



Youth 2022 Grants

In 2022, Caring for Denver Foundation approved 40 grants totaling more than \$9.9 million to community-based nonprofit organizations within the City and County of Denver in the Youth priority area.

Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization – AOPYO Youth ReEntry/Outreach program

To pilot a 12-week workshop series to prevent future or recurring justice involvement for youth at Vista Academy, North High School, and Mount View. Each cohort will be provided with access to mental health services, and skills for healing and coping with trauma.

aopyo.org

AUL Denver – Mental Health & Trauma-Informed Framework Expansion

To add a full-time culturally relevant, bilingual mental health provider, and a part-time Community Liaison to work with families, expand trauma-informed professional development, and pilot a year-long trauma-informed curriculum for students to increase self-awareness and resiliency.

auldenver.org

Building Bridges – Leveling Up: Building Capacity for Peer-to-Peer Support

To establish more robust mental health training within this organization's Transform program so that facilitators and participants have the tools, resources, and competencies to safely discuss and navigate any mental health concerns that arise over the course of the program.

Colorado "I Have A Dream" Foundation – Mental Health and Emotional Wellness Services

To provide one-on-one mental health services and emotional wellness development for youth from marginalized communities in Denver. Licensed therapists will work directly with youth and their families using a strengths-based perspective to support mental wellness.

colorado.ihdf.org

An additional grant to **Colorado "I Have a Dream" Foundation** was recommended by a group of youth facilitated by YouthRoots

Colorado Postpartum Support International – Perinatal Mental Health Transitional Therapeutic Space Program Pilot

For a transitional, two-tiered, bilingual perinatal mental health group that can serve as an immediate entry point into supportive care for mothers of color in Denver, bridging the divide between mental health systems and the community.

<https://psichapters.com/co>

Colorado Circles for Change – La Cultura Cura

To offer programs that equip youth with coping skills to address chronic stress, foster positive mental health, and decrease substance misuse, depression and anxiety through a nationally recognized trauma-informed, transformational healing framework, La Cultura Cura.

ccfcdenver.org

DC21 – Taking Back Our Mental Health: Addressing Disparities in Mental Health Services to Support the DC-21 Whole Child

The organization plans to increase access to trained, diverse mental health staff; to increase its capacity to provide culturally relevant mental health services to students of color; and to teach all students skills needed to protect mental health and cope with future stressors.

dc21.dpsk12.org

Denver Collaborative Partnership-Savio Management Group – FamilyStrong Expansion

FamilyStrong will provide access to services for mental health and substance misuse to non-system involved Denver youth/families. This will be accomplished through screening, and referring to community-based services. A peer advocate will support engagement efforts and build trust in the processes.

Denver Health Foundation – From Clinic to Community: Applying a healing centered engagement framework to youth mental health needs

Denver Health's school-based health centers (SBHCs) will utilize a healing-centered engagement framework for addressing youth mental health. Denver Health will apply this framework in mental health services provided through the SBHCs and youth-led school/community projects fostering resilience.

denverhealthfoundation.org

Denver Public Schools - Student Equity and Opportunity – Therapeutic Service Provision and FACE Intake Specialist

Student mental health services will be expanded by funding two school psychologists or school social workers. Student referrals and case management will be increased by funding an Intake Specialist. 20 staff members will receive training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

dpsk12.org

Elephant Circle – Expecting Chances Youth Peer Support Program

Elephant Circle in partnership with New Legacy Charter will support pregnant/parenting teens navigating substance use and mental health challenges by providing weekly opportunities to engage in reflective practice/check-ins and monthly peer-led socials and support circles incorporating art therapy.

elephantcircle.net

Family Star – Mental Health Equity for Denver's Most Vulnerable Families

Family Star's mental health specialist will provide mental/emotional health screenings for students; mental health consultations; and create individualized plans to support students. Family Star will also lead peer-to-peer support groups for parents to improve their resiliency and mental health.

familystar.net

Florence Crittenton Services – Bilingual Therapeutic Support and Services for Teen Families

Florence Crittenton will build sustainable therapeutic supports and services for their Spanish-speaking and bilingual teen families. Services include but are not limited to individual and family counseling, risk assessment, crisis intervention, on-call support, and facilitated group therapy.

flocritco.org

From the Heart Enterprises – Youth Wellness and Recovery

To offer group and individual supports for youth that will address substance and mental/behavioral health issues. The organization will engage youth and when possible, their families, utilizing key components of HEAT curriculum, Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) and components of Youth Mental Health First Aid.

fromtheheartent.com

Fully Liberated Youth – Mental Health Services for Denver's High-Risk Youth

Fully Liberated Youth (FLY) addresses youth's mental health and trauma, as those are root causes of young peoples' mental health issues that can lead to gang involvement, substance use, and gun violence. FLY's staff is committed to building long-term relationships and healthy structures through support and therapy that identify the root causes of trauma and create transformative and redemptive relationships that empower and support youth FLY serves.

fullyliberatedyouth.org

Generation Schools Network – Mental Health & Substance Misuse support for Justice Engaged Youth
A community-based collaborative will (1) work alongside Denver youth who are justice-engaged to offer intensive case management, support and mental health/substance misuse counseling, and (2) equip adult advocates with non-clinical mental health training to better support affected youth.
generationschools.org

Greater Denver CARES Mentoring Movement – The Rising Denver
This program is focused on providing school-based, healing-centered culturally relevant programming to empower youth to take control of their own mental health and healing.
<https://denvercaresmentoring.org>

Heart & Hand Center – Social Emotional Learning for Youth of Color and Youth from Low-Income Families.
To offer group and individual supports for youth that will address substance and mental/behavioral health issues. The organization will engage youth and when possible, their families, utilizing key components of HEAT curriculum, Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) and components of Youth Mental Health First Aid.
heartandhandcenter.org

Homies Unidos Denver – Homies Unidos Denver Expansion Project
This project expands Homies Unidos' gang prevention/intervention programming to include trauma-informed therapeutic arts activities that promote connection and wellness of low-income Latino youth. It also focuses on expanding programming into the summer and serving new Denver communities.
homiesunidosdenver.org

Joy as Resistance – Joy as Resistance will expand its clinical mental health services at Denver Public Schools for LGBTQIA2+ youth.
joyasresistance.org

The Kaleidoscope Project – TKP theRAPy Sessions
The Kaleidoscope Project theRAPy Sessions will provide young artists, who rely on music to cope with life challenges, with the resources and support to develop their artistic skills and connect with mental health professionals
thekaleidoscopeproject.org

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains – Trust-Based Relational Intervention
Lutheran Family Services will expand a Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) program to serve foster youth. Foster families will be trained in this intervention designed for children who have experienced relationship-based trauma to guide youth back to their natural development path.
lfsrm.org

Make A Chess Move – Make a Chess Move
Make a Chess Move (MACM) creates community and utilizes a curriculum that increases positive youth protective factors and reduces youth risk factors. This program funding will expand supports to include on-site mental health and substance misuse resources and trauma-informed coaching.
facebook.com/MACM303

Mile High United Way – Bridging the Gap (BTG)
The Bridging the Gap (BTG) program connects homeless young adults with housing and individualized services that guide them as they transition to independence. The organization will strengthen youth leadership skills and expand mental health services, and ensure staff is equipped to provide ongoing support.
unitedwaydenver.org

Movement 5280 – Mental Health and Arts for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Movement 5280 serves homeless youth who have aged out of foster care and other at-risk young people lacking guidance as they transition to adulthood. The proposed project will provide “right now” mental health counseling to these young people and an ongoing arts program.

movement5280.org

Muslim Youth for Positive Impact – MYPI Mental Wellness Program

Muslim Youth for Positive Impact will increase awareness, access, and engagement to culturally relevant mental health & substance misuse supports, resources, training, as well as referrals to in-house clinical and non-clinical services to the Muslim and refugee community.

MYPI.org

PlatteForum – ArtLab: Supporting Healthy Minds and Resiliency through Arts-Education

PlatteForum will expand access to mental health and wellness supports for youth interns through ArtLab's trauma-informed, social-emotion arts education. Interns will have access to trusted youth-adult partnerships, case management, and clinical services during their time at ArtLab.

platteforum.org

An additional grant to **PlatteForum** was recommended by a group of youth facilitated by YouthRoots

Project Helping – Kynd Kits for Youth

Project Helping will increase youth's ability to cope with mental health challenges by connecting them to resources, courses designed by and for youth, “Kynd Kits”, and on-demand therapy. These resources will be brought into additional Denver-area schools and community organizations.

projecthelping.org

Project PAVE Inc. – Trauma-Informed Mental Health Services for Youth Survivors and their Families

For Denver youth identified as survivors of trauma, violence, or in need of mental health support, Project PAVE will provide intervention services including trauma-informed, culturally responsive therapy, psychoeducational group support, advocacy and service coordination.

projectpave.org

Raise the Future – Trauma-Healing Support Services for Child Welfare-Involved Youth

Raise the Future will equip Denver youth that have experienced foster care and the caring adults in their lives with attachment-based communication tools that promote mental health and help youth heal from trauma, safely process emotions, build resilience, and form healthy, lasting relationships.

raisethefuture.org

The ROCK Center – Cultivating Mental Wellness through Connection, Collaboration, and Creation

The ROCK Center will pilot a culturally responsive model of care to learn and practice coping/healing skills and design/implement collaborative community projects that will improve youth mental health and reduce substance misuse.

therockcenter.org

Sacred Voices – Speak Your Truth Program

To train staff and facilitators in mental health first aid and other techniques to support youth participants through mental health and substance misuse concerns. They will also partner with a clinician to integrate mental health and community healing into their summer curriculum

sacred-voices.org

Savio – Expanding the Use of Trauma Systems Therapy for Youth in Denver

FamilyStrong will provide access to services for mental health and substance misuse to non-system involved Denver youth/families. This will be accomplished through screening, and referring to

community-based services. A peer advocate will support engagement efforts and build trust in the processes.

saviorhouse.org

Second Wind Fund, Inc. – Connecting Youth at Risk for Suicide with Life-Saving Mental Health Treatment
Second Wind Fund provides expedited access to therapy for youth, 19 years and younger, who are at risk for suicide and face a financial or social barrier to receiving potentially life-saving mental health treatment. Youth are connected with highly qualified, licensed and specialized therapists.

thesecondwindfund.org

The Shaka Franklin Foundation – Shaka Cares

To increase resources to provide formal supports and referrals for Denver youth to improve their access to mental health care, and to create trained and supervised professional internships for clinical students to strengthen and diversify the workforce.

shaka.org

Struggle of Love Foundation – Montbello CARING for Our Youth

The Montbello CARING For Our Youth program is led by the Struggle of Love Foundation in collaboration with several community organizational partners. The purpose of the project is to address mental health and substance misuse issues among children and youth by providing programming in the community.

struggleoflovefoundation.org

University of Colorado Anschutz, Center for Public Health Practice – Engaging DPS Youth/Adult Teams to Address Teen Mental Health

To provide support and coaching to social workers and youth teams across two Denver Public Schools as they each implement a two-year youth participatory action research group to address teen mental health at individual, group, and school levels.

publichealthpractice.org

Youth Employment Academy – YEA's Creative Counseling: Building youth mental wellness through art, food and community

The Youth Employment Academy will provide case management support and establish a partnership with a community clinician to provide wraparound mental health and wellness supports to Youth Employment Academy students.

youthemploymentacademy.org