



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

# Proclamation

## A PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING MARCH 2026 AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, seven to eight million individuals in the United States have an intellectual or developmental disability, while 75 percent are supported by family members, 25 percent receive services through publicly funded programs, a group that is rapidly growing due to such factors as longevity and greater availability of non-institutionalized supports and services; and

**WHEREAS**, people with developmental disabilities come from all racial, ethnic, educational, social, religious, and economic backgrounds and all are valued members of society who find fulfillment living everyday lives; and

**WHEREAS**, family members, friends and the community can play a central role in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities especially when the family and community are provided with necessary support services and public and private employers are aware of the capabilities of people with disabilities to be engaged in competitive work in inclusive settings; and

**WHEREAS**, Arapahoe County dedicated \$16.1 million in 2025 to programs and services for more than 8,100 individuals in areas such as care coordination, early intervention, respite, adaptive supports, professional services, community integration, recreation and more independence, while the workforce center provides meaningful employment connections; and

**WHEREAS**, Arapahoe County thanks our community organizations, human services providers, families, caregivers, teachers, businesses, and advocates who continue to emphasize the moral imperative of engaging people with disabilities, and recognizes the continuing need to educate all that the movement towards full inclusion in community life for people with disabilities is a positive and worthy goal.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims March 2026 as **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** and encourage all residents to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still face in connecting to the communities in which they live.

Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully

Commissioner Jessica Campbell

Commissioner Leslie Summey  
Chair of the Board

Commissioner Jeff Baker  
Chair Pro Tem

Commissioner Rhonda Fields