



# Douglas County Youth Initiative Report



# Background

- Founded by the Partnership in 2005.
- Partnership members fund and serve on the Advisory Board for the Initiative.
- **Members:**
  - City of Castle Pines
  - City of Lone Tree
  - Douglas County Government
  - Douglas County School District
  - Douglas County Libraries
  - Highlands Ranch Metro District
  - Town of Castle Rock
  - Town of Parker



*The Youth Initiative provides a method for coordinating local youth-serving efforts and assessing the needs of youth residents by envisioning a community in which youth are involved, valued, productive, protected and healthy.*

**Vision:** The Douglas County Youth Initiative envisions a community in which youth are involved, valued, productive, protected and healthy.

**Mission:** Our mission is to unite the Douglas County community, including youth, parents, agencies, governments, schools, nonprofits and other adults, in our mutual efforts to:

- Collaborate effectively as a seamless continuum of services.
- Advocate for system improvements that will better serve youth and families of Douglas County.
- Support youth and encourage their contributions to the broader community.
- Effectively intervene with youth who are endangered by their decisions and/or situation.
- Support and expand opportunities for youth to express viewpoints.
- Support parents with resources, education, and unconditional care.





# Advisory Board

- City of Lone Tree Councilmember **Jay Carpenter**
- Douglas County Commissioner & DCYI Chair **Abe Laydon** and Special Project Manager **Maureen Waller**
- Douglas County Libraries Trustee **Amy Windju** and Community Services & Partnerships Manager **Jaime Gotlieb**
- Douglas County School District Director **Becky Meyers** and **Dr. Stephanie Crawford**
- Highlands Ranch Metro District Director **Rita Salcedo**
- Town of Castle Rock Councilmember **Tim Dietz**
- Town of Parker Councilmember **Brandi Wilks**
- City of Castle Pines Councilmember **Chris Eubanks**



# Douglas County Youth Initiative

- **Audience:** Youth ages 5-21 and their families, School District, DHS and Child Welfare, Court-involved youth, at-risk youth, law enforcement
- **Issues:** Mental health and substance use disorder, truancy, parenting kids with disabilities, family dysfunction, imprisoned parent, DV, child welfare youth, and GED/graduation help.
- **Approach:** Educate, interact with families, act as a resource, recognize and grow youth leaders, help struggling youth, support parents





# Youth Initiative Programs

- WrapAround
- Truancy Project
- La Liga
- Youth Awards
- Youth Congress
- DC Youth Commission
- Educational Programs



# WrapAround

The Douglas County WrapAround Program is a **voluntary, strengths-based service model** that supports families with children (ages 5 to 21) who are facing complex challenges. Rather than applying a “one size fits all” approach, the program **wraps around a family** by assembling a team of natural supports (such as friends, teachers, clergy) and professionals identified by the family. The family helps lead the process, with a facilitator guiding assessment, planning, and implementation.





# DCYI Programs

**Truancy:** DCYI supports and helps facilitate attendance/truancy efforts by enabling collaboration (for example, aligning resources, sharing referrals, coordinating support services). For instance, the WrapAround program (under DCYI) is aimed at supporting families with complex challenges; one of those challenges often is maintaining school attendance. The WrapAround program touches on truancy indirectly by supporting stability, reducing barriers, and responding to root issues.

**La Liga:** Soccer for Spanish speaking youth, providing free uniforms, equipment and comradery.





## DCYI Programs

### Outstanding Youth Awards: Spring

DCYI Advisory Board selects 10 outstanding youth who have overcome personal adversity and created positive change in their lives. Provides business, community and civic leaders an opportunity to honor youth that might not otherwise be recognized.

### Youth Congress: Fall

Students work with community and PDCG elected officials to share their ideas and give feedback on issues pertaining to them. Held at the State Capitol, high school students hear from subject matter experts on a variety of issues and then tackle these complicated problems. From unifying the teen curfew to working on the prevention of bullying, students learn how challenging it is to problem solve and the difference they can make by working together.



## DCYI Programs

### **Douglas County Youth Commission**

The Youth Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on issues affecting youth in the county. Douglas County offers youth an opportunity to engage with local government, learn about policymaking, and represent the perspectives and needs of young residents.

### **Educational Series**

DCYI hosts Lunch-n-Learns on a variety of topics. DCYI uses youth and community input to identify current issues and invite speakers. Topics: Autism, Mitigating Negative Behaviors, Prevention of Teen Suicide, and Drugs in our Community.