

# Boulder County Human Services

## 2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Human Services provides essential programs that:

- Protect children and vulnerable adults
- Help families meet basic needs
- Connect people to jobs, housing, health care and community resources

These services are required by state and federal law and respond to real needs in our community.

**The cost of delivering these services is outpacing available funding.** Many programs haven't received enough investment to keep up with growing demand, higher costs, and new requirements. Without stronger funding, counties will struggle to maintain services that residents rely on.

## Financial Challenges

### Staffing Costs

Staff pay and benefits are the largest cost in human services. Funding has not kept up with inflation and rising wages, which makes it harder to maintain required services.

### Higher Provider Costs

We pay outside providers for services like mental health care and family therapy. These supports help families stay together and keep children from entering out-of-home care. As provider rates rise, it's harder to sustain these services.

### Legislative Impacts

New and past state laws continue to add costs without always providing funding to cover them. When laws expand responsibilities without funding to match, access to services is reduced.

### How We're Responding

The department reduced its 2026 budget by 11% (\$7.1 million). Boulder County Human Services continues to review spending carefully and plan for future reductions, while working to protect essential services and meet community needs.

# Human Services Are Underfunded in Colorado

The charts below compare Boulder County costs to statewide costs for fiscal year 2025. They show the same trend: The cost of providing required human services is rising faster than the funding available to pay for them.

Boulder County Human Services Costs			
Fiscal Year 2024–2025			
Program	Boulder County Allocation	Boulder County Expenditures	Funding Gap Before State Adjustments
Adult Protective Services	\$1,135,348	\$1,393,603	-\$258,255
County Admin	\$6,865,274	\$13,885,832	-\$7,020,558
Child Care	\$8,647,942	\$12,085,848	-\$3,437,906
Colorado Works	\$4,869,214	\$6,596,831	-\$1,727,618
CORE*	\$1,899,991	\$2,279,514	-\$379,523
Child Welfare Staffing	\$334,844	\$563,535	-\$228,691
Child Welfare Block	\$16,356,732	\$19,414,795	-\$3,058,063
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$40,109,344</b>	<b>\$56,219,958</b>	<b>-\$16,110,614**</b>

\*CORE funding supports essential child welfare services that help keep families safe, stable, and together.  
 \*\*The state covered part of this gap with leftover funds. Boulder County covered the rest using the Human Services Safety Net (HSSN) mill levy.

Colorado Costs			
Fiscal Year 2024–2025			
Program	Colorado Allocation	Colorado Expenditures	Funding Gap Before Reallocation
Adult Protective Services	\$21,451,828	\$25,179,693	-\$3,727,865
County Admin	\$185,974,912	\$239,916,489	-\$53,941,577
Child Care	\$177,156,002	\$190,567,805	-\$13,411,803
Colorado Works	\$148,351,094	\$167,664,268	-\$19,313,173
CORE*	\$61,198,478	\$67,630,546	-\$6,432,067
Child Welfare Staffing	\$37,702,842	\$43,117,640	-\$5,414,798
Child Welfare Block	\$386,085,704	\$404,968,886	-\$18,883,182
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,017,920,860</b>	<b>\$1,139,045,326</b>	<b>-\$121,124,466</b>

\*CORE funding supports essential child welfare services that help keep families safe, stable, and together.