



**Annual Legislative Report  
Fiscal Year 2025**



# **Competency Diversion Program**

House Bill 24-1355 (C.R.S. §16-8.6-101 through 112)

## **Annual Legislative Report**

Fiscal Year 2025

Submitted to the Colorado General Assembly:  
Joint Budget Committee

Prepared by the Colorado Judicial Department:  
State Court Administrator's Office  
Court Services Division  
Criminal Justice Programs Unit

Date: November 1, 2025

# Executive Summary

## Program Goals

House Bill 24-1355, effective August 7, 2024, established the Competency Diversion Program (codified at §16-8.6-101 through §16-8.6-112, C.R.S.) to reduce reliance on inpatient competency restoration services by diverting eligible defendants into community-based, wraparound care.

Services are provided through Bridges of Colorado's Wraparound Care Program, which delivers individualized supports in partnership with judicial districts.

### Statutory Goals:

- Reduce the competency waitlist and reliance on jail-based restoration.
- Provide individualized care plans addressing mental health, housing, transportation, employment, and other basic needs.
- Improve outcomes, reduce recidivism, and relieve judicial and correctional system burdens.

## Statutory Reporting Requirement

House Bill 24-1355 requires the State Court Administrator's Office to collect data and provide annual reports to the Joint Budget Committee on program implementation, participant outcomes, and resource needs. This report fulfills the statutory obligation for Fiscal Year 2025.

## FY25 Implementation Highlights

- **Referral Pathways Established**  
By April 1, 2025, all required Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were fully executed as required by HB 24-1355, with mandatory signatories including the Chief Judge, District Attorney, State Public Defender (and/or Alternate Defense Counsel, where applicable), and Bridges of Colorado. MOUs also include coordination with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and local treatment providers, with many districts incorporating representatives from sheriffs, probation, and other stakeholders through local steering committees.
- **First Round Districts**  
On April 1, 2025, the Competency Diversion Program launched in the 2nd Judicial District (Denver District Court), Denver County Court, the 17th Judicial District, the 18th Judicial District, and the 20th Judicial District. Denver County Court and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court entered a joint MOU, indicating that Denver County Court will manage the HB 24-1355 requirements.
- **Court Coordinators Hired**  
All of the phase one Court Coordinators were hired and trained to manage referrals, monitor compliance, and collect program data.
- **Data Infrastructure Built**  
The State Court Administrator's Office designed and launched the Data Information Management System (DIMS) to meet HB 24-1355 reporting requirements. FY25 focused on development, testing, and initial data entry; full rollout is expected in FY26.

## FY25 Preliminary Data (April–June 2025)

During the first quarter of operations, 50 individuals were referred into the Competency Diversion Program (HB 24-1355) in first round judicial districts. The referral process is designed to divert individuals with prior history of competency from the traditional competency proceedings. However, some programs that had initiated the competency proceedings elected to refer to competency diversion as an alternative once available.

The following figures summarize the demographics of referred participants and referral outcomes.

Figure 1. FY25 Participants by Gender (Apr–Jun 2025)

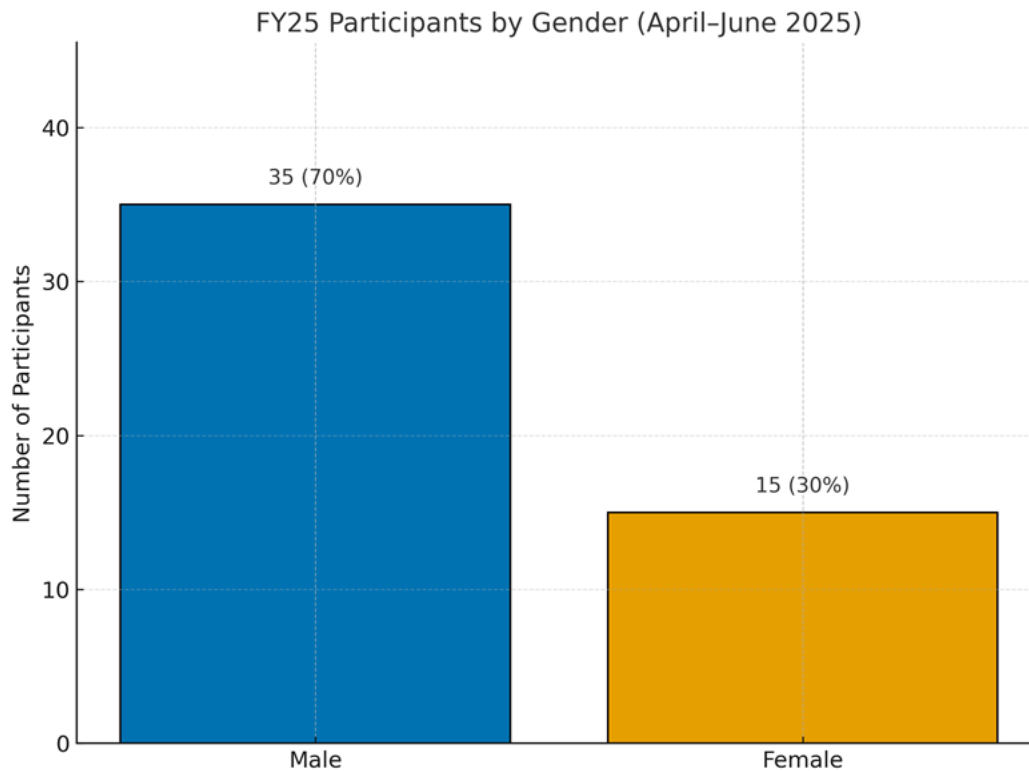


Figure 2. FY25 Participants by Race/Ethnicity (Apr–Jun 2025)

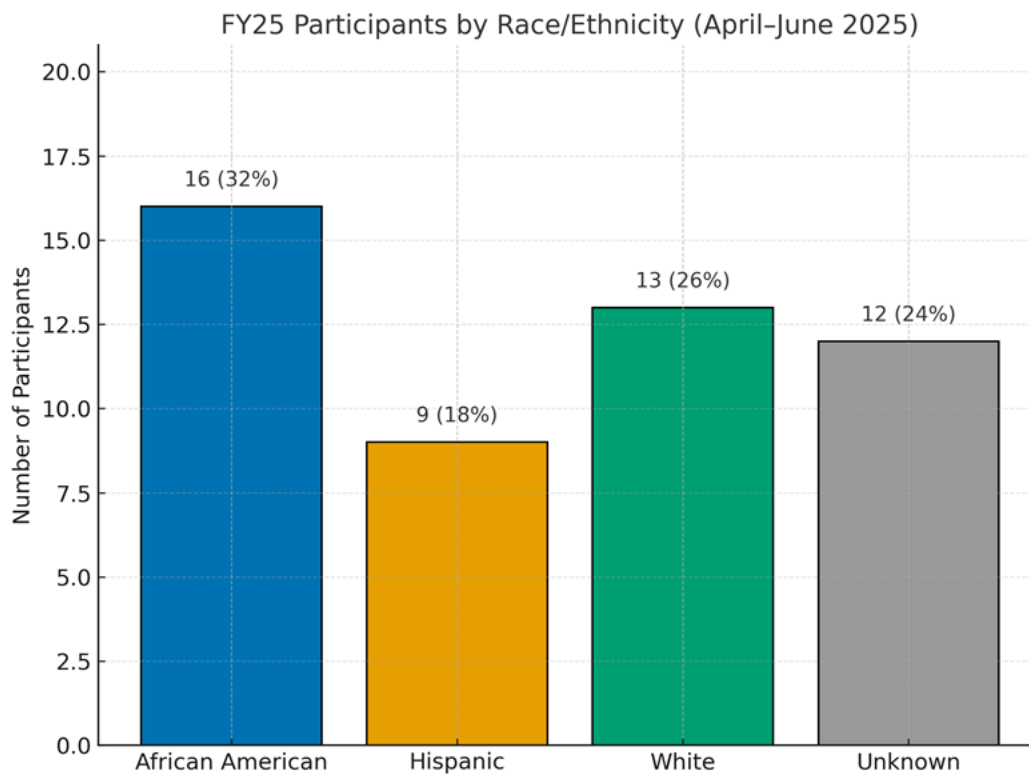
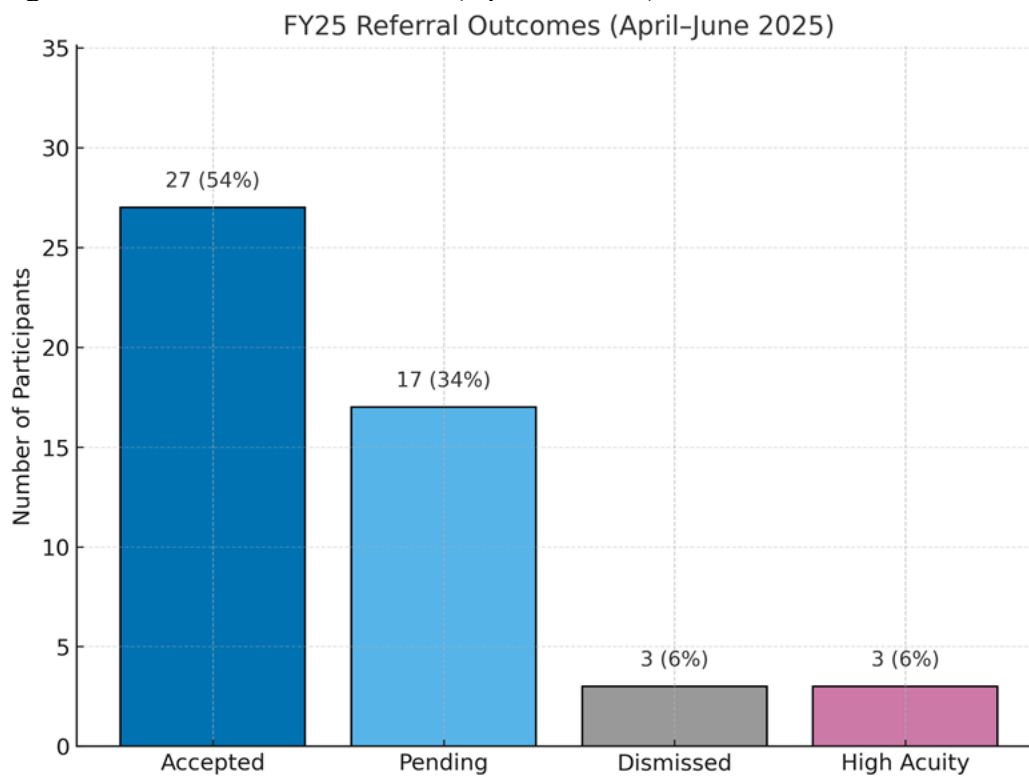


Figure 3. FY25 Referral Outcomes (Apr–Jun 2025)



Of 50 referrals, 27 accepted (54%), 17 pending (34%), 3 dismissed (6%), and 3 denied due to high acuity (6%).

Referral outcomes fall into four categories. Accepted means the individual is eligible under HB24-1355 and enters the diversion program. Rejected due to high acuity refers to cases where an individual's clinical, behavioral, or safety needs exceed what the program can reasonably support in a community-based setting. Pending indicates eligibility is still under review, awaiting assessments or documentation. Dismissed reflects referrals withdrawn or closed, often because charges were resolved another way or the case no longer met requirements.

## Takeaways

- More than **half of referrals were successfully accepted**, indicating early and meaningful use of the new statutory pathway.
- At the time of this report, **34% of referrals were pending**. This reflects districts still adapting to new workflows and case review processes, where the shift to updated procedures naturally results in a larger share of cases being held in pending status. This level of activity also demonstrates **promising initial engagement** with the program.
- A small number of **dismissals and high-acuity referrals** demonstrate that eligibility screening is functioning as intended, balancing public safety with diversion goals.

**Note:** *The data represents only the initial three months of activity. Numbers are expected to grow significantly as additional districts implement Competency Diversion, and the Data Information Management System (DIMS) becomes fully operational.*

## Qualitative Information Insights

In addition to the program data, feedback gathered through stakeholder conversations and steering committees has highlighted several important themes:

- **Resource Limitations:** Housing and long-term behavioral health care remain the most significant barriers to stability. Resources vary by district, with challenges especially pronounced in rural areas.
- **Civil Pathway Access:** Probate, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), and guardianship pathways exist in statute but remain underutilized due to limited infrastructure.
- **Collaboration Success:** MOUs and steering committees improved coordination across agencies and courts.

## FY26 Priorities

FY25 was a foundational year, establishing the statutory framework, fully executing required MOUs, launching Cohort I judicial districts, hiring coordinators, and building statewide data infrastructure. Preliminary results show that the Competency Diversion Program—with services delivered through Bridges Wraparound Care—is diverting individuals away from inpatient restoration and reducing court backlogs.

Building the Data Information Management System (DIMS) was a critical milestone in FY25. Developed by the Judicial Branch, DIMS ensures the JBC, the Judicial Branch, and state partners will have accurate, standardized information on program operations, costs, and outcomes. Continued investment in infrastructure, staffing, and community resources will be essential to fulfill statutory reporting obligations and to evaluate long-term program effectiveness.

For FY26, the following will be key priorities:

1. **Expand Resources** –Strengthen pathways and coordination to existing housing, treatment, and civil alternatives so participants can access services more effectively.
2. **Enhance Training** – Ongoing judicial, attorney, and coordinator training for program consistency.
3. **Standardize Data Collection** – Fully operationalize DIMS across all districts for accurate and comparable reporting.
4. **Strengthen Engagement** – Implement early follow-up and monitoring protocols to reduce program disengagement.

Also, in FY26, a critical goal is the expansion of implementation, with Cohort II judicial districts launching on October 1, 2025, followed by the FY27 Cohort III on July 1, 2026. This phased approach ensures that referral pathways, coordinators, and data reporting are fully in place statewide. Early implementation demonstrates measurable progress toward legislative goals by reducing the use of inpatient restoration, enhancing local collaboration, and strengthening community-based alternatives. Continued investment and coordination across partners will be essential to sustain these outcomes and ensure the program's long-term effectiveness.

## Appendix A: FY25 Preliminary Data Snapshot (April–June 2025)

Gender	Count	%
Male	35	70%
Female	15	30%

Race/Ethnicity	Count	%
African American	16	32%
Hispanic	9	18%
White	13	26%
Unknown	12	24%

Outcome	Count	%
Accepted	27	54%
Pending	17	34%
Dismissed	3	6%
High Acuity	3	6%



## Appendix B: Statutory Program Components (HB 24-1355, §§16-8.6-101 to 112, C.R.S.)

### §16-8.6-107 & §16-8.6-108

Requirement	Compliance
Establish referral pathways; District Attorneys are central to eligibility.	Completed FY25 – MOUs executed in all Cohort I districts by April 1, 2025.

### §16-8.6-109

Requirement	Compliance
Develop individualized wraparound care plans.	Completed FY25 – Care plans initiated for all accepted participants.

### §16-8.6-110

Requirement	Compliance
Hold review hearings within 182 days.	Pending (FY26) – First hearings scheduled FY26.

### §16-8.6-105

Requirement	Compliance
Collect data; provide annual JBC report.	In Progress – Data collection began April 2025; partial Q4 data included in this report.

### §16-8.6-104

Requirement	Compliance
Manage program funding and operations.	Completed FY25 – Funds distributed to Cohort I; coordinators hired. FY26 – Detailed fiscal tracking available with DIMS rollout.