

August 28, 2020

Town of Castle Rock  
100 Wilcox St.  
Castle Rock, CO 80104



Dear Town Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to request funding for 2021. The Town of Castle Rock has been a major supporter of the Youth Initiative and on behalf of those we serve, we thank you for your loyal support.

As many of you are aware, the Youth Initiative is a major collaboration between seven Douglas County entities. It is truly the definition of partnership as we work together to serve our youth. The Town's contribution helps leverage each group's contribution. In addition to Castle Rock, we currently receive funding from the Town of Parker, City of Lone Tree, the Library District, the School District, Douglas County Government, the City of Castle Pines, and the Highlands Ranch Metro District.

This year we are requesting \$19,800 from the Town; the same amount as the past seven years. We are also requesting this amount from the City of Castle Pines, Library District, Parker, Highlands Ranch, and Lone Tree. The School District and the County contribute higher amounts, \$75,750 each.

For these contributions, the Youth Initiative provides numerous services and programs, outlined on page two, reaching hundreds of County residents. Over the past four years we have added new programs at no extra cost.

The Douglas County Youth Initiative would not be possible without the support of municipalities and other members of the Partnership. The structure of the Youth Initiative ensures that each financial contributor has oversight. This is accomplished by each funder appointing an elected official to the Advisory Board.

**Current members of the Advisory Board:**

- Josh Rivero, Councilman, Town of Parker
- Jason Bower, Councilwoman, Town of Castle Rock
- Jay Carpenter, Councilman, City of Lone Tree
- Deborah Mulvey, City of Castle Pines
- Abe Laydon, Douglas County
- Andy Jones, Director, Highlands Ranch Metro District
- Susan Meek, Director, Board of Education
- Suzanne Burkholder, DCL Libraries Trustee

Thank you for the opportunity to request funding.

Sincerely, **Marsha Alston** / Youth Services Program Manager / [malston@douglc.co.us](mailto:malston@douglc.co.us) / 303-814-5327

## **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.



## ***OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARDS YOUTH CONGRESS***



**LA LIGA SOCCER  
AND BASKETBALL**



# Douglas County Youth Initiative's Programs:

## WrapAround:

### Wrap Around Program:

One Full time  
Facilitator and  
Family Support  
Partner

- Who is it for? Youth with significant issues, system involvement
- What it does? Partners kids and families to develop a sound plan that ensures families feel supported and needs are met
- Why it's better? Offers individualized solutions customized to needs; youth and families take ownership of their plan
- How long does it take? Generally 10-14 months

*In 2018, DCYI WrapAround received 100 referrals, and worked with approximately 210 individuals.*

***WRAP's conservative potential cost savings, due to less disruption in school, students completing high school, fewer law enforcement contacts, receiving appropriate and needed services, etc., is thought to be between \$550,000—\$750,000 annually, as determined by an average 65% rate of involvement in 10 life domains.***

*"By working with WrapAround, our family was able to successfully work through many issues that resulted in greater stability and safety for our family ."*

*-WRAP FAMILY  
(Family had an open Child Welfare case.)*

SEVEN ISSUES THAT ARE FACING DC YOUTH AND FAMILIES TODAY



- DCYI is working to coordinate services/programs that already address these issues, leveraging existing work.
- Additionally, DCYI helps develop new ideas, building programs in incremental and tangible steps based on shared priorities. **See next page for examples.**

- **1. SUBSTANCE ABUSE - #1** REQUESTED TOPIC FOR YOUTH CONGRESS; THIS INCLUDES ALCOHOL AND VAPING
- **2. MENTAL HEALTH** RESOURCES AND COORDINATION
- **3. ESTABLISHING A TRAUMA INFORMED COMMUNITY**
- **4. YOUTH TRANSPORTATION**
- **5. YOUTH VOICE AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
- **6. PRO SOCIAL AND MENTORSHIP**
- **7. PARENT EDUCATION**

DCYI Programs:



-  **La Liga soccer, basketball, 4H, and music lessons!**
-  Youth Empowerment Seminars for kids in Truancy Court, same as kids in Teen Court, led by Sacred Walk, coordinating with Magistrate Moss
-  **Project Upstream: Five meetings held at Mesa Middle School last year**
-  **Lunch-n-Learns for each of the seven identified issues, to include vaping and substance abuse.**
-  Youth Transportation: effort to have local churches provide once a week rides for middle schoolers to stay late for tutoring and activities.
-  **"Take 10" – a bi-weekly email highlighting various topics of interest, e.g., Back to School Anxiety, Self-Esteem, 40 Assets, and Reducing Stress in a fast paced County**
-  Youth and Adult Dinner-n-Learn, sharing ideas and feedback

# DCYI - Strategic *Doing in 2021* – New Programs:

## **Juntos, in partnership with CSU Extension and DCSD**

Juntos builds community and helps Latinx youth connect with post-secondary educational opportunities.

“Juntos” means “together” in Spanish. It is a program that helps Latinx youth (grades 8-12) and their families gain the knowledge and skills they need to bridge the gap between high school and post-secondary education opportunities. Juntos also works to unite community partners to provide culturally relevant programming for families. The program was first developed by North Carolina State University in 2007. Programs are available to English and Spanish-speaking students and their families in numerous communities across the US.

Juntos has three goals:

Empower Latinx families with resources to achieve educational goals for their youth.

Build relationships with Latinx communities so they benefit and become involved in Extension programs.

See more Latinx youth benefit from 4-H and Extension programs.

Juntos provides students and families with:

Family engagement: high school (6-week) and middle school (5-week) workshops, family nights, and events to increase collaboration between families and school districts, increase high school graduation rate, and empower families to pursue higher education.

Juntos one-on-one success coaching/mentoring: adult led program focused on academics, tutoring, life-skill activities, and community service so youth can achieve their goals.

Summer programs: Summer Academy, local summer programs, and other events.

4-H club participation: Latinx youth can participate in existing 4-H clubs or start new clubs.

As a result of participating in Juntos 4-H, students report a greater sense of belonging and confidence in their futures:

87% of participants feel like they now belong in school

93% of students feel that Juntos helped them belong at school

91% of youth improved their grades in school

92% of students feel confident that they will graduate from high school

In a three-year pilot coordinated by Oregon State University Open Campus, Juntos has shown:

100% high school graduation rate

100% college achievement rate

Decreased dropout rates for underserved audiences

Increased post-secondary access

Increased collaboration between families and school districts

Families become more engaged in their communities

# DCYI – New programs *in 2021*

**Truancy Project:** I have thoroughly reviewed 21 names I received from our Magistrate who oversees Truancy.

As I was reviewing the students and pulling up Special Reports that are sent via email, I noticed some areas that I wanted more info. that I hope will give us insight into helping these youth. (Questions I have are also areas where I have seen issues while attending SARB's, Court, and school meetings. Plus talking to the kids and their families.)

More info. was needed. Before next court dates: Oct 14 and 21 respectively, I will send a survey with a cover letter explaining why they are receiving, who it was coming from, and what next steps will be.

This would be our 1<sup>st</sup> step. Future steps would be: find out more about possible substance abuse, by youth, family, or both; if Job Corps would be of interest; connect and follow up with GED info if they are interested; and research if Child Welfare has been involved prior, and yes they have in 20 of the 21 youth.

**Virtual Youth Congress:** YOUTH CONGRESS 2020-2021: How do you make real change? Start with the people closest to you and then move up. You want real change, it starts with the government closest to you!

- Can you name your locally elected officials?
- School Board Members? City Council and Mayors? County Commissioners?
- State House Reps? State Senators? Special Districts? Have you attended a public meeting? Have you gone to the podium to speak? Have you campaigned for a ballot measure? Have you knocked on doors for a candidate or issue?
- We will help our youth identify issues, research their issues, and develop an effective work plan on how best to make change. Youth Congress will poll youth on changes they want to see, create work groups for issues, and assign each work group a local elected official to develop a work plan.

**MISC:** DCYI is working with a local Castle Rock nonprofit, the Aspen Effect, to help promote their numerous youth mentoring opportunities they have at their equestrian center. When The Aspen Effect needed to recruit adult mentors, I was able to reach out to the community, and recruited 15 adults! We have already referred 2 WrapAround youth to the program. **HELPING CREATE CONNECTIONS FOR OUR YOUTH!**

And, we are working on producing a podcast, or FaceBook Live event, where we host various guests and talk about current issues. We are starting the planning this week and will be working with Dr. Stephanie Crawford, local psychologist, on format and content. **SHARING INFORMATION, TIPS, AND COMMUNICATING TO FAMILIES ABOUT RESOURCES AND HOW TO GET HELP!**

# ORGANIZATION REQUESTING FUNDING: Douglas County Youth Initiative:

**I. 2021 FUNDING REQUEST** (Please use this form for this information and not another format.)

**Breakdown of funds** (What would monies from the Town specifically be used for?)

<u>WRAP - personnel</u>	6.5%	<u>\$ 17,341</u>
<u>Events</u>	6.5%	<u>\$520</u>
<u>Cell Phones</u>	6.5%	<u>\$179</u>
<u>Mileage</u>	6.5%	<u>\$975</u>
<u>Training</u>	6.5%	<u>\$325</u>
<u>Supplies and Misc.</u>	6.5%	<u>\$373</u>

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST **\$ 19,800**

**II. 2021 PROJECTED ORGANIZATION BUDGET** (Please use this form for this information and not another format.)

**2021 projected organizational budget** (Including funding from the Town)

**Projected sources of revenue**

<u>School District</u>	<u>\$35,750</u>
<u>Douglas County</u>	<u>\$35,750</u>
<u>Lone Tree</u>	<u>\$19,800</u>
<u>Castle Rock</u>	<u>\$19,800</u>
<u>Parker</u>	<u>\$19,800</u>
<u>Library</u>	<u>\$19,800</u>
<u>Highlands Ranch Metro</u>	<u>\$19,800</u>
<u>Douglas County – Additional Funding</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>
<u>School District – Additional Funding</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>

**Projected expenditures**

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>\$266,788</u>
<u>Events</u>	<u>\$8,000</u>
<u>Cell Phones</u>	<u>\$2,760</u>

Supplies & Misc. \$5,732

TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENDITURES **\$303,280**