



OVERVIEW OF MILL LEVY FUNDING

The citizens of Larimer County voted to support Foothills Gateway in meeting their mission as the Community Centered Board, serving individuals with developmentally disabilities in the community, by approving a .75 mill levy. This annual source of revenue is projected to be \$3.5 million in our 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Changes have recently occurred in the Colorado Developmental Disability system that has affected the manner in which Foothills Gateway's uses the Larimer County mill levy funds.

Colorado's developmental disabilities service systems underwent significant changes in the conversion to a fee-for-service system in 2007 to meet federal Medicaid funding requirements. Previously bundled services were broken out and a uniform rate setting methodology for services was applied. A tool was implemented by the State for use in evaluating individuals' need for services and supports. Limits on rates for services and the total amount of services provided to individuals using Medicaid funding have been set based on the need level evaluations. Some services have been capped in the amount provided for all service levels. Payments for service provider rates have dropped by over 3% since 2007 when the fee for service Medicaid reimbursement policy was implemented.

The positive aspects of these changes are found in the increased transparency of the resource allocations to all Medicaid program participants and in the information enabling individuals and their families to make informed choices. The consistency and accountability built into the new system will enable the expansion of opportunities to integrate families as a resource for service provision.

Conversely, these changes affected Foothills Gateway's ability to use the mill levy funding in support of Medicaid programs. Prior to these changes, our agency was able to use the mill levy funding to serve more Medicaid eligible individuals than were designated in our contract with the State. Under the new system, the number of individuals that we serve in Medicaid programs is specifically set by the State and cannot be exceeded.

How Foothills Gateway uses the Larimer County mill levy funds that it receives.

In addition to Medicaid funded programs, the State provides general funding to support other programs. These programs include:

- Early Intervention Services,
- Family Support Services,
- State Supported Living Services, and
- Service Coordination to connect individuals to these State programs.

These programs and the service coordination associated with them have been consistently underfunded and with rates substantially below those of the Medicaid programs. Foothills Gateway has chosen to over-serve significantly the number of individuals designated in our contract with the State. Mill Levy funding is used to provide this over-service at quality levels.

Some services that are provided at Foothills Gateway are either minimally federally and state funded or supplemental to funded services. These include:

- The Supported Employment program, funding for which has been drastically cut by both the State Division for Developmental Disabilities and the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) due to state level budget difficulties.
- The Transportation program, which provides daily home to program and/or work transportation for individuals, does not receive reimbursement at levels that provide for the complete cost of service delivery. Mill levy funding is used to supplement the transportation costs for individuals served by both Foothills Gateway and other Program Approved Service Agencies in Comprehensive program services as well as for individuals in Supported Living program services.
- The HUD housing program is a non-mandated service that is provided to support individuals in obtaining housing and has saved individuals several times the amount of the mill levy funds expended for this service.
- Mill levy funding is provided to support additional mental health services over that allowed by Medicaid funding, with SummitStone therapists housed at the Foothills Gateway facility and additional funds paid to support the SummitStone staff (included in General & Administrative funding).
- Adult Care Services (respite house) is funded by the mill levy, making these services affordable to both those receiving Medicaid and State services as well as for individuals on the waiting list and their families.
- Special requirements due to behavioral, medical or other issues, which cannot be adequately addressed with Medicaid service rates, are supplemented with mill levy funding to allow adequate service provision to insure the health and welfare of all individuals.
- Mill levy funding is used for many other individuals' needs and other uses for mill levy funding are identified and addressed on an individual basis to meet essential requirements throughout the year.
- Mill levy funding is used to support Larimer County Program Approved Service agencies by providing cost free billing services for the SLS program and minimum cost services for the Comprehensive program. Additionally, guaranteed payments are made to assist these agencies to provide consistent supports to the individuals in services in Larimer County.

How mill levy funding affects individuals' services.

Mill levy funding is allocated to program services as a whole, and not allocated to specific individuals. While it does allow for services to additional individuals or for additional services for individuals, service dollars used for each individual are not explicitly divided by source at service plan development, but are assigned from the pool of all funding available.

Foothills Gateway will continue its ongoing assessment of the use of mill levy funding to most efficiently and effectively provide quality services to our individuals and their families.