



Adult Diversion Program Annual Legislative Report Fiscal Year 2024



Colorado Judicial Department

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SUMMARY & OVERVIEW

Over the past ten years, Colorado's prosecutor-led adult diversion programs have become a cornerstone of the criminal justice system, offering an alternative path to entanglement within the judicial system and incarceration for low-risk offenders. These programs align with legislative goals of crime prevention, victim restitution, and reducing court strain, while also fostering rehabilitation and individual accountability.

FY24 Successes:

- **Program Growth:** From four sites in FY15 to 13 in FY24, the program has expanded access across the state. Over \$3 million in funding requests from 16 programs reflect the growing awareness of the success of diversion programs statewide.
- **Participant Enrollments:** The program experienced remarkable growth, increasing from 299 participants in FY15 to 1,483 in FY24, highlighting rising demand and expanding impact. Throughout FY24, more than 2,682 individuals actively participated in diversion services across the state, demonstrating the program's broad reach and importance.
- **Low Recidivism:** Only 1% of successful participants incurred new charges within one year, showcasing the program's effectiveness in reducing future criminal justice involvement.
- **Restitution:** Participants paid \$273,080.62 in restitution, directly supporting victims and demonstrating accountability.

These achievements underscore the vital role of adult diversion in fostering a safer and more equitable Colorado.

STATUTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENT

House Bill 13-1156, enacted in August 2013, created a mechanism for diverting individuals accused of statutorily eligible offenses away from traditional criminal justice system involvement. The legislation defined the parameters of pretrial adult diversion and established a funding mechanism for program operations in §18-1.3-101, C.R.S. The Colorado Judicial Branch supports the administration of this funding and maintains program information, including past annual legislative reports (see: <https://cjpu.colorado.gov/diversion>).

House Bill 13-1156 also established the Adult Diversion Funding Committee (Funding Committee). The composition and duties of the Funding Committee, such as the development of a funding application process, are outlined in §13-3-115, C.R.S. The Funding Committee invites annual applications from elected district attorneys and programs operating in partnership with them. Since October 2013, the State Court Administrator's Office has coordinated the Funding Committee's work, assisting with application materials, funding guidelines, and reporting obligations. The Funding Committee reviews funding requests annually and meets bimonthly to discuss program progress, review participant data, and manage the administration of program funds.

Table 1 identifies the FY24 Funding Committee members.

Table 1, FY23 Adult Diversion Funding Committee Members		
Name	Agency Representing	Email
Janet Drake	Office of the Attorney General	janet.drake@coago.gov
Michael Allen	Colorado District Attorneys' Council	michaelallen@elpasoco.com
Elizabeth Porter-Merrill	Office of the Public Defender	elizabeth.porter-merrill@coloradodefenders.us
Sasha Cafaro	Office of the State Court Administrator	sasha.cafaro@judicial.state.co.us
Mathew Lunn	Division of Criminal Justice Department of Public Safety	matthew.lunn@state.co.us

Program Sites

The number of funded adult diversion programs has steadily increased, reflecting the program's effectiveness and growing recognition of its benefits. The addition of new programs in FY23 and FY24 has further expanded access to diversion, offering an alternative to the traditional criminal justice system for more individuals. While three additional sites expressed interest in receiving state funding for FY25, current funding limitations prevent further expansion, and these programs were not awarded funding.

Original Funding Recipients

The original adult diversion funding recipients in FY2014 were the 6th (Archuleta, La Plata, and San Juan Counties), 9th (Rio Blanco, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties), 15th (Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers, and Baca Counties), and 16th (Crowley, Otero, and Bent Counties) Judicial Districts.

Table 2: Growth of funded Programs

Growth of Funded Programs		
Fiscal Year (FY)	Number of Funded Programs	Details
FY17	6	The addition of the 20th Judicial District (Boulder County) and the 21st Judicial District (Mesa County) increased the number of funded programs to six.
FY18	9	Funded programs expanded to include the 2nd Judicial District (Denver County), the 4th Judicial District (El Paso and Teller Counties), and the 22nd Judicial District (Dolores and Montezuma Counties), bringing the total to nine.
FY19	9	A program in the 7th Judicial District (Delta County) was added. However, the total remained at nine because the 4th Judicial District (El Paso and Teller Counties) did not apply for funding.
FY20	10	An additional program was established in the 12th Judicial District (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties), increasing the total to ten.
FY21	12	Two new programs were added: one in the 5th Judicial District (Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake, and Summit Counties) and another in the 14th Judicial District (Grand, Moffat, and Routt Counties), increasing the total to twelve.
FY22	10	The number of funded programs decreased. The 9th Judicial District (Rio Blanco, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties) did not apply for funding, and the 6th Judicial District (Archuleta, La Plata, and San Juan Counties) secured alternative county-based funding.
FY23	12	The total number returned to twelve with the reapplication of the 9th Judicial District (Rio Blanco, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties) and the addition of a new program in the 8th Judicial District (Larimer and Jackson Counties).
FY24	13	Funding was provided to a new program in the 11th Judicial District (Chaffee, Fremont, Custer, and Park Counties), increasing the total to thirteen.
FY25	16 (applications submitted)	A record 16 programs submitted applications for funding, showing continued growth and interest in program expansion across multiple judicial districts.

PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANT DATA

Funding: Allocations and Expenditures

The allocation of ARPA funds in FY23 and FY24 facilitated significant program expansion, introducing specialized services such as Restorative Justice, mental health-focused interventions, harm reduction strategies, and services for participants with domestic violence charges. These funds also supported staff hiring, enabling programs to increase participant capacity and enhance engagement, better addressing participant needs.

However, the temporary nature of ARPA funding created hesitation among some programs, discouraging the hiring of additional staff or the acceptance of higher participant volumes due to concerns about future budgetary constraints.

The Adult Diversion Program faces an urgent need for a sustainable, permanent funding source to prevent potential program closures. While ARPA funding was initially set to expire in December 2024, the Governor's Office extended the allocation of remaining funds, allowing the State Court Administrator's Office to administer the balance of the \$4 million until June 30, 2025. Additionally, programs received \$169,000 in Correctional Treatment Funds (CTF) in FY24. However, once ARPA funds are depleted, programs will have to rely solely on the \$169,000 CTF and a \$100,000 General Fund allocation—neither of which is guaranteed—resulting in an approximate \$1,631,000 deficit based on current spending trends. Without additional financial support, especially in rural areas, multiple programs are at risk of closure.

In FY25, the Adult Diversion Program received funding applications from 16 programs requesting over \$3 million. Due to funding constraints, the focus remained on sustaining existing programs supported by statewide funding. Additionally, ARPA funds were restricted to staffing and benefits, which limited opportunities for program expansion. Given the diverse needs of clients served by diversion programs, additional funding is essential to expand services that address broader behavioral health challenges, social support, and restorative practices, ensuring comprehensive care and long-term success.

**Table 3. Overview of Adult Diversion Programs:
Funding Requests, Awards and Participant Enrollment**

Fiscal Year	# Applicants for Adult Diversion Funding	# Programs Awarded Funding	Adult Diversion Funding Requested	Adult Diversion Funds Awarded	# Participants Enrolled	% Change in Participant Enrollment (from Prior Year)
FY24	13	13	\$3,156,996.00	\$2,449,377.10	1,483	-25%
FY23	12	12	\$2,031,657.40	\$1,900,000.00	1,985	+33%
FY22	11	9	\$852,620.18	\$100,000.00	801	-37%
FY21	14	11	\$1,137,954.00	\$100,000.00	1,275	+ 1%
FY20	11	9	\$890,761.95	\$400,000.00	1,259	-17%
FY19	9	9	\$748,454.78	\$400,000.00	1,518	-5 %
FY18	9	9	\$694,653.16	\$400,000.00	1,592	+ 90%
FY17	6	6	\$570,324.02	\$400,000.00	837	+ 67%
FY16	5	5	\$277,923.46	\$277,923.46	502	+ 68%
FY15	4	4	\$240,060.00	\$240,060.00	299	N/A

Table 3 shows the number of applicant programs, the amount of funding requests and awards, and participant enrollment by fiscal year since program inception. There is a direct correlation between funding and the number of participants served.

The passage of HB24-1355 introduces a new pathway for individuals previously deemed incompetent to be diverted from the traditional criminal justice system. These participants will be assigned case managers through Bridges of Colorado and, in certain judicial districts, will receive oversight from local diversion programs. While state-funded diversion programs are not required to accept competency diversion clients, many are expecting to do so. For those that do, the increased number of participants and the heightened engagement needed to address significant and persistent mental health challenges will further strain resources. The \$269,000 allocated for competency diversion participants is expected to fall far short of supporting this influx.

Among the various funding needs, compensation for personnel to administer local diversion programs remains the most critical, as highlighted in Table 3 below. Personnel costs consistently rank as the highest expense category for operating these programs. District attorney offices typically oversee the programs, relying on dedicated staff such as program coordinators, deputy district attorneys, or other personnel who manage day-to-day operations, reporting, and billing. In some jurisdictions, these responsibilities are delegated to pretrial organizations.

Table 4 provides an overview of FY24 expenses by category and program, illustrating the reliance on ARPA funds for personnel expenses and the challenges posed by limited funding sources.

Table 3, Adult Diversion FY 24 Expenses by Category and Program								
JD	ARPA Funds				Adult Diversion		Correctional Treatment Funds	
	Expense Categories			Award	% of Award Expended	CTF Expenses	CTF Award	% of Award Expended
	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Combined					
2	\$68,938.52	\$51,387.60	\$120,326.12	\$494,100.00	24%	\$30,589.82	\$45,000.00	68%
5	\$59,607.98	\$5,665.05	\$65,273.03	\$67,980.65	96%	n/a	n/a	n/a
7	\$103,853.71	\$104,380.64	\$208,234.35	\$341,247.00	61%	\$3,260.00	\$45,000.00	7%
8	\$142,046.71	\$17,802.28	\$159,848.99	\$226,832.00	70%	n/a	n/a	n/a
9	\$52,886.64	\$5,494.38	\$58,381.02	\$107,977.85	46%	n/a	n/a	n/a
11	\$52,757.95	\$6,855.01	\$52,612.96	\$76,635.00	67%	n/a	n/a	n/a
12	\$71,812.41	\$43,532.43	\$115,344.84	\$205,163.00	51%	n/a	n/a	n/a
14	\$43,669.00	\$3,306.90	\$46,975.90	\$68,000.00	69%	\$425.18	\$25,000.00	2%
15	\$15,645.58	\$1,000.00	\$16,645.58	\$44,500.00	60%	n/a	n/a	n/a
16	\$83,011.00	\$7,631.77	\$90,642.77	\$92,012.00	100%	0	\$8,000.00	0%
20	\$195,930.18	\$12,500.00	\$208,430.18	\$227,512.00	79%	\$2,671.12	\$20,200.00	13%
21	\$100,065.25	\$10,006.52	\$110,071.77	\$230,324.60	48%	n/a	n/a	n/a
22	\$140,849.05	\$27,882.20	\$168,731.25	\$267,093.00	63%	\$25,800.00	\$25,800.00	100%
Total	\$1,131,073.98	\$297,444.78	\$1,421,518.76	\$2,449,377.10	58%	\$62,746.12	\$169,000.00	37%
%	79%	21%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

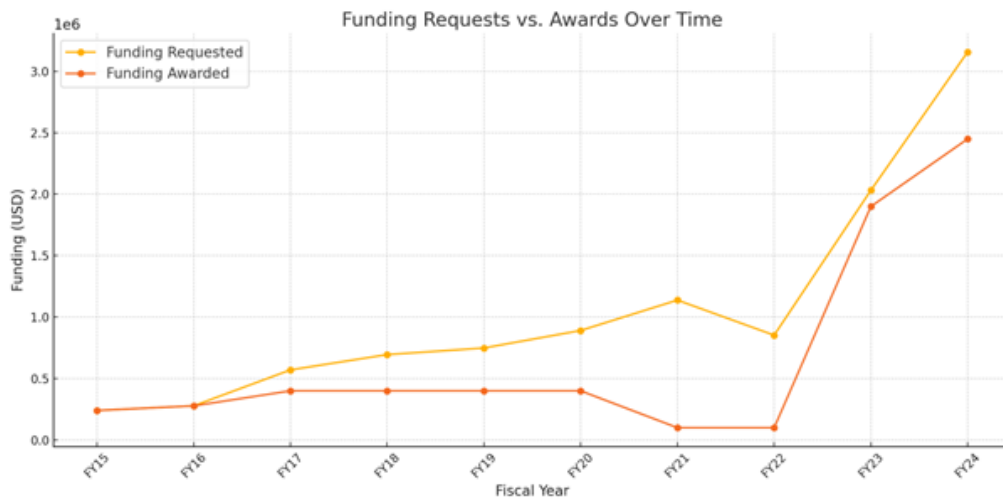
Correctional Treatment Funds are allocated pursuant to §18-19-103, C.R.S.

Historically, programs have emphasized the importance of adequate staff compensation, a principle that remains relevant today. However, many programs face challenges in hiring temporary staff or identifying qualified individuals willing to work on a contractual or temporary basis. This has led to staffing shortages, forcing some programs to turn away potential participants due to insufficient resources.

With ARPA funding set to expire in June 2025, programs have already begun reducing spending to extend their remaining resources. This has resulted in staffing cuts in some areas, particularly as programs brace for budget constraints in the upcoming fiscal year. Furthermore, Correctional Treatment Funds (CTF), which are restricted to treatment-related expenses, cannot be used to cover personnel costs. As a result, ARPA funds have become the sole source for supporting staff salaries.

The impending loss of ARPA funding underscores the urgent need for a sustainable funding source to maintain staffing levels. Without adequate financial support, programs—especially those in rural areas—may struggle to cover personnel costs, potentially leading to closures.

Figure 1 illustrates the growing disparity between funding requests and awards for the Adult Diversion Program from FY15 to FY24. While requests have steadily increased, especially in recent years, awarded funds have not kept pace, highlighting persistent funding constraints. The gap underscores the rising demand for diversion services and the challenges programs face in securing adequate resources.



In FY24, 4,556 individuals were screened for adult diversion across 13 funded programs. Of these, 1,483 were enrolled, and 1,124 successfully completed the program. Traditionally, success rates have been calculated based on the number of individuals enrolled and those who successfully exited the program. However, this method does not account for participants who carry over from previous fiscal years or whose contracts are extended.

Table 5 provides data on the Adult Diversion Program from FY17 to FY24, including screening, enrollment, completion, and non-completion metrics, as well as reasons for termination and engagement with treatment services.

Table 4: Diversion Eligibility, Enrollment, Services and Success								
	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
# People Screened for Adult Diversion	985	1,712	1,636	1,580	1,599	1,184	3,512	4,556
# People Enrolled in Adult Diversion	837	1,592	1,518	1,259	1,273	801	1,985	1,483
# People Who Successfully Completed Adult Diversion	509	826	1,176	1,080	1,029	653	931	1,124
# People under Diversion Agreements at Fiscal Year End	369	723	766	752	917	726	921	534
# People Who Did Not Successfully Complete Diversion	134	228	313	188	126	82	149	162
Reason for Termination from Diversion								
Did not Comply with Diversion Agreement	97	148	213	136	97	51	86	102
Committed New Offense during Diversion	24	47	70	30	29	19	30	45
Voluntarily Withdrew from Diversion	11	31	7	6	0	7	3	5
Absconded	0	24	21	16	0	2	8	10
Other Reason (e.g., death)	2	2	2	0	0	3	6	0
# Participants Referred for Treatment Assessment	178	380	381	410	420	272	473	496
# Participants Who Began Treatment after Assessment	172	301	280	318	322	222	373	417

The most common reason for termination from diversion was non-compliance with the diversion agreement, which resulted in 102 terminated participants. Despite this, the Adult Diversion program demonstrates its effectiveness in helping individuals avoid the negative consequences of criminal justice involvement.

Over the past several years, the Adult Diversion program has experienced significant growth. In FY24, the program screened 4,556 individuals, a substantial increase from previous years, and enrolled 1,483 participants. This expansion in the program's reach reflects a growing recognition of its positive impact and the program's ability to support individuals in avoiding the negative consequences of criminal justice involvement.

The program's success is evident in the 1,124 participants who successfully completed diversion in FY24, with a relatively low non-completion rate of about 12.6% among those enrolled. This reflects the program's capacity to guide participants to successful outcomes while scaling to meet rising demand.

Reasons for non-completion, such as non-compliance (102 participants), committing a new offense (45 participants), and voluntary withdrawal (11 participants), highlight areas where the program can continue to improve. These challenges, however, are part of the natural process of refining a diversion program, and efforts are already being made to further support participants in meeting the program's requirements and to address underlying factors such as behavioral health issues.

In FY24, the program made notable strides in addressing these needs, with 496 participants referred for treatment assessments and 417 beginning treatment. This shows the program's key role in connecting individuals with the necessary services to address behavioral health challenges, which is critical to reducing recidivism and promoting long-term success.

The Adult Diversion program's increasing enrollment, success rates, and engagement with treatment services are clear indicators of its positive impact on individuals and communities. As the program continues to expand and refine its processes, it will be well-positioned to help even more individuals successfully navigate diversion, leading to healthier outcomes and a reduced burden on the criminal justice system.

Recidivism

In FY23, recidivism was measured by tracking participants who exited the Diversion program and subsequently had a felony or misdemeanor conviction within one year of exit. In FY24, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of Diversion programs, the definition of recidivism was expanded to include felony or misdemeanor charges within three years of the participant's initial charge, rather than from the date of exit.

As a result of this expanded definition, the recidivism rate for FY24 increased to 13%. While this represents a notable change, it remains relatively low given the volume of participants served by Diversion programs.

It is important to acknowledge that recidivism is influenced by several factors, including the types of offenses Diversion programs are designed to address. Some programs accept participants with felony charges, while others focus exclusively on lower-risk individuals, often excluding felonies. Participants with felony charges typically present higher needs, which can affect their success in the program. In contrast, the low-risk, low-need population often includes first-time offenders or individuals with minor offenses, such as traffic violations, who tend to participate in Diversion for shorter durations.

Overall, while the recidivism rate has slightly increased under the expanded definition, the impact of Diversion programs in reducing reoffending remains significant, particularly when considering the complexity of factors influencing these outcomes.

Demographic Information

A primary objective for fiscal year 2024 was the collection of more comprehensive data through the development of a participant database. This database aims to enhance inclusivity and depth in data collection while ensuring data integrity. We expanded the scope of gender identities collected to reflect a broader diversity in this area. Additionally, we are now gathering more detailed information on behavioral health screening, participation, and success rates that were not previously captured.

The collection of demographic information serves several important purposes. First, it helps identify trends related to program success or termination across demographic categories, allowing us to pinpoint areas that may require program improvements or further attention. Second, it enables us to assess whether specific demographic groups have equal opportunities to engage in alternatives to prosecution in proportion to their involvement in the criminal legal system.

Table 6 illustrates the distribution of program participants across age groups, along with their success and termination rates. The 18-25 age group is the most represented, reflecting two key factors:

- Many diversion programs target younger individuals who are encountering the criminal justice system for the first time.
- Individuals in the 18-25 age range are statistically more likely to encounter the criminal justice system compared to other age groups.

The Funding Committee closely monitors program data and the accessibility of diversion programs for historically marginalized groups, particularly regarding legal system and underrepresentation in prosecution alternatives. Historical and systemic factors influence arrest and charge rates, but data on entry into and completion of adult diversion programs is invaluable in ensuring equitable access, cultural responsiveness, and identifying areas for improvement.

Age Group	Percentage of Participants	Successful Completion Rate	Unsuccessful Termination Rate
18-25	41%	93%	7%
26-35	25%	89%	11%
36-45	14%	94%	6%
46-55	7%	93%	7%
55+	11%	95%	5%
Age Not Collected	2%	68%	32%

Notable FY24 Program Outcomes by Racial Group:

- **White participants** comprised the largest group (77%) with a high success rate of 92% and an 8% termination rate.
- **American Indian/Alaskan Native participants**, representing 10% of the total, showed a successful exit rate of 90% and a 10% unsuccessful exit rate. This reflects an increasing recognition of the need to divert this group from traditional criminal justice paths.
- **Black/African American participants**, who made up 4% of participants, had the lowest success rate at 88% and the highest termination rate at 12%, indicating potential challenges in achieving comparable outcomes and suggesting the need for targeted support.
- **Asian/Pacific Islander participants** had the highest successful exit rate at 95%, with only a 5% termination rate, though they comprised just 1% of participants.
- **Multi-Racial and Other/Unknown groups** showed strong successful exit rates, at 91% and 96%, respectively, though they represented smaller portions of the population (3% and 6%).

This data highlights both positive outcomes and disparities among racial groups within the program. The relatively high successful exit rates across groups suggest effective program impact, yet the variation in outcomes underscores the need for culturally informed, client-led practices to enhance equity and support for all participants.

Table 7 illustrates successful program exits by type, categorized by race, in comparison to the total number of participants within each racial group. Unsuccessful exits may result from new misdemeanor or felony charges or noncompliance with diversion agreements. Currently, there is no standardized approach to collecting data on race and ethnicity, whether by self-reporting or officer descriptions. Given the disproportionate arrest and charging of non-white individuals, capturing this data is crucial for prioritizing their needs in service delivery. Remaining vigilant about disproportionality within the judicial system is crucial.

Table 7: FY24 Diversion Program Exits by Type and Race			
Race	Percentage of Total Program Exits	Successful Completion Rate	Unsuccessful Termination Rate
White	77%	92%	8%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10%	90%	10%
Black/African	4%	88%	12%
Asian/Pacific	1%	95%	5%
Multi-Racial	3%	91%	9%
Other/Unknown	6%	96%	4%

Table 8 shows the program exit rates for diversion program participants by type of exit and ethnicity in FY23. Most groups had high successful exit rates, with Asian, Arab/Middle Eastern, and Other/Unknown participants achieving 100% successful exit rates. Caucasian/White and Hispanic/Latino participants had 92% successful exit rates, while African American/Black and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander groups experienced slightly unsuccessful exit rates. These variations highlight the need for targeted interventions to ensure equitable outcomes across all ethnicities.

Table 8: FY24 Diversion Program Exits by Type and Ethnicity			
Ethnicity	Percentage of Program Exits	Successful Completion Rate	Unsuccessful Exit Rate
African American	3%	87%	13%
Asian	1%	100%	0%
Caucasian/White	59%	92%	8%
Hispanic/Latino	21%	92%	8%
Native American	9%	89%	11%
Native Hawaiian	0.4%	83%	17%
Arab/Middle Eastern	0.1%	100%	0%
Multi-Racial	2%	92%	8%
Other/Unknown	4.5%	100%	0%

Table 9 presents the number of participants categorized by gender, along with their successful and unsuccessful exit rates. Efforts have been made to ensure our reporting on gender identities is more inclusive, capturing a broader spectrum of identities.

Table 9: FY24 Participants Exited from / Successfully Completing Diversion by Gender			
Gender	Percentage	Successful Exit Rate	Unsuccessful Exit Rate
Female	36%	92%	8%
Male	63%	92%	8%
Non-binary, Two-Spirited, and Other (combined)	1%	100%	0%

- **Female participants** (36%) and **male participants** (63%) both had a 92% successful exit rate and 8% unsuccessful exit rate.
- **Non-binary, Two-Spirited, and other gender participants** (less than 1% of participants) had a 100% successful exit rate and unsuccessful exit rates.

This data illustrates positive outcomes and highlights disparities among racial and gender groups within the program. While there are relatively high successful exit rates across groups, we must continue to support culturally informed, client-led practices to enhance equity and support for all participants.

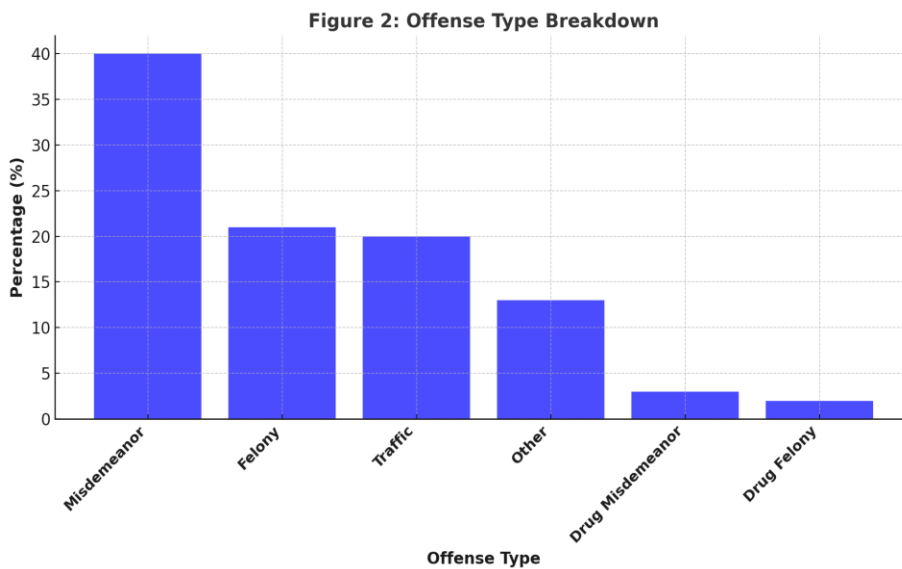
Offense Data

Diversion programs accept participants with a wide range of offenses, from petty crimes to felonies and drug felonies. Most programs divert at least some felonies, but the specific offenses vary across judicial districts based on local priorities and policies. Due to limited funding, the Funding Committee has established priorities to guide funding application review:

- **Focus on criminal offenses:** Funding should not be used to divert civil infractions.
- **Prioritize victim restitution:** Diverting crimes where victims have been harmed or are owed restitution is a higher priority than diverting victimless crimes.
- **Emphasize rehabilitation and reintegration:** Diverting cases that involve rehabilitation and reintegration services is a higher priority than those that do not.
- **Consider collateral consequences:** Offenses with more severe collateral consequences are considered a higher priority for diversion funding.

Offense Type Distribution

Figure 2 displays the percentages of cases accepted for Diversion agreements based on offense type. The chart illustrates the wide range of charges accepted, which is largely influenced by local factors, available resources, and the willingness of individual District Attorney offices to take on higher-level charges. It is important to note that drug-related misdemeanors and felonies are not always clearly differentiated in the reporting.



Offense Type Breakdown:

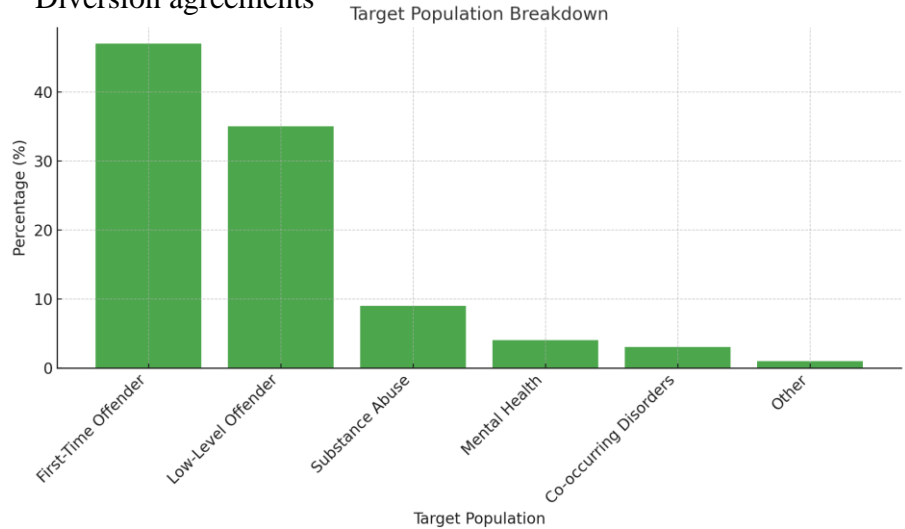
- Misdemeanor: 40%
- Felony: 21%
- Traffic: 20%
- Other: 13%
- Drug Misdemeanor: 3%
- Drug Felony: 2%
- Other (Not Specified): 0%

Target Population Distribution

Typically, Diversion serves low-risk, low-need populations, reflected in the high percentages of first-time and

low-level offenders. The term "target population" refers to the primary characteristics or needs of individuals that programs aim to address through Diversion agreements, such as being a first-time offender or having substance use or mental health challenges. Programs were instructed to select only one target population for each participant during data collection, based on the most significant or pressing need identified at intake. This information is sourced from program applications and participant intake records submitted by judicial districts. However, if participants were allowed to select multiple target populations, the reported percentages might exceed 100%. This potential variability should be noted when interpreting the data.

Figure 3 outlines the target populations for individuals entering Diversion agreements



Target Population Breakdown:

- First-Time Offender: 47%
- Low-Level Offender: 35%
- Substance Abuse: 9%
- Mental Health: 4%
- Co-occurring Disorders: 3%
- Other: 1%

Judicial District	Amount Collected
2	\$121,826.30
5	\$56,328.69
7	\$2,433.39
8	\$5,795.18
9	\$25,756.64
11	\$0.00
12	\$1,670.15
14	\$0.00
15	\$580.00
16	\$14,800.55
20	\$34,961.30
21	\$2,636.22
22	\$6,292.20
Total	\$273,080.62

Community Impact: Restitution

The Adult Diversion program incentivizes participants to provide restitution to victims by allowing them the chance to avoid or reduce criminal convictions and dismiss charges. This strategy has proven effective, as demonstrated by a consistent increase in restitution collected each year. In FY24, the program achieved its highest collection to date, totaling \$273,080.62. This is an 88% increase compared to the restitution amount collected in FY22 (\$145,119.16). This process not only offers financial compensation to victims but also underscores the commitment of diversion participants to taking responsibility for their actions.

Program Forecast and Goals for FY25

For FY25, the Colorado Adult Diversion Program will focus on advocating for sustainable funding and preparing judicial districts for potential financial constraints. With ARPA funds set to expire, the program faces a significant funding gap that could disrupt services statewide. Efforts will center on securing a dedicated allocation from the Colorado General Fund, emphasizing the program’s role as a cost-effective alternative to incarceration that reduces recidivism, supports making victims whole via restitution and provides meaningful outcomes for participants and communities.

To support judicial districts, contingency planning will be prioritized to help manage potential reductions in resources. This includes exploring regional partnerships, shared staffing models, and pursuing local funding options to mitigate the impact of state funding shortfalls, especially in districts reliant on state support.

A strong communication strategy will outline the approaching fiscal cliff, emphasizing the consequences of insufficient funding, such as potential increases in incarceration rates and court costs. Fiscal impact reports will highlight the long-term savings associated with diversion programs, providing lawmakers with clear data on the need for sustained funding.

A coalition of support from district attorneys, public defenders, behavioral health agencies, and community advocacy groups will work together to strengthen statewide backing for Adult Diversion, aligning it with Colorado's broader goals of reducing incarceration and advancing restorative justice.

Finally, enhanced data reporting will showcase the program's effectiveness, including recidivism reduction, restitution to victims, and high program completion rates. This data will help demonstrate the critical role of Adult Diversion in achieving public safety and cost savings, solidifying its position as a fundamental part of Colorado's criminal justice landscape.

In Closing

The Colorado Adult Diversion Program is at a critical juncture. As ARPA funding ends, the program faces a fiscal cliff that threatens its ability to continue providing essential services statewide. Without renewed General Fund support, judicial districts will struggle to sustain the diversion services that have successfully reduced recidivism, enhanced public safety, and provided cost-effective alternatives to incarceration.

Securing sustainable funding is crucial to preserving the program's positive impact. Through continued collaboration with key stakeholders—including district attorneys, behavioral health providers, judicial officers, and community advocates—we will advocate for ongoing investment in this vital program. With strong data to support its value, we aim to ensure Adult Diversion remains a cornerstone of Colorado's criminal justice reform.

By prioritizing long-term funding for Adult Diversion, we can ensure it continues to be a crucial tool for public safety, rehabilitation, and reducing reliance on incarceration. This investment will not only strengthen the justice system but also contribute to safer, healthier communities across Colorado.

*If you need assistance with an accessible format of this report, please reach out to adultdiversion@judicial.state.co.us.