

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Jefferson County  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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## 2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Emelda Walker, Vice Chair

Charles Jones, Secretary

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Jill Fellman

Nikki Jain-Brown



## A MESSAGE FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear JCPL Stakeholders,

As I reflect on this past year, I am inspired by the strides Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) has taken towards becoming a vibrant institution for today and tomorrow. In addition to promoting literacy through books and resources, our libraries are dynamic spaces that adapt to meet the needs of the communities we serve and welcoming hubs for learning, connection and discovery.

The work highlighted in this Annual Report represents the culmination of our previous strategic plan, which concluded in December 2025. In 2026, we begin a new chapter with a refreshed strategic direction shaped by an updated mission, vision and values.

In 2025, we made significant progress in expanding our physical and virtual presence so that more people can access library services. Whether through enhancements to our existing buildings, new location acquisitions, outreach initiatives in neighborhoods or digital services that bridge distances, we worked together with our community in order for the Library's value to reach deeper and broader than ever before. We are committed to sustainable growth that honors both our financial responsibilities and our mission to serve all members of Jeffco equitably.

Our efforts reflect a clear vision: to be the essential destination where all generations connect, discover and create. We achieved this in 2025 by focusing on strengthening our programs, forging meaningful partnerships and innovating our services to better meet evolving needs.

Most importantly, none of this would be possible without the support of our staff, volunteers, partners and patrons. To everyone who has walked through our doors, participated in our programs, advocated for our work or simply spent time in our spaces, we say thank you.

Together, we will continue to build on this momentum, reaching more people, enriching more lives and shaping a future where the library remains indispensable to our community.

With gratitude,



**Donna Walker**  
Executive Director,  
Jefferson County Public Library





## MISSION

Jefferson County Public Library helps to build an educated and vibrant community by providing equal access to information and opportunities.

## VISION

Jefferson County Public Library will be the essential destination where all generations connect, discover and create.

# VALUES

We serve with care; everyone is welcome here. We meet you where you are, give you our full attention and strive to exceed your expectations.

Our Core Values are Innovation, Accountability and Excellence.

## INNOVATION

We collaborate, evaluate and continually improve. We are creative and flexible. We take risks, embrace change and look for opportunities to say yes.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed and honest. We participate and communicate. We take personal responsibility, provide follow-through and build trust.

## EXCELLENCE

We are positive and productive. We perform with purpose to transform lives. We focus on quality, consistently aim high and deliver outstanding results.



# CREATING LIBRARIES FOR THE FUTURE

Through our Service Point Development & Expansion initiative, we're expanding, redesigning and building new library spaces to provide every Jefferson County resident with convenient access to library resources and support.



## CONIFER LIBRARY'S NEW CHAPTER

To better meet the demand for library services and offer regular daytime hours, Conifer Library moved out of Conifer High School and into a newly renovated space in September. The new location features meeting rooms, dedicated children and teen spaces, a cozy reading alcove and accessible parking. In the first four months since opening, the new Conifer Library saw a 121 percent increase in checkouts and 454 new library cardholder signups! The Conifer community has shared overwhelmingly positive feedback and excitement about the new space. Explore photos documenting the work on the [Conifer Library project page](#).



***“This place looks AMAZING!  
And we’re happy to have a library  
open during the day!”***

*– Conifer Library patron*

Learn more  
about our current  
building projects.



## REDESIGNING ARVADA LIBRARY

Arvada Library in Olde Town Arvada has seen an increase in patrons, program attendance and service requirements since it opened nearly 20 years ago. Now, we're redesigning the library to align with service and community needs and enhance overall security. In October, the Board of Trustees approved project pricing and finalized construction documents. We began applying for construction permits at the end of the year.

To continue providing library access to the Arvada community during construction, we identified an alternative services space in the former home of Arvada K-8 School. This location, now known as Arvada Balsam Temporary Library, will offer a limited version of the services provided at Arvada Library. Find renderings and construction updates on the [Arvada Redesign project page](#).



## THE SOUTH COUNTY SCOOP

Our future Littleton library home, officially named Deer Creek Library, achieved milestones as we continued working to expand library access in the community. From January through March, we invited residents to share their vision for the new location. Through open houses, community events and surveys, more than 2,400 participants contributed feedback to help shape library design and programming.

During outreach, one message was clear: the Deer Creek Library community wanted services right away! In response, we launched interim services in May, providing access to library resources ahead of construction. The site now serves as the South County Bookmobile stop and offers on-site programming tailored to the local community. Visit the [Deer Creek Library project page](#) for updates as the story unfolds.





## AROUND-THE-CLOCK CONVENIENCE

Since opening in January 2025, the Golden Library Holds Locker has made it easier than ever for patrons to pick up materials anytime. With up to 200 items checked out each month and more than 1,300 visits in its first year, the locker quickly became a community staple. And, with holds lockers now available at 12 locations, we're proud to offer 24/7 access to library materials across the county!

## REACHING NORTHWEST

Development of the future Northwest Jeffco Library continued throughout the year. Outlining the vision for the new location, the Program of Service was finalized in January, and the project entered the design phase. Using staff and community input, our architect created a concept design, and in July, we selected Swinerton as the general contractor to help bring it to life.

JCPL is bringing programs and services to the community while waiting for the new building. In partnership with Leyden Rock and Freedom Street Social, we've offered 37 programs to 746 attendees, including Story Times, book clubs, Summer Challenge events and creative technology classes. We also connected with 2,006 people at nine community events. Follow along with this journey by visiting the [Northwest Jeffco Library project page](#).



## STORIES WITH A VIEW

Thanks to the generosity of the James J. and Joan A. Gardner Family Foundation, Evergreen Library opened its new Outdoor Reading Deck in September, featuring comfy seating and tables beneath a shaded pergola. The new space is now a favorite lounge area for patrons, offering stunning views of the Library's backyard with the occasional glimpse of our local fox family!

## FOCUS ON BUILDING LITERACIES

Our Lifelong Learning & Literacy initiative is aimed at providing resources, technologies and programs that build literacy for Jefferson County residents of all ages, enabling our community to thrive at every stage of life.



*“Every single one of the activities and volunteers was a joy for my kiddos! Thank you so much!!”*

*– Raise A Reader participant*

## ALL ABOARD FOR EARLY LITERACY

In September, we chugged our caboose to the Colorado Railroad Museum for our fifth annual Raise A Reader Festival, packed with train rides, Story Times, dance parties and more. We spent the day with more than 1,600 attendees, sharing fun ways for kids to get ready to read and resources that help families build early literacy skills.

*“One of our favorite yearly events - spreads the joy of learning and reading and gives us a fun family memory!”*

*– Raise A Reader participant*



## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE: COLOR OUR WORLD

This summer, we dove into a vibrant world of discovery as more than 24,000 patrons joined our annual Summer Reading Challenge. We received 58 Teen Writing Contest submissions from budding authors across the county, and our partnership with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts introduced Shakespeare in the Parking Lot, which drew more than 500 attendees. Participation helped brighten our community with donations to five Jeffco schools and three local organizations!





## POWERON JEFFCO: JPS AWARD

In June, the Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education recognized PowerOn Jeffco for expanding digital literacy across the community. Launched in 2024, this JCPL partnership offers free computer training in English and Spanish, helping residents build confidence with technology. Qualifying graduates receive a free Chromebook and internet access to continue learning at home. Account creation for library digital resources rose from six to 70 percent for Spanish-speaking participants and from 28 to 71 percent for English-speaking participants after training.

## CLICK. LEARN. THRIVE.

At JCPL, we believe in lifelong learning. This year, we offered 179 **technology classes** for adults looking to build their digital literacy skills. More than 600 patrons joined us to explore everything from computer basics and cybersecurity to Microsoft programs and job searching. Our most popular tech class? Buying and selling online — proof that learning really can pay off!



*“I love these classes. I always take away something new! I’m so happy the library offers so many fantastic resources for adults!”*

*— JCPL patron*

## EMPOWERING TEENS TO CREATE CHANGE

We invited 25 high school students to participate in an eight-week Youth Development Program (YDP) to practice communication, teamwork, presentation competency and boundary setting. Participants worked in groups to apply these skills towards project proposals addressing issues faced by youth in the community. The final projects were presented to JCPL leadership and community members to showcase their new skills.

*“I really liked getting to present our projects at the end and getting to see all our hard work put to a good cause.”*

*– Teen YDP participant*

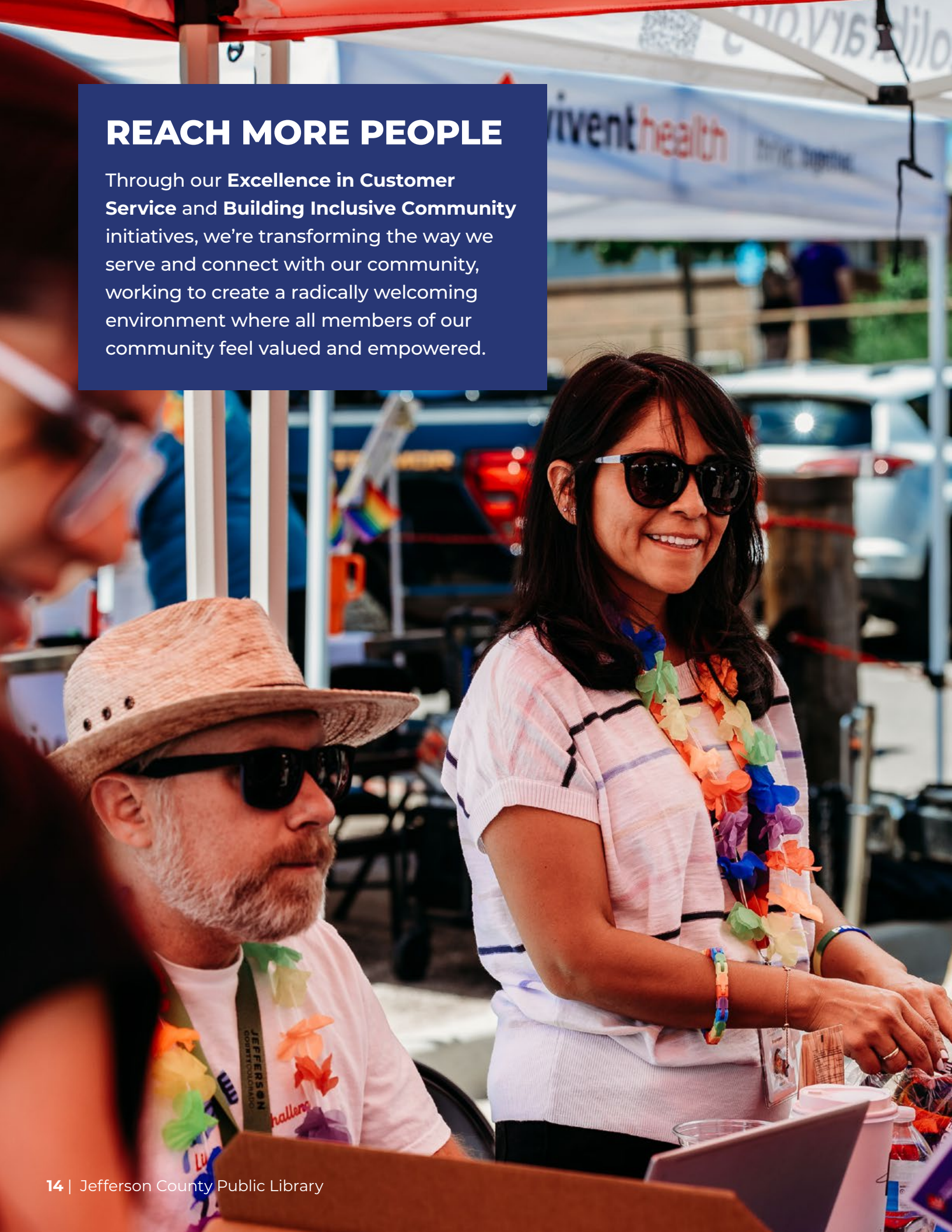
*“I learned how to work with new types of people and got to work with amazing professionals from the community.”*

*– Teen YDP participant*



## REACH MORE PEOPLE

Through our **Excellence in Customer Service** and **Building Inclusive Community** initiatives, we're transforming the way we serve and connect with our community, working to create a radically welcoming environment where all members of our community feel valued and empowered.



## ELIMINATING ACCESS BARRIERS FOR KIDS

This summer, JCPL eliminated replacement fees for lost or damaged children's materials, removing a key barrier that often discouraged families from borrowing. By lifting the worry of accidental damage, families can check out books more freely, increasing circulation and giving more kids consistent access to reading materials. This change directly supports early literacy by making it easier for children to explore, learn and build lifelong reading habits.



## LIBRARIANS AT YOUR SERVICE

This year, more than 2,000 patrons scheduled one-on-one appointments through our **Book a Librarian service**. Each appointment offers up to one hour with a librarian for personalized help with research, business support, tech assistance, job searches and more. Appointments are available in English and Spanish, with flexible options including phone or email assistance.





## SPRING AUTHOR EVENT

Our 2025 Signature Author Event, featuring acclaimed author C.J. Box, developed new community partnerships to create a dynamic experience for all participants. This included a new host in Mile Hi Church, a new bookstore vendor with Boulder Book Store, an emcee in the notable local author Carter Wilson, a live falcon show by Nature's Educators and a memorable keepsake for the participating authors.

*“Lovely evening with lovely music...feeling seen and appreciated. Keep up the great programming!”*

*– Pride in Place attendee*

## CELEBRATING WITH PRIDE

We're proud to let our Pride flag fly each June with inclusive programming for all ages that honors identity, encourages self-expression and cultivates a welcoming sense of community. This year's festivities featured Pride in Place, a country music concert at the Arvada Center showcasing the talents of local LGBTQIA+ artists. During Pride Month and throughout the year, we believe every voice and every story deserves to be celebrated!





## BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LIBRARY

In September, we launched the **JCPL Outreach Request form** to streamline how patrons and staff request outreach services. The form supports a wide range of offerings, including school visits, Story Times, Bookmobile stops and more, making it easier to bring library services to community events.

## TEEN POWER IN ACTION

Many teens are required to complete volunteer hours for school or clubs, but few organizations offer opportunities for youth under 16, and traditional onboarding processes can be a barrier. To address this need, we launched drop-in, no-registration teen volunteer days to provide an easy entry point. As a result, 233 teens contributed 688 service hours through the program!



Download the MYJCPL app and access JCPL resources anywhere, anytime.

Scan here to learn more and download the app.



# GROW SUSTAINABLY

Through our **Embracing Innovation & Change** and **Continuous Process Improvement** initiatives, we focus on responsible resource management, operation optimization and maximizing value to deliver sustainable services for our community today and for generations to come.



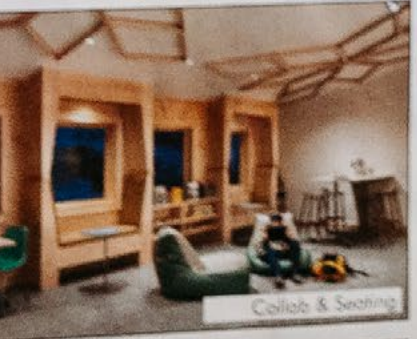
TEE



Closed Teen Space



Gaming



Collab & Seating



Study & Seating



library?

## CHILDREN'S

What would you like to see in the child



## CLEANER, GREENER COMMUTES

This year, we expanded our commitment to sustainability by adding new electric-vehicle charging stations at Columbine, Lakewood and Standley Lake Libraries. These stations support greener transportation choices, allowing patrons and staff to charge their vehicles from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.



## A FUTURE SHAPED BY EVERY VOICE

To guide how the Library serves our community in the years ahead, we developed JCPL's **2026-2029 Strategic Plan**. Informed by feedback from thousands of patrons, community partners, key stakeholders and staff, the plan outlines five core themes focused on expanding access, creating welcoming spaces and supporting our people. As we enter the next phase of our work, we aim to refresh our vision, mission and goals to better support all Jeffco residents.



## OUR PEOPLE ARE OUR POWER

This year, more than 300 employees gathered at our All Staff Conference to connect and learn, while supervisors and managers strengthened their leadership skills through our year-long Leadership Academy. Across the organization, more than 140 training events, 841 courses and 3,200 hours of learning equipped staff with new skills to help them grow.





## TURNING THE PAGE IN DIGITAL LENDING

To better serve patrons, address the growing popularity of e-books and audiobooks and implement feedback from extensive outreach, JCPL's e-book and audiobook collection was transitioned from Boundless to Libby in October. In November, we had record circulation on Libby — more than 218,000 items — reflecting strong patron engagement with the platform.

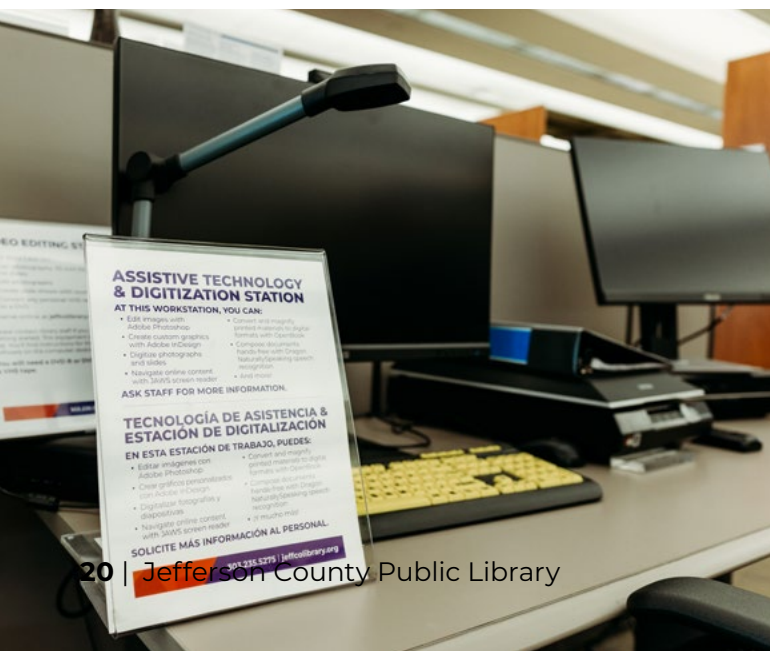
## RESPONSIBLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN ACTION

JCPL advanced its AI strategy by completing an organization-wide Current State Assessment, engaging staff at all levels to evaluate AI readiness and identify priorities. Key milestones include hiring an AI consultant, establishing a governance foundation and publishing Interim AI Guidelines. This proactive approach reinforces responsible adoption, strengthens privacy protections, supports staff training and enhances service delivery and operational efficiency.



## ADVANCING ACCESSIBILITY

We're committed to making JCPL resources welcoming and accessible. This year, we reviewed our branding to improve accessibility, created organization-wide digital accessibility guidelines with easy-to-use quick guides and launched a system to track IT applications for compliance. These efforts help support our vision of being an essential destination for everyone.



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

This year, 6,981 patrons explored destinations across Colorado through our **Culture Pass** program. In January, reservations reopened with an improved user experience under the new Springshare LibCal booking system. With the addition of Clear Creek Makerspace and Bear Creek Lake Park, the program now provides free access to 18 exciting locations. Fluttering in as the most popular was the Butterfly Pavilion, with 1,908 bookings.



## PROM SWAP GETS A MAKEOVER

Since 2015, our annual Prom Swap events have helped local teens access donated dresses, suits and accessories in exchange for gently used formal wear or canned goods. This year, to remove transportation barriers, we brought Prom Swap directly to five Jeffco schools. More than 400 teens participated in the school-based events, making prom dreams a reality.





## BE THE THIRD PLACE

Whether you're seeking inspiration, connection or a place to unwind, we strive to make every visit an experience that truly matters.

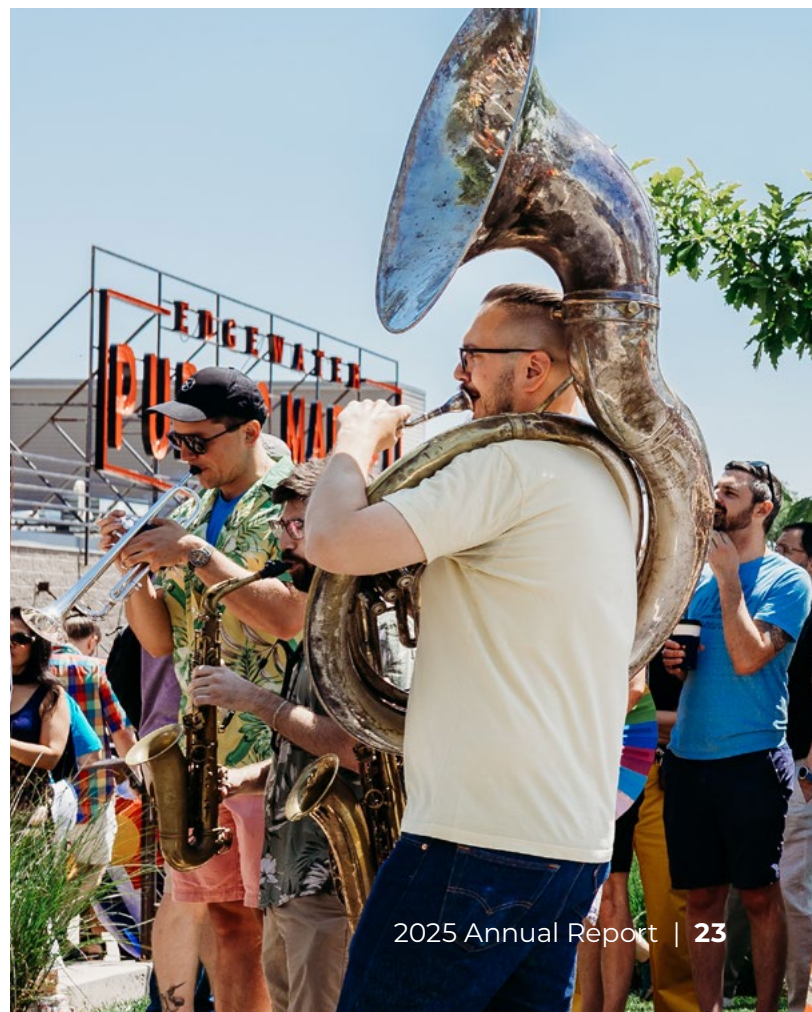
## BIGGER SUMMER FUN

In response to growing demand, JCPL expanded free youth programming by offering 29 summer camps, including teen, tween and bilingual options across nine locations. Themes ranged from culinary and cosplay to STEAM and drone technology, with 1,423 youth participating in camps. The launch of the first Autism Creates Camp marked a major milestone in inclusive programming, with plans to expand next year to strengthen equitable access and community impact.



## JEFFCO LOVE

JCPL continued to partner with our community on events and activities! Examples include Edgewater Library and the City of Edgewater hosting a kids' Halloween parade with crafts and activities, along with treats and toys; inviting 20 veteran artists to display work across eight JCPL locations in partnership with VFW; and celebrating Noon Year's Eve with 1,009 attendees welcoming 2026 with crafts, dancing and a balloon drop! These partnerships continued to build library awareness and contributed to a strong sense of community.





## **CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**

JCPL celebrated diversity all year long. Programming honoring Black History, Hispanic Heritage and Native American Heritage months was offered alongside cultural celebrations like Posadas. These events foster inclusion and reflect the diverse communities we serve.



## **FIGHTING SUMMER HUNGER**

Many kids rely on school for their most consistent meals, but when summer break begins, that support disappears. To help bridge the gap, we partnered with Rocky Mountain Food Bank to provide more than 500 free, pantry-safe meals to school-aged kids every weekday from June through August, with help from local teens at the Jeffco Workforce Center.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

The library is for everyone! To help create a more accessible library experience, we filled Library for All bins with reusable, passive activities appropriate for patrons of all ages and abilities. The included puzzles, conversation cards, activity books and card games are available at all locations and the Bookmobile to make sure that every visitor has something they can do at the library.

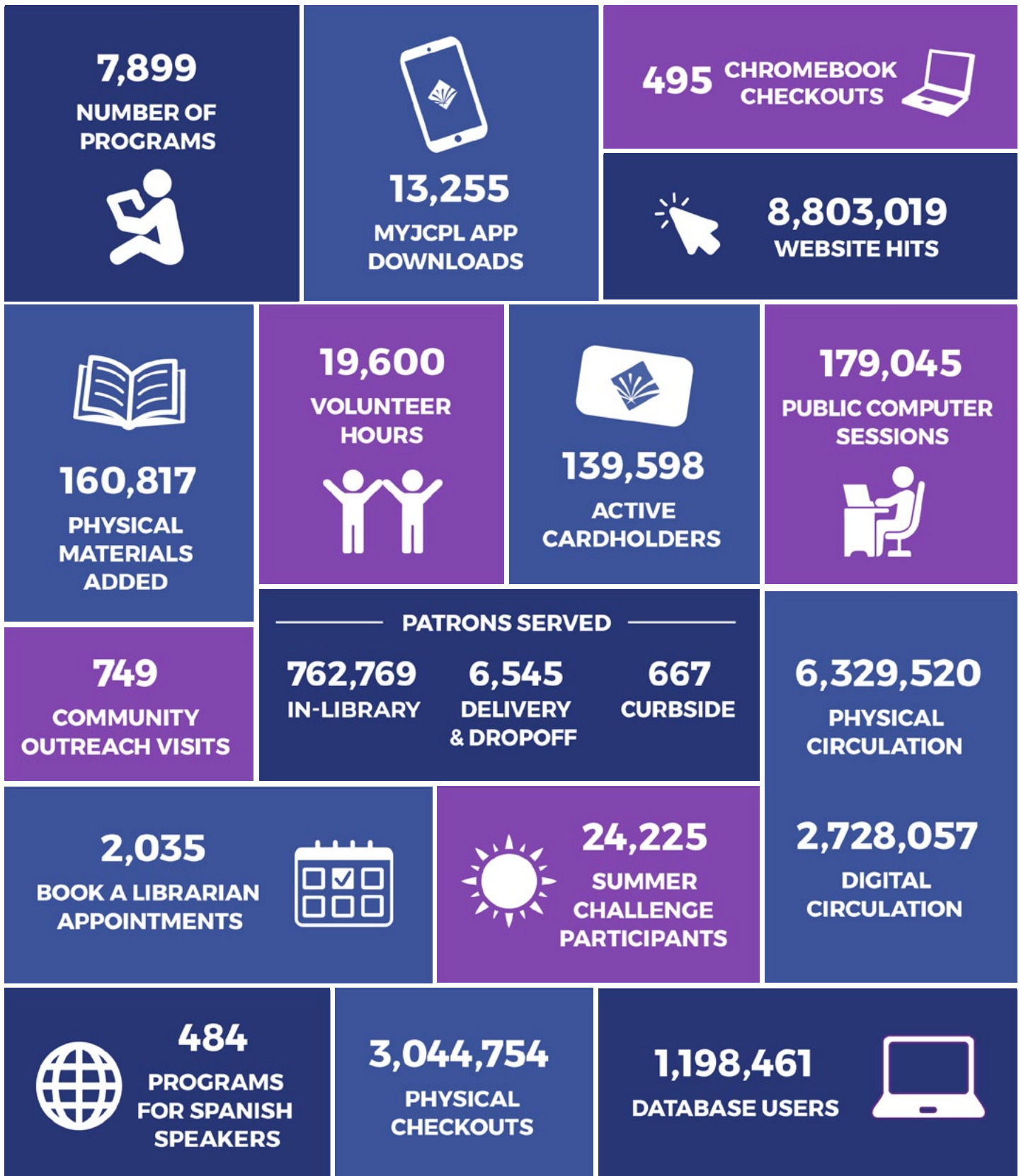


## COMMUNITY BEST-SELLER

With more than 600,000 checkouts and 47,968 program attendees throughout the year, we knew Columbine Library was a well-loved community hub. This year, we learned just how popular it truly was. Thanks to an outpouring of community votes, Columbine Library was named the 2025 Favorite Library Branch by *Colorado Parent*. We're so grateful for every visit and every vote!



# 2025 STATISTICS



# 2025 SCORECARD

Success measures and targets guide JCPL's strategic planning with our Board of Trustees and Library leadership, as well as help the Library identify community demands and our ability to meet that demand.

## TOTAL COLLECTION USE

Total number of materials (both physical, digital, borrowed or used) and database use at Jefferson County Public Library.

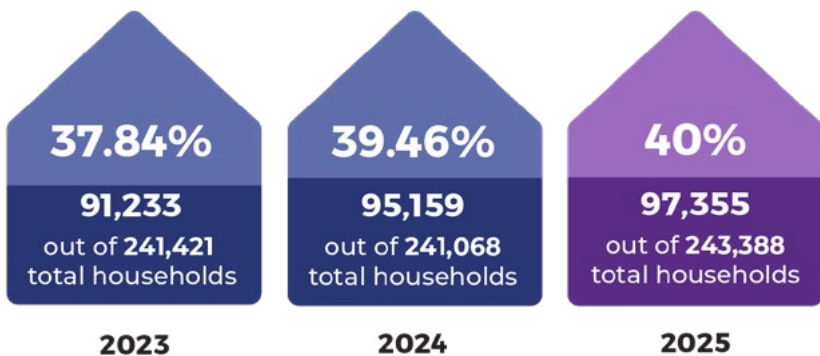
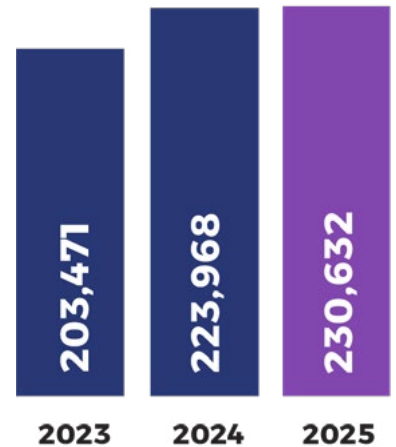


## VISITS

Total number of visits to Jefferson County Public Library and the Bookmobile.

## PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Total number of attendees at any of Jefferson County Public Library's programs.



## ACTIVE HOUSEHOLDS

Jefferson County households that contain at least one active cardholder within the past 12 months.

## NET PROMOTER SCORE

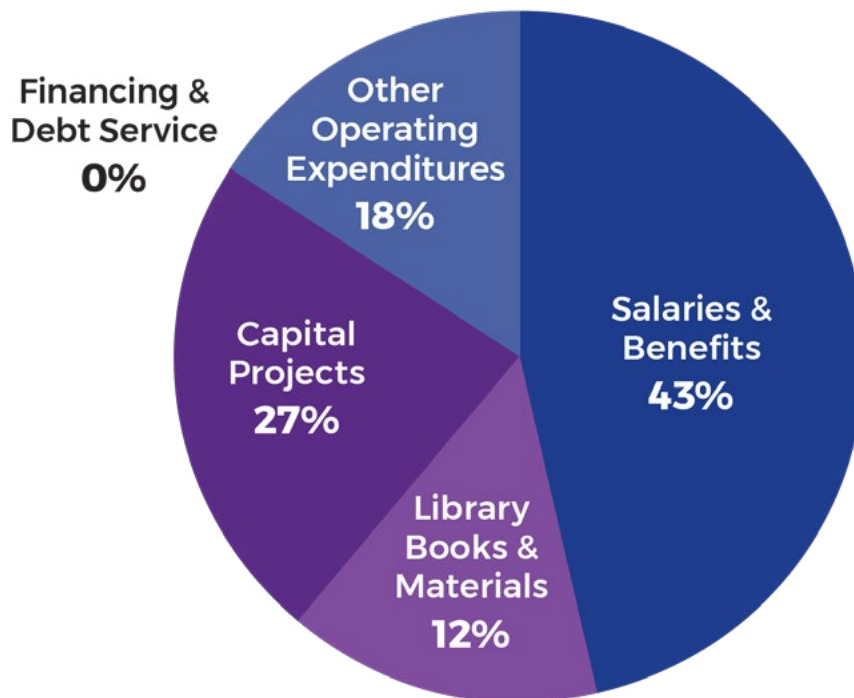
An index ranging from -100 to 100 that measures the likelihood that a Jefferson County Public Library cardholder will recommend our libraries to others based on a single question.



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Line items	2024 Actual	2025 Amended Budget	2025 Actual
Revenues – Taxes	\$61,247,504	\$59,744,973	\$60,001,670
Revenues – Other	\$5,505,989	\$2,604,427	\$5,650,653
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$66,753,493</b>	<b>\$62,349,400</b>	<b>\$65,652,323</b>
Salaries and Benefits	\$24,718,695	\$27,154,025	\$26,235,191
Books and Other Materials	\$7,784,002	\$7,897,199	\$7,409,363
Other Operating	\$11,643,491	\$14,114,350	\$12,935,331
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$44,146,188</b>	<b>\$49,165,574</b>	<b>\$46,579,885</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>\$623,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$8,357,854</b>	<b>\$48,405,495</b>	<b>\$15,338,809</b>
<b>Total Uses of Funds</b>	<b>\$53,127,742</b>	<b>\$97,571,069</b>	<b>\$61,918,694</b>

## 2025 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%.



## TEAM APPRECIATION

Behind every program, service and welcoming library space is a dedicated team of staff who make it all possible. Throughout the year, their expertise, creativity and commitment has kept JCPL a vibrant place for learning, connection and discovery.

From helping a child find their first favorite book, to guiding patrons through new technologies, our staff bring care and professionalism to every interaction.

We are deeply grateful for the passion and teamwork that team JCPL brings to serving our community each day. Their dedication is the foundation of everything our library has accomplished.



## SUPPORT JCPL & MAKE A LASTING IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sponsorships and donations play a crucial role in allowing JCPL to provide high-quality programs and services to the Jefferson County community. The generosity of JCPL donors, sponsors and volunteers helps us continue to deliver valuable resources that enrich the lives of our patrons.

**Want to make a difference?  
Your support can create  
meaningful impact and build  
a stronger, more vibrant JCPL.**

**Every contribution counts!  
Visit [coloradogives.org/  
donate/jeffcolibrary](https://coloradogives.org/donate/jeffcolibrary)  
to become a donor.**





*"I liked that it challenged me. I also liked that it pushed me to be more involved in my community."*

*– Summer Challenge participant*



*“Lovely evening with lovely music...feeling seen and appreciated.  
Keep up the great programming!”*

*– Pride in Place attendee*



*“The library is a place where the ‘world of information’ can be explored and the enjoyment of reading can be fulfilled.”*

*– JCPL patron*



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