Sun
OCT 15 6:00 PM	Navigating Adulthood Jah-Sun Collier (self advocate)
NOV 12 6:00 PM	Disability & Behavior Stephanie Watson Lewis

www.weshowandtell.org (303) 632-6840 coco@weshowandtell.org

RESEARCH STUDY

EXAMINING THE NEURODIVERSITY
AFFIRMING NATURE OF THE FACING YOUR
FEARS PROGRAM

What is this study:

- Goal: gather caregiver and autistic perspectives to enhance the neurodiversity affirming nature of the *Facing Your Fears* (FYF) program.
- Participants will complete surveys and participate in one focus group centered on gathering perspectives on neurodiversity affirming care and attitudes toward FYF.

Who can participate?

- Autistic adolescents and young adults (aged 12-19). We are looking for autistic individuals who have participated in the FYF curriculum AND autistic individuals who have no FYF experience.
- Caregivers of a child or young adult with autism. We are looking for caregivers who have participated in the FYF curriculum AND caregivers who have no FYF experience.

Participants will be compensated \$40 for participation

CONTACT US:

PI: Kaylin Russell, PhD
Kaylin.russell@cuanschutz.edu
(720) 443-2945
COMIRB# 25-2265

Version date: 11/10/2025





CLINICAL EDUCATION TRAINING

This month's topic: Emergency Services & I/DD

Wednesday, February 25
10:30 a.m.– Noon
RMHS Office



If you work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in emergency or crisis situations, join RMHS for the Denver START team's February Clinical Education Training.

This session will explore how individuals with I/DD may experience emergencies differently and how miscommunication can escalate the situation.

A common misconception in crisis situations is that behavior that appears "noncompliant" is willful defiance. In high-stress situations, this behavior is often driven by fear or sensory overload, and simple communication adjustments can significantly reduce the need for restraint or hospitalization.

Participants will learn practical strategies to strengthen emergency response, reduce trauma, and promote diversion when appropriate.

This training is designed for first responders, emergency department staff, crisis clinicians, START team members, residential providers, and Home Host Providers.

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/mc5vijeJ6e>

Mobile Food Market Mercado Móvil de Alimentos

- Tuesday, Feb. 24** (martes, 24 de febrero)
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 72nd RTD Light Rail Station, 3838 E. 72nd Ave.



c3gov.com/CWB

DP is proud to offer two locally funded programs to support individuals with I/DD and families with accessing a variety of supports across the community. Local funding is comprised of Mill Levy funding from Arapahoe County, Douglas County as well as endowment funds, grants, donations, and other sources.



Unmet/Under-met Needs



Scholarships

Unmet / Under-met Needs

Individuals with developmental disabilities or delays often have increased living costs due to expenses to support their day-to-day needs. From extra medical interventions to therapies to home and vehicle adaptations to assistive technology supports—these additional costs can burden individuals and families. Unmet Needs funding is a way to access local funds from Developmental Pathways.

Other important notes: Unmet Needs funding is never guaranteed; prior approval is preferred; Unmet Needs is considered the payer of last resort—please exhaust all other funding options.

- Getting help connecting to the I/DD system (testing, pre-enrollment supports, etc.)
- Supporting greater independence and/or integration in the home or the community
- Health, safety, and medical needs not otherwise met
- Helping to avoid out-of-home and/or institutional placements
- Professional services to address health, safety, medical, or behavior needs not otherwise met
- Supervision and respite to ensure health, safety, and placement stability

Stability payments to help with the home environment, such as limited funds to assist with rent/mortgage, utilities, and internet (availability of this funding can be limited at times; to be reviewed before requesting)

[More information on supports and guidelines \(Spanish\)](#)



Findings

- Of the thirty-six snakes tested for striking speed at Venom-World in Paris, only the blunt-nosed viper lost a fang.
- The earliest domesticated chickens in the Japanese archipelago were dated to the Yayoi-period Karako-Kagi site, and the Japanese scientists named three species of bioluminescent worms after a deceitful demon-fire *yokai*, a horned, sharp-toothed lantern *yokai*, and a former aquarium director.

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MAY 31



HOW DOES PIZZAPASS WORK?

1

Sign up &
join



2

Get your
pizza every
week



3

Repeat for
26 weeks

Community
Listening
Session



Colorado Developmental
Disabilities Council



Thursday, March 5, 2026

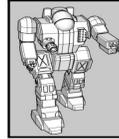


09:00-10:00 AM



Virtual on Zoom. Registration is
required

<https://tinyurl.com/mrx9rsye>



Free
3D
Design
Classes



Make 3D models and drawings for
3D printing, architecture, landscape
design, video game design, and more.



ProjectSpectrum@Trimble.com

SketchUp Project Spectrum

2026 Schedule

In Person events:

March 16-20
March 23-27
June 22-26
July 20-24

Online events:

April 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

In person events are usually held at the SketchUp office in Westminster, Colorado.

Emails to sign up for the various classes will go out closer to the class dates so keep
an eye on your inbox for those emails throughout the year!

If you are not already on our mailing list or want more information, email us at
ProjectSpectrum@Trimble.com I am always happy to talk about Project Spectrum!

Check us out on the Trimble website at:
<https://tinyurl.com/ykue44xu>



Recognizing and Supporting Autistic
Students in School-Based Health Centers

Webinar

Monday, March 9, 2026
12:00 - 1:15pm MT

University of Colorado School of Medicine
Featured Speakers:

Ainsley Losh, PhD
Assistant Professor
Developmental Pediatrics

Kaylin Russell, PhD
Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow
JFK Partners



JFK Partners
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANONITE MEDICAL CAMPUS

www.JFKPartners.org

The Denver START Program



Crisis mental health care for Denver children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Children and adults with I/DD are often misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed when it comes to mental health and behavioral challenges, leading to serious consequences. But with the right crisis care, people can avoid frequent hospitalizations and live more fulfilling lives.

As Colorado's only nationally certified START program, The Denver START Program at Rocky Mountain Human Services delivers timely, accessible crisis mental health support not only to the individual, but also to their broader support system.

Denver START Provides:

- Access to START-certified team members with expertise in the mental health aspects of I/DD
- Person- and family-centered approach
- Coordinated care and assistance for the person supported, their families, and their service providers
- 24/7 in-person crisis support for people enrolled

Program Requirements:

- Must be 6 or older
 - Must have mental health needs or behavioral health challenges
 - Must have I/DD diagnosis
 - Must reside within Denver city limits or be a youth in the custody of Denver Department of Human Services
- For questions about program eligibility, email start@rmhumanservices.org

Getting Started and Referrals:

To learn more and refer others to the Denver START Program:

- Visit www.rmhumanservices.org/start
- Call 303-636-5600 and select option #8.



9900 E. Iliff Ave | Denver, CO 80231 | 303.636.5600 | rmhumanservices.org



Zoom Webinar

Reducing the Summer Slide

In a panel featuring IHE families, hear tangible skills that have worked for college students & parents to practice during the summer



Wednesday, April 8, 2026



5:00-6:00 p.m.



Free!



Registration required! Sign up at inclusivehighered.org/news-events

Findings

- Japanese researchers recommend gratitude journaling as a way to increase employee engagement and positive work culture.
- A sulfur cave on the Greek-Albanian border was found to contain, in what may be the largest known spiderweb, a colony of 111,000 spiders.

Think **First** to Prevent Falls

FREE Fall Prevention

Did you know that approximately 600 people were admitted to AdventHealth Parker in 2025 for injuries related to falling? Please join us for a 2-hour presentation on fall prevention.



What You Will Learn:

- fall statistics
- developing a plan to get help
- how to get up if you do fall
- the significance of exercise
- how poor vision and medications can lead to falls
- EMS provider will discuss importance of home and community safety for fall prevention.

Who:

Adults of all ages who have sustained a fall in the past, who have a concern of falling, and adults who want to prevent falls in the future.

When:

9:00am- 11:00am (Choose 1 day)
April 17, June 19, Aug 21, Oct 16, 2026

Where:

AdventHealth Parker Hospital
9395 Crown Crest Blvd. Parker, CO 80138
Ground Level Conference Center Inspiration B

Register:

Space is limited. Register today!
Mindie.Ottke@AdventHealth.com
303-269-4638 or use QR code



Build an active, healthy lifestyle through adaptive cycling!

Our adaptive bike program supports people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) to:

- Break barriers to exploring the outdoors
- Increase mobility.
- Enjoy the benefits of improved health, both physical and mental.
- Build social connections.
- Work on bike and safety skills.
- Have fun in your community!

Douglas*, Arapahoe, and Elbert County residents in the IDD community are encouraged to participate!



Anonymous Participant Testimonials

"So much to be gained physically with biking, but it is also so good for one's mental health and self esteem."

"Everyone was so patient and kind. Our daughter was able to progress at her pace and have a terrific experience."

May through October 2
at Parker Fieldhouse
18700 Plaza Dr, Parker, CO

Adaptive bikes and safety gear provided.
Medicaid waivers and private pay accepted.
Must be 18 years or older to participate.



Interested?

Please scan the QR code and complete a short interest form or contact Alexa Feenstra at afeenstra@jewishfamilyservice.org.

*Scholarships are available to cover the cost of participation for adults with IDD who live or receive services in Douglas County. We also offer small-group sessions for organizations that serve individuals with IDD in Douglas County.





New Colorado Disability Assistance Credit

You May Be Eligible for the New Colorado Disability Assistance Credit (DAC) Tax Program

This **refundable income tax credit** is a Heat and Rent (PTC) rebate for individuals who qualify solely due to a disability and for those age 65 or older and surviving spouses age 58 or older. The credit amount is determined based on adjusted gross income (AGI) and **ranges from \$400 to \$1,200**. Eligible customers will need to file a Colorado Tax Return. To be eligible, individuals with disabilities must:

1. Be a Colorado resident throughout 2025
2. Have been unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity due to medical reasons for the entire year of 2025
3. Have qualified for full benefits from January 1 to December 31, 2025, through a legitimate public or private source, based solely on disability
4. Have a federal adjusted gross income of \$20,000 or less for single filers or \$32,000 or less for joint filers

**Learn More About
The Tax Credit**



Looking for a new kind of physical therapy?

Outdoor Pediatric Physical Therapy

Camp PT is a unique pediatric physical therapy program designed to help kids gain strength, confidence and independence outside. We provide **highly-skilled, one-on-one physical therapy** services in a dynamic outdoor environment, turning therapy into an outdoor adventure.

What We Offer:

- **Individualized PT sessions** by a licensed pediatric physical therapist
- **Outdoor activity-based therapy** that makes movement motivating
- **Twice-weekly sessions** for one month (8 sessions total)
- **Location- and activity-specific**, with goals tailored for your child



Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities promote increased motivation, participation and excitement toward PT.

- Activities include:
- Playgrounds
 - Playing in snow
 - Hiking
 - River walking
 - SUP/Kayaking



Participants

Camps are intended for kids aged 0-18 with:

- physical impairments
- developmental disabilities
- neurologic conditions
- chronic or progressive diagnoses

Those looking to improve their strength, independence and confidence outside.

Accepting private pay and Medicaid

Visit www.camppt.org to enroll in a camp.

www.camppt.org | alyssa@camppt.org | 303-819-4765



Camp PT

Celebration of Black Mental Health and Wellness

- Engaging with black mental health providers
- Exploring various wellness modalities
- Arts and crafts activities
- Delicious refreshments
- Wellness giveaways
- Activities for the whole family

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 28
10AM-2PM**

**PARIS ELEMENTARY
1635 PARIS ST.
AURORA, CO 80010**

Do you, or someone you know, have trouble performing a basic task or routine due to a physical limitation?

Is there an activity that you, or someone you know, would like to do but can't due to a disability? If so...



May We Help creates assistive devices for those with disabilities.

Skilled volunteers design, develop, and fabricate uniquely tailored devices that allow individuals to pursue their passions- and realize their dreams.

At no cost to the recipient.

If you, or someone you know, needs help... request a solution.

Go to <https://maywehelp.org/request-a-solution/>

MAY WE HELP
colorado volunteer
ph: 303-960-0590

7501 Wooster Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45227
513-834-6443
www.maywehelp.org

YOUR EMPLOYMENT GOALS. MET.

MOUNTAIN EMPLOYMENT TRAINING LLC

WHO WE SERVE

We support youth and adults with a wide range of employment barriers, including disabilities, justice involvement, homelessness or housing instability, behavioral health challenges, substance use recovery, and limited or disrupted work history.

"The training and support have helped me feel more prepared for employment."

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

Our team specializes in supporting individuals with complex employment barriers. We use a trauma-informed, person-centered approach, and all staff are certified Mental Health First Aiders. We focus on teaching skills that build long-term independence.

WHAT WE DO

We provide individualized employment support for youth and adults experiencing barriers to work.



Job Readiness & Pre-Employment Training

Builds foundational workplace skills, confidence, and habits needed for successful employment.



Job Development and Placement

Connects participants with competitive employment opportunities through individualized job search support, employer outreach, and guided placement.



On the Job Coaching

Provides personalized support at the workplace to reinforce skills, build independence, and ensure long-term job success.



Workplace Independence Skills

Supports essential skills that surround employment success, such as transportation navigation, financial literacy, disclosure, and time management.



720-924-1953
info@metofcolorado.com
115 N Parkside Dr
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
www.metofcolorado.com

Free Events

For families who have a child, aged 0 to 18, with a life-threatening medical condition.



Casa Bonita

Thursday, March 5
Denver



Birthday Toy Market

Saturday, March 14
Denver



Paralympic Watch Party

Saturday, March 14
Golden



Little Man Ice Cream

Sunday, March 15
Englewood



Main Event

Wednesday, March 18
Thornton



Chick-fil-A Dinner

Thursday, March 26
Castle Rock



To attend HopeKids events, apply at
WWW.HOPEKIDS.ORG

For more information, contact brittany@hopekids.org or 303.596.2329



Show + Tell

Support Group for Parents of Black Children with Disabilities

We value your role in your child's education and understand the importance of connecting with others who share similar experiences. That's why we're excited to invite you to our upcoming Support Group.

Tuesday, February 24th
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Online via Zoom



Questions? Contact us:
303-632-6840
coco@weshowandtell.org



Model Casting Call for Denver Fashion Week Adaptive Night

APPLICATIONS
CLOSE ON
MARCH 15TH



GUIDED BY HUMANITY



PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES OF COLORADO

PASCO Lakewood

3900 S Wadsworth Blvd #225 Lakewood, CO 80235
303.233.3122 | info@pascohh.com

PASCO Colorado Springs

6385 Corporate Drive Suite 303 Colorado Springs, CO 80919
(719) 960-4995 | info@pascohh.com

2026 Chronic Disease Awareness Day & Rare Disease Day At The State Capitol

Friday, February 27th 8 am - 1 pm

Connect and share your experience with policymakers alongside other Coloradans living with rare diseases, chronic conditions, caregivers, and advocates!

7:45-9:00 Check-in, Breakfast, & legislator meet-and-greet
9:00-11:00 Advocating and Meeting with Legislators
11:30-1:00 Lunch & Panel discussion (Hybrid option)

tinyclr.com/CDAD2026

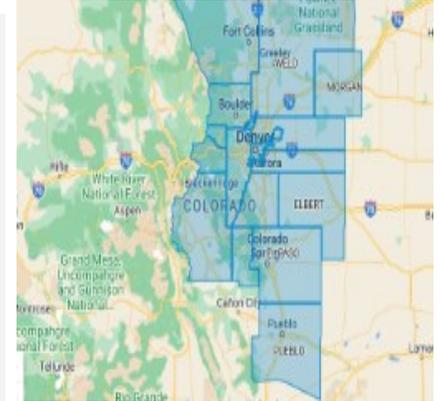
For more information or questions about Chronic Disease Awareness and Rare Disease Advocacy Day, contact Holly Winters at holly.winters@ccc-co.org

PASCO (Personal Assistance Services of Colorado) is certified under Medicare, Medicaid, and the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program to provide personal assistance services to children and adults with severe disabilities. PASCO was incorporated in 1991 and began providing services to persons with disabilities on January 1, 1992. PASCO's mission is to provide personal assistance services, promoting independence and safety to clients and/or their families. PASCO continuously strives for client and employee satisfaction. The foundation of PASCO is CHOICE. To the maximum extent possible, PASCO works to accommodate the needs and wants of each client.

Our Service Area

PASCO proudly serves the following counties:

- Adams County
- Arapahoe County
- Boulder County
- Broomfield County
- Clear Creek County
- Denver County
- Douglas County
- El Paso County
- Elbert County
- Gilpin County
- Jefferson County
- Larimer County
- Morgan County
- Park County
- Pueblo County
- Teller County
- Weld County
- Yuma County



About Us

We are a family owned DME from Colorado. It is our proud privilege to be able to serve those in need here in Colorado with energetic enthusiasm, a warm heart & an understanding that immediate fulfillment of each client's needs is of the upmost importance!

About What We Do

At Alliance Medical Supply we pride ourselves on offering products primarily made right here in the United States from our leading manufacturers that meet each of our patient's needs.

Our team of professionals work individually with each patient to see they are given the upmost respect and attention throughout their time in need.

Our motto is simple and encapsulates our ethics and dedication to what we do: Because in this world the only thing you can give and still keep, is your word!

- ✓ Caring & Genuine Customer Service
- ✓ Proudly Accepting Medicaid & Medicare
- ✓ Prompt, Secured, and Professional Delivery

Office: 720-502-6621
 Fax: 303-284-6760
 amscolorado.com



Alliance Medical Supply
 9725 E Hampden Ave,
 Suite 102B
 Denver, CO 80231

Because in this world, the only thing you can give and still keep is YOUR WORD!

Reference in this Newsletter to any specific product, service, or company does not constitute a recommendation by PASCO (although we do our best to support community friendly organizations)

Intellectual & Developmental Disability Resource Fair

April 2, 2026 | 3:00PM - 5:30PM
Educational Service Center (Adams 12 Five Star Schools)
1500 E. 128th Ave. Thornton, CO 80241

Come learn about...

- Disability Resources
- Disability Services
- Employment
- Special Education
- Healthcare
- Recreation



RSVP by scanning the QR code or go to the link:



<https://tinyclr.com/arcadamsdrf26>

Informational sessions will be presented in English. Please complete the RSVP form to request interpretation in other languages if needed.

Information Sessions

ROOM	TIME	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	4:30PM – 5:30 PM
DOGWOOD		SSI Benefits Overview – SSA	Guardianship & Supported Decision Making – Elizabeth A. Moran, Arc of Colorado
BLUE SPRUCE		Estate Planning & Guardianship Explained – Jeff Althaus, Attorney	Waivers & Medicaid Changes – Jose Torres-Vega, The Arc of Adams County
MINERS CREEK		Employment and Transition Q&A – DVR, Adams 12 SWAP	Special Education Q&A: IEPs and School Supports – Adams 12 SSS Coordinators, Director of Programs (Arc AC)

