Bridging the Gap provides housing and other wraparound supports for young adults as they transition out of the child welfare system and beyond.

Mile High United Way’s Bridging the Gap program offers a wraparound support approach to help young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 as they take the next step in their personal journey. We prioritize housing assistance and other basic needs as the groundwork for lifelong success. Participants receive access to rent assistance vouchers, wellness and life skills coaching, and support for pursuing education and professional development programs.

**IMPACT AT A GLANCE**

- 139 participants in safe and stable housing
- 22 new Bridging the Gap program participants
- 92% of participants received workforce related services
- 11 participants completed education programs

*2021–2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT*
OPENING THE DOOR TO SUCCESS

Our Bridging the Gap program perfectly demonstrates the wraparound support approach Mile High United Way offers to families. We ensure that all needs of the participant and their family are met, beginning with stable housing. Once we are able to help a participant walk through that first door into a place they can call home, we can then provide them with personalized support and goal planning toward greater independence.

One participant, Jill, joined Bridging the Gap at 19 years old with two young children. Mile High United Way helped her find a place to live with financial support from a rent assistance voucher. Our team then made sure Jill was provided first home necessities, supplies to care for her children, and other resources to thrive in her new home.

SUPPORTING LONG-TERM GOALS

Housing is just a first step for participants in our Bridging the Gap program. When a participant has settled into their new home, our team of specialized coaches shift to focus on life skills and wellness, working closely with each participant to set long-term goals and create plans to achieve them. We also connect participants with resources across other Mile High United Way programs and our vast network of partners, from traditional therapy to workforce development coaching to basic needs referrals from our 211 Help Center database.

Among many great accomplishments this year, we saw 11 Bridging the Gap participants complete education programs and 33 enroll in new programs. Another participant became a US citizen and will exit the program with $28,000 in savings.

“In May, 9News anchor Kyle Clark selected Bridging the Gap for the weekly Word of Thanks micro-giving campaign series. The effort raised nearly $40,000 for Bridging the Gap – roughly equal to funding for a full year of support provided to four program participants.

Thank you to Next with Kyle Clark viewers for supporting Bridging the Gap!”

“Teenagers leaving foster care may wonder if the world, if Colorado, cares about them and their future. Bridging the Gap proves that we do care.”

–KYLE CLARK, ANCHOR, 9NEWS
Every Coloradan deserves affordable housing.

Mile High United Way also leveraged MacKenzie Scott’s gift into the acquisition of a long-term housing facility in Denver in 2022.

The 24-unit apartment building – centrally located with access to public transportation, higher education opportunities, and employers – offers safe and affordable housing to the members of our community who need it most. This includes participants in Mile High United Way’s Bridging the Gap program, several of whom were the first to move in.

Bridging the Gap program staff also operate an office in the building. Being on-site, our team can provide direct support and connect residents with essential resources based on their unique day-to-day needs.

Our ability to provide this affordable housing opportunity is made possible through the ongoing generosity of donors like you.

“Moving in means a lot; it’s a blessing and offers me a chance at a new beginning.”

– LELAND, RESIDENT & FORMER BRIDGING THE GAP PARTICIPANT