

# ARPA Grant

In December 2023, the Medina County Board of DD applied for and received approval for ARPA funding in four different areas. This funding was made available for initiatives to foster inclusiveness, accessibility, and independence to enable greater community access for people with developmental differences.

## \$129,581.60

ARPA Grant Funding Used



### Supported Connections \$49,500

Traditional transportation options for people who use wheelchairs, or need transportation to job sites outside of typical 9-5 business hours, can be challenging.

Through the ARPA grant, the MCBDD offered an accessible and off-hours employment transportation incentive to increase transportation access and options for people with developmental differences during weekends or evenings or who may use wheelchairs. **Through this program almost 3,390 trips to employment and community sites took place.**

*Due to the success of transportation incentive program, the MCBDD will continue to support it through local funding in 2025.*

### Community Experiences \$11,222

One of the barriers people with developmental differences face is the availability of inclusive opportunities and the financial ability of support staff to be able to accompany them.

Through the ARPA grant, the MCBDD was able to address this in several ways. The MCBDD offered community experience incentives to agency and independent providers to increase participation in community activities. **About 100 individuals and their providers attending about 65 community experiences such as theaters, museums, restaurants, recreation, and more.**

The MCBDD partnered with a local yoga instructor and the Brunswick Rec Center to provide **funding for inclusive yoga classes for up to eight youth.**

The MCBDD teamed with the Summit Board of DD and We Thrive Together, to host an **Interactive Tech Expo** where **nearly 700 attendees** could see, touch, and explore assistive technology options used to create independence and inclusion.

### Universal Changing Tables \$58,759

Access to universal changing tables in public places is important to help people with developmental differences be fully involved in community life.

Through the ARPA grant, the MCBDD was able to address this in two ways. First, **the MCBDD worked with county officials to purchase two universal changing tables** to be installed as part of the renovations in the Medina City Courthouse and the County Administration Building.

Second, was to sign a contract with Momentum Refresh, a fully accessible mobile restroom with universal changing tables. **The mobile unit was used at eight community events and hosted 163 visitors and 260 users.**

*Due to the overwhelming success of the Mobile Changing Unit, the MCBDD is committed to continuing to offer the unit through local funding in 2025.*

### Accessible Communities \$10,100

The need to invest in creating physically accessible public places for people with developmental differences, so they are able to find and maintain consistent employment, became evident at the beginning of 2024.

With the ARPA funding, the MCBDD worked with Marigold Wellness, a local business which employs a person with a developmental difference, to fund upgrades to the entrance of their historic building. **Upgrades included installing automatic door openers and leveling entrance surfaces to allow for greater accessibility for people with mobility limitations.**

