

## Pueblo Youth Action Council Funding Opportunity



The Pueblo Youth Action Council (PYAC), established in 2021 by Caring for Colorado’s Packard Fund for Pueblo, fosters community engagement and leadership among young people in Pueblo County. Through this program, students manage their own grant cycle during the school year, gaining firsthand experience in philanthropy and addressing local issues. They also raise funds for nonprofits tackling community challenges they have identified, with 100% of the funds going directly to these organizations.

In partnership with YouthRoots and HOPE at Alpha Learning Academy, the PYAC offers young people the chance to deepen their understanding of social issues, develop leadership and

decision-making skills, collaborate effectively within a team, and appreciate the role of philanthropy in the nonprofit sector. By making grant decisions, students learn to evaluate community needs, assess applications, and allocate resources responsibly.

**This year’s PYAC is now accepting grant proposals for youth services in three funding areas:**

### GANG PREVENTION

Local officials recently stated that most of the local violent crime and gang activity involves adolescents. Young people exposed to gang activity often face pressure to join, putting them at risk of violence, incarceration, and disrupted education. The consequences can be lifelong, affecting employment prospects, relationships, and overall well-being. PYAC seeks proposals for gang intervention and prevention programming, including community-driven programs that provide teens with positive alternatives to gang involvement, such as mentorship, leadership development, job training, and safe recreational spaces.

### SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Substance use among teens in Pueblo is leading to serious consequences, including declining academic performance, increased risk of mental health issues, increased risk of sexual assault, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Many young people turn to substances to cope with stress, trauma, or lack of support, but access to prevention and treatment services is often limited. PYAC seeks proposals for innovative teen-friendly approaches that help teens avoid or recover from substance use, including education, early intervention, peer support, and accessible treatment options tailored to their needs.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Teen mental health struggles in Pueblo are growing, with many young people experiencing anxiety, depression, and trauma without the support they need. Limited access to affordable counseling, stigma around seeking

help, and a shortage of youth-focused services make it difficult for teens to get the care they deserve. The effects can be devastating, leading to school disengagement, family conflict, substance use, and even self-harm. We invite proposals that expand youth mental health resources, promote resilience, and create safe spaces where teens feel heard, supported, and empowered.

## Guidelines

- Applicant organizations must be in or serve young people in Pueblo County.
- Applicants must be a charitable nonprofit organization with tax-exempt classification from the Internal Revenue Service OR a tax-supported institution, including state and local governments and schools.
- Organizations without tax-exempt status or that are not connected to a tax-supported institution can apply with an eligible fiscal sponsor or agent.
- The Caring for Colorado Packard Fund for Pueblo does NOT fund:
  - Organizations or projects that unlawfully discriminate with regard to employees, volunteers, delivery of programs or services, or clients based on age, sex, religion/creed, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, marital status, military or veteran status, pregnancy, or genetic information.
  - Individuals.
  - Activities supporting political candidates.
  - Anti-abortion efforts.
  - Religious organizations for religious purposes.

## Connect with our team

The Director of Place-based Philanthropy is available to answer questions that will help you determine eligibility and prepare your Part 1 application. [Contact Gina Lopez Ferguson.](#)

## How to apply

The [Part 1 application](#) is submitted online and does *not* require registration in the Caring for Colorado grantmaking portal. For the best results, we suggest using Google Chrome as your web browser.

If you are unable to complete an online application, please contact our grants management team at [grants@caringforcolorado.org](mailto:grants@caringforcolorado.org) to discuss alternative options.

### APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **March 11, 2025 by 5:00 p.m.**  
Part 1 Application Due Date
- Part 1 consists of a registration form and a brief summary of your organization and project. If eligibility requirements are met, you will receive instructions to complete the full application.
- **March 14, 2025**  
Part 2 Full Application Opens
- **April 17, 2025**  
Full Application Due Date
- **May 1, 2025**  
Grant Decision Announcement

Awarded grants will be distributed in June.

Funds must be used within 12 months of receiving the grant award.

[Click here to apply!](#)