



Youth 2023 Grants

In 2023, Caring for Denver Foundation approved 41 grants totaling more than \$12.1 million to community-based nonprofit organizations within the City and County of Denver in the Youth focus area.

5280 High School – Youth Peer Recovery Group

For the AltitudeYR program, an afterschool and weekend recovery program designed to serve the most at-risk students at 5280 High School and the surrounding area. It will provide the support youth need to get traction from old habits and establish new patterns of living and new peer groups.

5280highschool.org

Boys & Girls Clubs Metro Denver – Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) Mental Health Program

To support the Mental Health Program which provides a team of professionals who implement preventative interventions and weave social-emotional learning into all activities, building a foundation for mental wellbeing.

bgcmd.org

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance – Mental Health is Wealth

For the integration of a trauma-informed, therapeutic arts-based approach into this organization's internship program delivered in partnership with the Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center.

cleoparkerdance.org

Colorado Postpartum Support International – The Birth Squad: Denver Pilot Program

For The Birth Squad, a community-based, bilingual perinatal mental health intervention that serves as an immediate entry point into supportive care for mothers and birthers, focusing on affinity spaces for Black and Latinx mothers, bridging the divide between mental health systems and the community.

psichapters.com/co

Commún – Reducing stressors for youth and their families for mental health outcomes

For community-directed case management that increases access to trauma resources and support for youth and their families increase access to mental health supports and reduce mental health challenges in Southwest Denver youth.

commundenver.org

DC21 – Re-imagining Our Mental Health: Addressing Disparities in Mental Health Services to Heal, Connect, and Support the DC-21 Whole Person and their Community

To increase access to professional and diverse mental health providers, increase capacity to provide culturally relevant and trauma-informed mental health services to BIPOC students, and create systems that support students in developing a restorative approach.

dc21.dpsk12.org

Denver Family Institute – Closing the Gap: Addressing Systemic Inequity in Mental Health Care and Training for Denver's Youth

For a program to increase access to strength-based, and client-centered care for Denver's youth and shape the field of mental health to be more inclusive and affirming of LGBTQ+ youth and their families.

denverfamilyinstitute.org

Denver Scholarship Foundation – DSF Future Focus

To improve mental health and youth resiliency of BIPOC and/or low-income students in grades 9-11 through targeted and trauma-informed mental health and social-emotional curriculum, as well as support to advisors serving as youth allies.

denverscholarship.org

Developmental FX – Expanding DFX’s Mental Health Support for Youth

To expand the mental health support offered to youth and provide training and support for staff so that they will be able to better identify and address the mental health needs of the children, families, and early childhood educators served.

developmentalfx.org

Dream Center Denver – Enhancing the Mental Well-Being of Low-Income Youth

To improve the well-being of youth and their families in Denver’s low-income housing by providing community-based mental health and substance misuse supports, which include individual and family counseling, intensive substance use treatment, and case management services.

denverdreamcenter.org

DSST Public Schools Foundation – Healing As Liberation Youth Leadership Project (HALYL)

For the Healing As Liberation Youth Leadership Project, a youth-led project for DSST students who facilitate programs alongside East Denver youth. This program empowers youth to build peer support networks, address personal and communal traumas, and improve their mental health and emotional resilience.

dsstpublicschools.org

Firefly Autism – Expansion of ABA workforce training to implement goal-oriented therapies for mental well-being of youth with autism spectrum disorders and their families

To expand mental health therapy approaches in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) workforce training and to provide mental health therapy for youth with autism or parents whose mental health needs exceed what can be managed through the Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT) intervention.

fireflyautism.org

From the Heart Enterprises (fiscal sponsor The Hadanou Collective) – Youth Wellness and Recovery: Part Two

For group and individual supports for youth that will address substance and mental/behavioral health issues. Youth and their families will be engaged utilizing key components of H.E.A.T. curriculum, Wellness Recovery Action Plan, and components of Youth Mental Health First Aid.

fromtheheartent.com

GALS Denver – Mental Health Services, Social Emotional Development, and Family Engagement

To incorporate tiered mental health services for students directly related to their needs through this organization’s Collaborative Student Prosperity team to support student engagement, health, and academic success.

galsdenver.org

Hands2TheFuture – Hands to the Future Wellness Program

To support a coordinator to provide mental health therapy and mental health education to address challenges that prevent immigrants and refugees from completing their education for college degrees, educational credentials, certificates, and licenses.

hands2thefuture.org

Judi's House/JAG Institute – Mental Health Support for Bereaved Youth in Denver County

To deliver grief workshops tailored to developmental levels of youth in grades 1-12, in-person peer-based grief counseling for middle school youth, grief-focused training for school personnel, and virtual workshops for adults caring for a grieving child.

judishouse.org

Kids Above Everything – Big H.O.M.I.E.S

For the Big H.O.M.I.E.S (Helping Our Men Inspire Each-Other's Success) afterschool and summer program that engages youth in out-of-school time spaces and provides mental health and trauma supports to prevent youth violence for Black youth.

kidsaboveeverything.org

Lincoln Hills Cares – HEAL Nature and Arts in Action

To provide a yearly cohort of high-risk, low-income, and youth of color with supports that are wellness-based and supported, trauma-informed, and led by trusted community organizations in order to build resiliency, improve mental health, and reduce substance misuse.

lincolnhillscares.org

Maria Droste Counseling Center – Advancing Equitable Access To School-Based Services in Denver

For expansion and enhancement of the Children First program, in-school mental health support for children and youth at 17 Denver schools

mariadroste.org

Movement 5280 – Mental Health and Arts for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

To continue providing “right now” mental health counseling and arts programming to homeless youth who have aged out of foster care and other at-risk young people lacking guidance as they transition to adulthood.

movement5280.org

Movimiento Poder – Movimiento Poder Youth Mental Health Access Project

To support low-income Latinx youth with the mental health, resilience and related skills to enable them to effectively cope with the challenges of economic, social, and cultural inequality.

padresunidos.org

My Skin Global (fiscal sponsor AYA Foundation) – Youth Education Curriculum on Colorism and Skin Color Bias

To support low-income Latinx youth with the mental health, resilience and related skills to enable them to effectively cope with the challenges of economic, social, and cultural inequality.

myskinglobal.com

An additional grant to My Skin Global was recommended by a group of youth facilitated by YouthRoots.

National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association – Friends DO Make A Difference for Asian Americans Pacific Islander youth

For the Friends DO Make A Difference program, that strengthens the mental health and wellness of Asian American/Pacific Islander youth and parents

naapimha.org

RedLine – Youth Art Mentoring Program/EPIC Arts

To connect students from under-resourced schools in Denver with an art therapist and wellness professional to encourage creative self-expression, enhance social-emotional learning, and improve mental health.

redlineart.org

Rise Above Colorado – Lead The Change Denver: a youth-driven prevention project to strengthen connection and skills

For a collaboration between Rise Above Colorado, Denver Health and Denver Public Schools to support an initiative conceived by Denver youth to help them best prepare for life after high school through skill-building and enhancing protective factors that support improved behavioral health outcomes.

riseaboveco.org
riseaboveco.org

The ROCK Center – Cultivating Resiliency and Community at Joe Shoemaker

To continue to provide a comprehensive social-emotional learning curriculum and practices for students, parents, and school staff at Joe Shoemaker Elementary School in Southeast Denver in alignment with identified needs of the community.

therockcenter.org

Savio – Treating Trauma in Denver Families

To expand the use of Trauma Systems Therapy to support Denver families. This organization will provide the intensive home visitation model to children (ages 4-18) experiencing trauma.

saviohouse.org

Servicios de La Raza – Raices del Futuro- Roots of the Future

For culturally responsive mental health and substance misuse services including psychoeducation, early intervention, case management, and treatment services for Latino/Latinx youth (ages 11-26).

serviciosdelaraza.org

Star Girlz Empowerment Inc – Project SHINE

To provide psycho-social education and treatment to African-American and Latino/a adolescent youth and their families, helping high-risk youth address issues such as anger, anxiety, grief, trauma, substance misuse, and bullying.

stargirlzempower.org

Tennyson Center for Children – Substance Treatment Program (STP)

To begin providing on-site and community-based, integrated substance treatment programming for youth who will be able to concurrently access mental health and treatment services under one roof.

tennysoncenter.org

Thriving Families – Perinatal Mental Health Support for At-Risk Families

For the WiseWellness program, supporting inclusive, supportive, two-generation mental health services for underserved and underrepresented pregnant/postpartum women and teens.

thrivingfamiliescolorado.org

Tigray Community Center – Tigrayan Youth Mental Health Program

To provide a healing space for Tigrayan youth to understand and work through their emotions and trauma; build strong relationships with themselves, their families and their community; and gain healthy coping mechanisms and resources.

tigraycommunitycenter.org

University of Denver – Family Support Clinic: Supporting Mental Health and a Community of Care for Caregivers of Youth and Young Adults Affected by Severe and Persistent Mental Illness

For University of Denver's Family Support Clinic to provide support groups for caregivers of youth affected by severe and persistent mental illness to promote psychological well-being and caregiving effectiveness.

du.edu

Upstream Education Inc. – Expanding School-based Programming in Denver

To expand this organization’s Tier 1 Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning program to 40 Denver schools.

asset-edu.org

Urban Peak – Effective Service Delivery for Urban Peak Mental Health and Substance Misuse Supports

To support newer staff positions that increase on-site staff trainings, social-emotional services, clinical case management, and staff support that will help to fill service and treatment gaps as they arise.

urbanpeak.org

VPAC – Rock Da' Mic

For weekly healing circles addressing the mental health needs of youth participating in Rock da' Mic dance performances. And individual therapy support for youth expressing needs beyond the scope of the healing circles

vpac2020.org

WellPower – Phoenix Program: First or Early Episode Psychosis Support for Youth

For the Phoenix Program at Emerson St. for Teens and Young Adults, serving youth aged 15-26 who are experiencing first or early episode psychosis. The program will provide wrap-around care, instill hope, increase positive community engagement, and manage psychosis symptoms.

wellpower.org

Words to Power – Our Words Are Powerful

To strengthen youth's awareness and use of culturally relevant coping strategies and reduce feelings of isolation through poetry workshops and open mic events in schools comprised of more than 85% indigenous students.

wordstopower.org

An additional grant to Words to Power was recommended by a group of youth facilitated by YouthRoots.

Young People in Recovery – Tending to Human Development - A Post-Pandemic Consideration of Developmental Needs of Youth

For a series of trauma-informed group therapy sessions that take into account the key developmental needs of adolescents that help shape healthy youth and prevent substance misuse and other mental health concerns.

youngpeopleinrecovery.org