Our Mission

The Rocky Mountain Partnership is a group of cross-sector community partners and community members who work together to solve difficult problems that stand in the way of economic and social mobility. We achieve this by working on innovative projects that: break down silos (eliminate barriers between different organizations), remove obstacles (address challenges that prevent progress), support resources and policy changes that align with effective solutions.

Our Vision

An inclusive and prosperous region where every community member, 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.

Where We Work

We work in the heart of the north metro region, which includes Adams County, the City of Arvada, the City of Aurora, and the City and County of Broomfield. This region is home to over 900,000 community members; over half are people of color.

Our Work Bolsters Economic Prosperity

Complementing economic development initiatives across the region and state, we focus on advancing the economic and social mobility of the individuals and families who live and work in our community.

What is Economic and Social Mobility?

For individuals and families, economic and social mobility is the opportunity to advance within society and reach their true potential in terms of: education, employment, income, and social status.

In turn, having a skilled workforce helps us attract, retain, and grow business and industry, which supports an economically prosperous region.

We’ve done the work of identifying the overarching data points that we track over time help hold us accountable to improving this. We monitor these, and other key data, in the Rocky Mountain Partnership Scorecard and through hubs of data, information, and resources for each of our shared goals.

Our Evidence-Based Framework

Rocky Mountain Partnership is a member of the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network.

We use a national, evidence-based framework to improve our societal structures (known as ‘systems’). This helps us provide better support to the community through policies, funding, programs, and services.

Who Brings Us Together

We are brought together by a group of skilled professionals, called the ‘Backbone Team’. They provide us with dedicated project management, facilitation, data, ensuring those most impacted by the work are engaged, stakeholder power mapping and information mapping, impact assessments, education / awareness and support mobilizing around policy, support to raise dollars to fund projects, and other supports needed to advance innovative projects.
Who Makes Up the Rocky Mountain Partnership

“There is something fundamentally amiss about building or rebuilding a system without consulting at any point those it is designed to serve.

— Alison Cook-Sather

The Rocky Mountain Partnership is a dynamic network that is dedicated to promoting the well-being of community members across the north metro region.

At its core, the Partnership is comprised of two leadership tables:

- One that is composed of COMMUNITY PARTNERS (Community Leaders Council)
- One that is composed of COMMUNITY MEMBERS (Community Coalition Council)

Working in tandem, these leadership tables collaborate to inform strategic goals for the network, participate in innovative projects that advance these goals, identify new projects as needed, and hold accountability to impact.

Our Collaborative Approach

By leveraging the expertise and diverse perspectives of both COMMUNITY PARTNERS and COMMUNITY MEMBERS, we are able to develop and implement effective strategies that address the unique challenges facing our region.

This collaborative approach is critical to ensuring that our efforts are impactful, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of the community we serve.
Our Work

Through the Rocky Mountain Partnership, **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** and **COMMUNITY MEMBERS** work together on innovative projects toward shared goals.

**These projects:**

- Avoid duplicating efforts that are already underway through partner organizations or in the region
- Build upon or enhance existing efforts
- Address critical gaps to promote better coordination and cohesion across all efforts

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**GROW OUR TALENT**

to ensure every individual can prosper

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**INCREASE INCOME-ALIGNED HOUSING**

to ensure every individual can live where they work and learn

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**COMBAT OPIOID CRISIS**

to ensure every individual can survive and thrive
Our Current State

- Learners are not earning the skills and credentials that are needed to pursue jobs that are critical to our economy, and pay a wage that allows them to support themselves and their families.

### ONLY 39%

of adults 25+ in the RMP region have a post-high-school credential or degree.

- Employers in our region’s target industries and high-demand labor sectors are experiencing massive staffing shortages, and are finding it difficult to attract and retain qualified talent.

Key Challenges

- The RMP region does not have a coordinated talent / workforce development effort to serve learners, workers and employers; entities work in silos leading to talent gaps and negatively impact learners, workers, and employers.
- There are programs and services available in this region that can help youth and adult learners earn skills and credentials, but many youth and adults don’t know about them or how to access them.
- Existing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) efforts available in the region and across the state do not provide employers with direct support around setting employer-specific goals for changing policies and practices, developing action and implementation plans, and tracking real-time progress and impact.

What We Are Working to Accomplish

- Increase the number learners attaining a skill, credential or degree
- Decrease the number of unfilled, high-demand career positions
- Increase the number of community members earning a self-sufficient wage

Current Projects

1. **Create a central hub of talent supply data and information** to support community members to access programs and resources, and policy makers and practitioners to make more informed decisions about talent-related programming, policies, and initiatives
2. Support the work of the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Long Range Planning Advisory Committee to **gather community voice and perspective and ultimately mobilize to advocate for any ballot initiative(s) to increase funding for the district**
3. **Support the development of an innovative regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) campus** that will serve high school and adult learners (Ranum Reimagined)
4. **Provide and connect regional employers to technical assistance and coaching** to improve their hiring, retention, and employee advancement practices
Our Current State

• The current supply of housing that is attainable based on household income does not meet the demand.
• Our workforce cannot afford to live in the communities in which they work.

Key Challenges

• There is not a regional understanding of or a shared approach to addressing the availability and accessibility of income-aligned housing.
• Because housing policy is localized, efforts to improve are often localized.

What We Are Working to Accomplish

• Increase the number of income-aligned housing units
• Decrease the number of community members who are paying more than 30% of their income on housing

Current Projects

1. Support regional clarity around the requirements for localities to access funding through Proposition 123 - these requirements include implementing a 90-Day Fast Track Approval Process for new housing projects and setting a 3% growth target for affordable housing
2. Create a central hub of housing data and information to support community members to access programs and resources, and policy makers and practitioners to make more informed decisions about housing-related programming, policies, and initiatives
3. Bring workforce, educational, housing, and basic needs services to where community members live, work, and learn (Co-Locating Services)

Someone making minimum wage would need to work 84 hours per week to afford to rent a one-bedroom apartment

INCREASE INCOME-ALIGNED HOUSING
to ensure every individual can live where they work and learn

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Our Current State

Adams County community members account for 1 in 8 opioid-related overdose deaths in Colorado over the last 5 years

- **Fentanyl is the number one cause** of opioid-related overdose deaths in Adams County and the state
- The impact of opioid-related deaths on Colorado’s economy was estimated to be $15.2 billion in 2021.
- As of 2020, our state had only around 15-20% of the total drug treatment capacity we need.

Key Challenges

- There are resources coming into our community (from litigation settlements) to address gaps in the programs and services needed to support community members, but there has not been a regional, coordinated effort in place to maximize the impact of these dollars.
- Even with the litigation settlement funds currently slated to come into our community, it is not going to be enough to address all of the needs that exist.

What Are We Working to Accomplish

- Decrease the number of community members dying from opioids
- Increase the number of community members who are thriving

Current Projects

1. **Distribute funding through the Adams County Opioid Abatement Grant** to address funding gaps around addiction treatment, recovery, and prevention programs
2. **Convene a subcommittee to draft the initial target(s)** (potentially a 5-year target related to opioid-related overdose deaths) that the Adams County Opioid Regional Council will be working towards and all efforts will ladder up to
3. **Pursue regional capital projects** that fill major gaps in services and strategize how to access funding from multiple sources to support them (Initial focus on the need for a youth residential treatment center)
Learn More

Contact Ashley Edinger, RMP Senior Director of Strategic Supports, at AshleyEdinger@RMPBackbone.org with questions or to learn more.