



FOCUS AREA: HEALTHY YOUTH RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

Adolescence is a time of profound brain, body and emotional growth. The changes in brain structure and connectivity that occur between the ages of 10 and 25 present adolescents with unique opportunities for positive, life-shaping development and for recovering from past adversity. We believe capitalizing on these opportunities, centering youth voice and addressing inequities are critical to ensure the healthy development of Colorado's youth.

HEALTHY YOUTH - STRATEGIES

The Healthy Youth focus area supports efforts that promote healthy behaviors and engage youth ages 10 to 25 in implementing solutions for health and well-being. We emphasize a [Positive Youth Development](#) approach, which incorporates skill-building opportunities and authentic relationships into programs, practices and policies so that young people reach their full potential. In the Healthy Youth Focus Area, we will support two responsive grantmaking strategies:

- **Supporting Youth Development**
- **Promoting Youth Health**

Supporting Youth Development

Young people have different physical and behavioral health needs than adults and need the time and space, outside of school, to grow as individuals and explore who they are. They may also need extra support to navigate the complexities of their life circumstances. We support programs for youth that are safe, inclusive, affirming and validate and support needs or identities; and out-of-school time programs that provide regularly scheduled activities and safe spaces. We prioritize organizations working with youth facing the greatest barriers to health and well-being; programs and services must be serving a majority youth of color and/or youth living in families with low incomes.

We seek to fund:

- **Out-of-School Time Programs:** Programs that operate 10 hours or more per week on an ongoing basis and provide regularly scheduled, structured and supervised activities focused on addressing emotional and mental wellness, social skill building and/or sexual and reproductive health. Programs integrating youth voice and leadership into core structures and practices are prioritized.
- **Youth-Focused Programs:** Safe, healthy, inclusive and affirming programs designed for and with youth who experience systemic obstacles and injustice, including LGBTQ+ youth, youth of color, youth experiencing homelessness, pregnant and parenting youth, youth in or aging out of foster care and youth involved with the juvenile justice system. Organizations that adopt a strengths-based focus, are culturally responsive and incorporate young people in decision-making are prioritized.

Promoting Youth Health

We support youth-friendly health services that are inclusive, affirming and accessible for youth with a focus on integrated mental health and sexual and reproductive health services. Programs and organizations are expected to maximize earned revenue wherever possible. Services that are designed to meet needs and incorporate the desires and perspectives of young people, increase access to care and respond to identity are prioritized. We seek to fund:

Behavioral Health Services: Integration or co-location of behavioral health services in school and/or youth-focused, community-based settings in which youth feel safe and comfortable.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services: Integration or co-location of reproductive and sexual health services in school and/or youth-focused, community-based settings in which youth feel safe and comfortable.