

# Douglas County Youth Initiative 2023 Mid-Year Overview

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Annual Youth Congress:** Held at the State Capitol. 150 youth attend, working with elected officials on pertinent youth issues.

**Annual Youth Awards:** Recognizing youth who have overcome various hardships and difficulties.

**NEW Monthly “Youth Connections”** program; held at local high schools, where officials meet with youth. Five were completed in 2023.

**Lunch-n-Learns** for the adult community in 2023; topics included: Sex Trafficking, Fentanyl dangers, and others as needed.

## WRAPAROUND; DCYI’s largest program, working with families throughout the County

- Free
- Voluntary
- Work with families with youth, ages 5-21
- Work in the home for up to 12-18 months
- Working to keep kids, safe, healthy, and remain in the home and attend school

WRAP works with families who have very complex needs.

WRAP families have gone from a 60% involvement rate to a 70% rate, showing an increase in complexity of family issues

## DCYI PROJECTS

### Truancy

Serve on Truancy Prevention Cmte. Attend Court, receive referrals from Family Magistrate, work with youth on obtaining GED’s, work with youth via WrapAround

### Juntos/Connexion

Collaboration with CSU Extension and DCSD; program for families who do not speak English in the home, helping develop leadership skills and post secondary education.

### Teen Courts

Working with Towns supporting their Teen Courts. NEW: Researching a County-wide Teen Court Program

**La Liga Jr and Sr:** Coordinate, promote and help fund free soccer games

### Implementation of ideas from Youth Congress

A need that has been clearly identified as a priority

## DCYI PROJECTS, continued

**New:** Formed a **Douglas County Youth Commission.** To act in an advisory capacity to the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners on matters pertaining to the youth and teen population in the County.

**New:** Discussing adding a position to serve as a **WrapAround Truancy Facilitator.**

**New:** Added two youth Advisory Board member

**Note:** Funders have not been asked for an increase since 2015, and that was for 5%.

