



ROCKYMOUNTAIN  
PARTNERSHIP  
*StriveTogether® thrive together*

# BETTER TOGETHER

## Rocky Mountain Partnership 2022 Annual Highlights





# A Letter from Rocky Mountain Partnership's Leaders

To Our Partners and Community:

The challenges facing our region require innovative solutions. That's where Rocky Mountain Partnership (RMP) comes in. **In 2022, our coalition of cross-sector partners and community members demonstrated remarkable commitment to eliminating barriers to equity and mitigating the challenges faced in the North Metro region.**

We've ushered in a new era for the Rocky Mountain Partnership (RMP). Driven by RMP's vision and mission, we have mobilized community-led change in our four focus areas: supply of talent to Top Jobs; improved hiring, retention and employment advancement practices; housing access and availability; and addressing the opioid crisis.

As we enter the new year, **we're excited to celebrate some major legislative, organizational and community highlights** - including efforts to mobilize a youth and community-led coalition to help 27J Schools pass their first mill levy override in 22 years. Thanks to our community partners, RMP is celebrating another year of working better together in the North Metro Region.

In Partnership,



**Dr. Chris Fiedler**  
Superintendent of 27J Schools & RMP  
Co-Chair



**Heather Geyer**  
City Manager of City of Northglenn & RMP  
Co-Chair



**Raymond Gonzales**  
President of Metro Denver Economic  
Development Corporation (MDEDC) and  
Executive Vice President of Denver Metro  
Chamber of Commerce & RMP Co-Chair



**Jennifer Hoffman**  
City and County Manager of City & County of  
Broomfield & RMP Co-Chair



**Peter LiFari**  
Executive Director of Maiker Housing Partners &  
RMP Co-Chair



**Randy Roberts**  
President of Triple Peak Ventures & Chair of  
RMP's Backbone Board of Directors



**Lisandra Gonzales**  
CEO for the RMP Team



[Learn More](#)

# About the Rocky Mountain Partnership

## Who We Are

**We, the Rocky Mountain Partnership, are a coalition of cross-sector partners and community members** committed to working TOGETHER to achieve the vision and mission outlined below. **We engage a 501c(3) that employs a dedicated team**, known as the backbone team, separate from participating organizations, to drive the shared work.

## Vision

**Every community member** in Adams County, City of Arvada, the City of Aurora, and the City and County of Broomfield, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, zip code or circumstance, **has the opportunity to earn an income that allows them to take care of themselves and their families, and thrive from cradle to career.**

## Mission

**We come together to solve challenging problems that stand in the way of community members' economic and social mobility.** We do this by understanding what those most impacted by decisions are experiencing, building on what works, deploying new and innovative strategies, and supporting dollars to go to the things that work.



A core team of RMP partners and staff attend StriveTogether's Postsecondary and Workforce Outcomes Convening to glean best practices and learnings from other communities to inform their work.



# Overview of our Work

We have always believed that TOGETHER WE CAN DO BETTER. RMP continues to be a place where people can come together and find common ground. **To that end, we have prioritized four areas where this network is uniquely positioned to engage in innovative collaborative projects that:**

- Are not duplicative of efforts already underway through partner organizations or elsewhere in the region
- Build on or enhance efforts partners are already working on
- Fill critical gaps to support better coordination and cohesion across efforts



**Goal 1: Increase the supply of talent to Top Jobs in critical sectors**



**Goal 2: Employers improve how they hire, retain, and promote diverse talent**



**Goal 3: Increase the availability and accessibility of attainable housing**



**Goal 4: Distribute funding to reduce the impacts of the opioid crisis**

# What We're Celebrating

## Launching a Hub of Data, Information, and Resources to Drive Action

Building on the release of RMP's innovative data scorecard in 2021, we developed interactive dashboards for our four priority areas that **bring together data, community voice and information about policy, funding, and community resources** available in the region. This innovative data infrastructure was built for and by partners, and is a powerful tool that provides partners and community members with the information they need to **inform decisions, drive change and track progress** towards economic and social mobility.

“When I look at this scorecard, I don't know whether to use the word staggering or impressive. The amount of work RMP has put into this tool for our community is nothing short of extraordinary.

— Colorado State Senator Dominic Moreno on RMP's Scorecard



[View the Data Hub](#)



RMP partners, community members, and other regional decision makers come together to co-design Maiker Housing Partner's newest affordable housing development.

## Supporting Local Efforts Focused on Closing Equity Gaps to Receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

We secured \$250,000 in ARPA funds to directly support the network's collective work. The RMP Team also provided grant writing and data technical assistance to partner organization Adelante Community Development, **helping them secure \$3.7 million in ARPA funds to support Latino/a/e community members**, and supported the City of Aurora's Youth Violence Prevention Program to **identify critical gaps in resources** that led the City to dedicate \$200,000 in ARPA funds to address these gaps.



Maria Gonzalez, founder and CEO of Adelante Community Development and RMP Steering Committee Member with fellow Steering Committee Member and Civic Influencer Gabriela Chavez.

“Capacity building support, like that provided by the RMP Team, is needed more than ever as we begin to close equity gaps in this region.”

— Maria Gonzalez, Founder & CEO of Adelante Community Development & RMP Steering Committee Member



# GOAL 1: Increase the supply of talent to Top Jobs in critical sectors



## Mobilizing a Youth and Community-Led Coalition to Help Pass a Mill Levy Override for the Third Least-Funded School District in the State

Throughout 2022, we mobilized a youth and community-led coalition to support 27J Schools to pass its first mill levy override in over two decades, securing much needed funding for the third lowest funded school district in the state.

This coalition connected with over 900 community members at over 20 community meetings and events, and was featured on CBS Colorado and Univision. The passage of this mill levy override goes to show that community-driven advocacy works.

**“We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Rocky Mountain Partnership and their incredible effort to raise awareness about our mill levy override ballot question, 5B, and their efforts to encourage young voters to vote! On behalf of our 22,000+ students and 2,000+ staff members, thank you! We couldn’t have done it without you!”**

*— Dr. Chris Fiedler, Superintendent of 27J Schools and RMP Co-Chair*

This historic win could not have happened without technical assistance from BRIDGES, Children’s Funding Project, Kids Impact and StriveTogether, and investments in RMP’s



Dr. Chris Fiedler with members of RMP’s Community-Led Coalition and backbone team go door-to-door to educate the community about the mill levy override.

youth and community-led coalition from Maiker Housing Partners, Rose Community Foundation and StriveTogether.

## Understanding Our Region’s Talent Supply

We developed the first iteration of a **hub of data, information, and resources to illustrate the supply of talent available for Top Jobs** in critical sectors across our region. Knowing how many stackable credential pathways currently exist from K-12 all the way through upskilling, reskilling, and employment, and the number of learners on those pathways will help better **inform decisions intended to increase the supply of talent to Top Jobs in critical sectors.** The team leading this effort includes: Colorado Department of Higher Education, Colorado Workforce Development Council, My Colorado Journey, Westminster Public Schools, Arvada Economic Development Association, Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, 27J Schools, and Adams 12 Five Star Schools.

## GOAL 2: Employers improve how they hire, retain, and advance diverse talent



### Increasing Equity in Employee Recruitment, Retention & Advancement

RMP began working with a cohort of 15 employers, who currently employ over 35,000 community members across the metro area, to **improve how they recruit, retain and promote diverse talent**. These employers receive coaching, training, technical assistance and peer-to-peer learning support to help them advance through RMP's Hiring, Retention, and Employee Advancement Benchmarks®, which serves as a rubric for improving their organizational policies and practices. Technical assistance partners include One Million Degrees, Iridium Consulting, and Colorado Workforce Development Council. **To scale these supports to Chambers of Commerce and member-based organizations that serve employers, RMP is launching the Recruiting and Retaining Talent Challenge.** Excited to announce flagship partners Arvada Chamber of Commerce and the Adams County Regional Economic Partnership.

### Recruiting and Retaining Talent Challenge



### Engaged Employers



## GOAL 3: Increase the availability and accessibility of attainable housing



### Launching Regional Housing Roundtable to Foster Synergy Between Local Government and Housing Practitioners

Local government and housing practitioners came together in an unprecedented way to **develop a more regional approach to improving access and availability of attainable housing.** Building on the work of other groups of nonprofits and service providers, whose focus is on individual program and service delivery, these practitioners are focused on how they can **align efforts and take on regional problems better together.**

### Designing Affordable Housing Development Alongside Community Members

Community members came alongside regional leaders and decision makers to **determine what Maiker Housing Partners' next affordable housing community needs to look like** and offer in order to best meet the needs of those who live here. This includes designing the programs and services available on-site, amenity spaces, and how the development should look and feel.



Community members and regional leaders discuss what Maiker Housing Partners' newest affordable housing development needs in order to best serve community members.



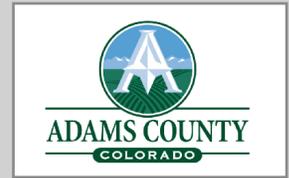
RMP Civic Influencers help co-design Maiker Housing Partners' newest affordable housing community.

Community members are generally left out of conversations like these, especially at the initial development phase. This is a demonstration of RMP's value of making decisions with our most impacted community members at the table.

### Supporting the Region's Largest School District and Housing Authority to Better Deliver Services to Community Members Where They Live, Work, and Learn

Adams 12 Five Star Schools and Maiker Housing Partners came together in an evidence-based pilot to **better bring their services to meet people where they live, work, and learn.** This effort came out of a regional Housing and Education Readiness Assessment, conducted in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, which provided data and insights into the barriers community members experience to accessing housing and education services.

## GOAL 4: Distribute funding to reduce the impacts of the opioid crisis



### Convening Adams County Opioid Regional Council

The RMP Team is facilitating the Adams County Opioid Regional Council, a group of county-wide leaders and decision makers whose role is to distribute funding from litigation settlements to help address the opioid crisis. The council utilized data and insights from the community to determine how it will allocate funds, and is **positioned to launch an RFP process in December 2022 to distribute funds accordingly.** This process departs from traditional funding approaches by **ensuring programs, strategies, and projects that receive funding**

**are positioned to impact outcomes.** Further, it holds accountability to impact by requiring performance metrics that ensure those outcomes are tracked in real time.

The Adams County Opioid Regional Council works to finalize the process it will use to distribute this region's share of funding from opioid litigation settlements.



Peter Padilla, Brighton City Council Member and Chair of the Adams County Opioid Regional Council, shares about this region's work to address the opioid crisis at the Statewide Opioid Abatement Conference.

“The Adams County Opioid Regional Council members have deep and personal connections to the impacts of opioid addiction, and a strong dedication to addressing community needs, one person at a time, one case at a time, one crisis at a time, and one recovery at a time. With measured and thoughtful change at a personal level, we will seek to make a lasting impact, **moving the needle across the region.**

— Peter Padilla, Adams County Opioid Regional Council Chair, City of Brighton Council Member

### Building Partnerships Across Regions to Tackle Capital Projects

The Adams County Opioid Regional Council convened a Capital Projects SubCommittee led by leaders from the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office, local law enforcement, 17th Judicial District Courts, and Adams County Board of Commissioners. This cross-sector group will collaborate with neighboring regions to **prioritize capital projects that fill major gaps in services,** such as a lack of residential treatment beds for youth, and strategize how to distribute funding from multiple sources to support them.



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