



HEALTHY YOUTH / STRONG COLORADO FUND

The Healthy Youth/Strong Colorado Fund is a collaborative partnership between the Colorado Department of Law and Rocky Mountain Health Plans, a UnitedHealth Group company. Rocky Mountain Health Plans has pledged \$5 million to support nonprofit organizations that offer mental health support and services to empower youth, as well as helping to avoid the criminal justice system involvement and addressing the school-to prison pipeline.

The Fund will:

- Support Colorado youth through programming with a focus on building strength, confidence, and resilience;
- Support vulnerable populations to avoid criminal justice system interactions and avoid or minimize system involvement; and
- Create an outdoor environment to strengthen employment, education, and service opportunities for vulnerable populations who may otherwise become involved in the criminal justice system.

Attorney General Phil Weiser and the Colorado Department of Law are committed to addressing youth mental health and its connection to the criminal justice system. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on mental health of many Coloradans, especially our youth. This new initiative and partnership reflects our and our partners' understanding of the pandemic's impact on youth mental health and represents our commitment to build on our existing work in Safe2Tell and school justice initiatives, including the School Justice Innovation Grant and our recent School Justice Report.

GRANT PARTNERSHIPS

- \$1,800,000 to three corps of the Colorado Youth Corps Association –Mile High Youth Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and the Western Colorado Conservation Corps—to provide a new criminal justice diversion program promoting employment, education, mental health support, and service opportunities to youth;
- \$1,500,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado to expand programming and serve more than 100,000 kids across the state;
- \$500,000 to Sources of Strength to expand access to youth suicide prevention programs in schools;
- \$400,000 to The Center on Colfax to support career counseling and empowerment for LGBTQ young adults as well as mental health services;
- \$400,000 to The Place to increase stability and support for youth experiencing homelessness in El Paso County.



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