WHAT IS YOUTHROOTS?
YouthRoots is a youth-led foundation for high school students to support causes they care about. During the yearlong program, they conduct a community needs assessment, fundraise for those issues, and then grant 100% of what they raise to chosen nonprofits meeting the needs. Since being founded in 2010, YouthRoots participants have raised and granted over $188,000 to community nonprofits benefiting at-risk youth.

LOCATIONS SERVED
YouthRoots serves the metro Denver area with YouthBoards in Denver, Thornton, Aurora, Centennial, Jefferson County, and Douglas County. We additionally serve Boulder County, CO, Sioux Falls, SD, and Summit County, CO, through partnerships with local community foundations. Please contact us to receive the RFPs serving those areas.

OVERVIEW
Please see the attached pages for geographically specific Requests for Proposals. If organizations apply to more than one YouthBoard, please submit multiple copies of your application. Youth participants make all decisions regarding grants awarded. Grant sizes typically range from $1,000-$5,000. Contact info@youthroots.org with any questions.
The South Denver YouthBoard of YouthRoots is now accepting grant proposals from registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt youth-serving organizations that meet at least one of the following needs in the Colorado community:

CLIMATE CHANGE
The South Denver YouthBoard is focusing on climate change because it is one of the most pressing issues of our generation. Seeing the effects of climate change on our rivers and mountains has inspired us to focus on this issue. Since 1950, Colorado snowpack has declined between 20-60%, impacting watersheds, reservoirs, and the Colorado River. Additionally, Colorado is the 3rd most wildfire-prone state in the U.S. Finally, the Ogallala aquifer decreases by as much as 2 feet per year, affecting almost 1.9 million people across the Midwest, including thousands of farmers. Climate change can cause irreversible damage to the planet and its people. It is necessary that we address this issue immediately and not leave the problem for future generations.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
The South Denver YouthBoard is focusing on immigrant rights because they are basic human rights. We want to fund human services for immigrants because so many lack access to basic services due to legal status, fear of retribution, or cultural stigma. Additionally, hate crimes in the US went up 24% between 2014 and 2017, with 48% of that increase coming from an increase in racially or ethnically driven hate crimes. Our country and our culture is made up of immigrants, so we must ensure they have their basic human rights met. It is our strength as a community of different people that makes us a great nation.

Geographic Restrictions: Programs should serve youth in Colorado, and preferably in the Denver Metro area. (Please note that each YouthBoard has a different geographic location and different funding priorities every year. Nonprofits should review all YouthRoots Requests for Proposals to find the best fit.)

Other Notes: Our board is interested in supporting smaller, local, grassroots organizations.

Make Change Take Root,

South Denver YouthBoard
The Central Denver YouthBoard of YouthRoots is now accepting grant proposals from registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt youth-serving organizations. As a board we have chosen to focus on ways to support youth who are experiencing the plethora of challenges as an immigrant or refugee. Applicants that meet at least one of the following needs are encouraged to apply:

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE YOUTH
One of the most vital services for immigrant and refugee youth is educational support and opportunities. The Denver YouthBoard wants to fund nonprofits that help these youth access and get support in K-12 education and all forms of higher education. For example, programs that support DACA students, help youth navigate higher education applications, address the opportunity gap in the educational system, or similar would fit this need.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE YOUTH
The Denver YouthBoard wants to support legal services for immigrant and refugee youth. Young people are often not made aware of their constitutional rights and too often have to represent themselves in court, regardless of age, language barriers, or knowledge of the system. As such, we are interested in programs that provide services such as translators, legal representation, and support to prevent family separation. We are also interested in programs that provide oversight of the quality of care and housing for youth in detention facilities.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE YOUTH
The Denver YouthBoard wants to fund programs that ensure immigrant and refugee youth have access to health care. We are interested in services that reduce barriers and provide affordable health care to these populations.

Geographic Restrictions: Programs should serve children that live in Colorado. (Please note that each YouthBoard has a different geographic location and different funding priorities every year. Nonprofits should review all YouthRoots Requests for Proposals to find the best fit.)

Other Notes: As a board we are open to diverse ways of addressing these issues. If you believe your program supports the needs of immigrant and refugee youth, we will consider your application.

Make Change Take Root,

Central Denver YouthBoard
The North Denver YouthBoard of YouthRoots is now accepting grant proposals from registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt youth-serving organizations that meet at least one of the following needs in the North Denver Metro community:

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The North YouthBoard wants to fund organizations that combat youth substance abuse because it is very easy for youth to access illegal substances in Colorado, including marijuana, mushrooms, alcohol, and others. When a youth abuses substances, it can lead to continued addiction throughout their lives. We want to help prevent addiction in teens so they don’t have continued addiction issues later.

**RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANT YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

The North YouthBoard wants to fund organizations that provide resources to immigrant youth and families. Almost 9.6 million children in the US have immigrant parents whose family income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold, and approximately 1.5 million of these children are undocumented. The North YouthBoard wants to help these children access the resources they need to thrive.

**SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The North YouthBoard wants to fund organizations that prevent youth suicide because Adams County has high rates of suicides each year. In 2017, there were 21 suicides in Adams County for every 100,000 residents, compared to the national average of 14 suicides per 100,000 residents. Regarding youth suicide specifically, Colorado had nearly twice the national average rate in 2019 with over 20 suicides per 100,000 youth.

Geographic Restrictions: Programs should serve youth in the North Denver Metro area (especially Adams County), although we will consider applicants from the greater Denver area as well. (Please note that each YouthBoard has a different geographic location and different funding priorities every year. Nonprofits should review all YouthRoots Requests for Proposals to find the best fit.)

Make Change Take Root,

North Denver YouthBoard
The Northwest Denver YouthBoard of YouthRoots is now accepting grant proposals from registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt youth-serving organizations that meet at least one of the following needs in the Denver Metro community:

**YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

The Northwest YouthBoard chose homelessness because of the effect it has on students and their everyday lives. Public school data for the 2016-2017 school year shows that an estimated 23,014 public school students in the US experienced homelessness over the course of the year (United States Interagency Council of Homelessness). In Denver, there are almost 1,000 homeless youth on the streets on any given night (Urban Peak).

**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Northwest YouthBoard chose mental health services because mental health issues are common and have a critical impact on young people in our community. They affect youth being able to develop coping and problem-solving skills, and learning to manage their emotions. In 2015, 57,000 Colorado youth reported having at least one major depressive episode within the previous year - representing almost 14% of all 12-17 year olds in the state (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). Further, 62% of these youth did not get treatment for their depressive episodes. The problem is getting worse as studies show these rates continue to increase over time.

**YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

The Northwest YouthBoard sees the negative impact of substance abuse on our community every day. Marijuana use among Denver youth is higher than both state and national averages. In 2017, 22% of Denver high school students reported marijuana use, compared to 19% in Colorado and 20% in the United States (Healthy Kids Colorado). Of Colorado high school seniors who have used marijuana, more than 33% started using before age 15 (Denver Public Health).

Geographic Restrictions: Programs should serve youth in the Denver Metro area. *(Please note that each YouthBoard has a different geographic location and different funding priorities every year. Nonprofits should review all YouthRoots Requests for Proposals to find the best fit.)*

Other Notes: Our YouthBoard values organizations that use wrap-around programs to support youth in the community.

Make Change Take Root,

Northwest Denver YouthBoard
The Aurora YouthBoard of YouthRoots is now accepting grant proposals from registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt youth-serving organizations that meet the following need in the Aurora & Denver Metro communities:

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE
The Aurora YouthBoard is focusing on teen dating violence because one in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse at the hands of someone they date (Love is Respect). And yet, most teens who have been abused hesitate to seek help, and 81% of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or don’t know if it’s an issue. By choosing to support organizations that focus on providing support in eliminating teen dating violence, the Aurora YouthBoard hopes to help end this epidemic while protecting young people.

Geographic Restrictions: Programs should serve youth in the Aurora & Denver Metro areas. (Please note that each YouthBoard has a different geographic location and different funding priorities every year. Nonprofits should review all YouthRoots Requests for Proposals to find the best fit.)

Other Notes: Organizations that offer affordable and accessible services, LGBTQIA+ and culturally inclusive services, and/or have POC Leadership are strongly encouraged to apply.

Make Change Take Root,

Aurora YouthBoard
The Douglas County YouthBoard of YouthRoots is now accepting grant proposals from registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt youth-serving organizations that meet at least one of the following needs in the Douglas County community:

MENTAL HEALTH
The Douglas County YouthBoard would like to fund organizations that focus on supporting youth with mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD, as well as those that struggle with substance abuse, suicide, and bullying. Mental health affects everyone, and we observe this as a desperate need in our community.

GUN VIOLENCE
The Douglas County YouthBoard would like to fund organizations that focus on gun violence prevention, safe gun storage, and education because suicide, interpersonal violence, and mass shootings are so prevalent. Because this issue uniquely affects younger generations and the Douglas County community has been affected by multiple school shootings, we think and worry about gun violence constantly.

SEXUAL HEALTH
The Douglas County YouthBoard would like to fund organizations that focus on sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sex education, teen pregnancy, consent and/or STI/STD prevention. We believe that it is important for young people to be educated on how to have healthy relationships, including setting boundaries in a relationship.

Geographic Restrictions: Programs should serve youth in the Douglas County area. (Please note that each YouthBoard has a different geographic location and different funding priorities every year. Nonprofits should review all YouthRoots Requests for Proposals to find the best fit.)

Make Change Take Root,

Douglas County YouthBoard
The York International High School YouthBoard is now accepting grant proposals from registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt youth-serving organizations that meet the following need in Colorado communities:

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN COLORADO

According to the Colorado Health Institute, 24% of Colorado high school aged teens stopped participating in their typical activities because they felt sad or hopeless every day for two consecutive weeks. 14% of Colorado adults between 18-64 years of age reported that their mental health was not good eight or more days in the past month. Nearly 1 in 10 Coloradans say there was a time they didn’t receive the mental health care they needed.

By choosing to support organizations that focus on providing mental health support to youth and young people throughout Colorado, the York International YouthBoard hopes to help end the stigma around mental health and decreasing depression, anxiety, negative self-image, suicide, and other mental health challenges that occur throughout Colorado.

Geographic Restrictions: Programs should serve children, youth, and young adults in Colorado. (Please note that each YouthBoard has a different geographic location and different funding priorities every year. Nonprofits should review all YouthRoots Requests for Proposals to find the best fit.)

Other Notes: Organizations that offer youth-led opportunities and/or youth councils are strongly encouraged to apply.

Make Change Take Root,

York International High School YouthBoard
The PREP Academy YouthBoard is now accepting grant proposals from registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt youth-serving organizations that meet the following needs in the Denver Metro community:

**GUN VIOLENCE**
The PREP Academy YouthBoard is focusing on gun violence because our generation has seen a steady increase in firearm deaths. Today, school shootings are publicized and politicized. Meanwhile, 310 people are shot every day leading to 109 deaths per day. Every year, 7,782 children and teenagers are killed as a result of guns.

**LGBTQ+ STUDENTS’ RIGHTS**
More and more youth are identifying as members of the LGBTQ+ community. 34% of LGBTQ+ students are bullied at school while 10% of LGBTQ+ students have been threatened or injured by weapons on school property. Discrimination creates an unsafe environment, robbing these students of their rights to equitable education.

Geographic Restrictions: Programs should serve youth in the Denver Metro area. (Please note that each YouthBoard has a different geographic location and different funding priorities every year. Nonprofits should review all YouthRoots Requests for Proposals to find the best fit.)

Other Notes: We are primarily looking for organizations that create sustainable and reciprocal relationships within the community. We believe this work should be a hand up and not a hand out. Without empowering people to make systemic changes in their community, a monetary donation is a temporary solution to a permanent problem.

Make Change Take Root,

PREP Academy YouthBoard
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  APPLICATION PROCESS

SCHEDULE

March 16, 2020 - Due Date
Please complete the Colorado Common Grant Application and submit a physical copy to 1127 Sherman St, Suite #100, Denver, CO 80203 by 5:00pm on March 16, 2020 (if you’re applying for funding from more than one board, please submit a physical copy for each board). Please also submit an electronic copy to erin@youthroots.org.

March/April 2020 - Grant Finalists notified
You will be notified if you are a finalist by the date/s below:
March 27, 2020 - Douglas County YouthBoard; York International
April 3, 2020 - North, South, Northwest YouthBoards
April 10, 2020 - Central Denver YouthBoard
April 13, 2020 - Aurora YouthBoard
TBD - PREP Academy

April 2020 - Finalist Presentation Date/s
If you make it to the finals, you will be asked to present on the date/s below. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes, given anytime between 5:30-8:30pm and should be a brief summary of your organization and program, with time left for a Q&A at the end.
April 14, 2020 - Central Denver, South, Northwest, & Douglas County YouthBoards
April 21, 2020 - North YouthBoard
April 23, 2020 - Aurora YouthBoard
April 30, 2020 - York International
TBD - PREP Academy

May 1, 2020 - Announcement Date
You will be notified of the YouthBoard’s final decision by this date.

May 8, 2020 - PoP! Power of Philanthropy Bash
Grant Winners are invited to our annual event where they will be presented with large checks and highlighted to the community as winners of the prestigious YouthRoots grant and YouthRoots Impact Award. (Note: York International & PREP Academy will have separate events for their chosen grant winners.)

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 - The Funding Period
The final report is due August 1, 2021 via Google Forms (YouthRoots will send the link to you in June 2021).

THE RULES

• 501(c)3 tax-exempt organizations that serve youth are eligible to apply. Youth are defined as persons 0 - 18 years old, unless otherwise obvious in funding priorities description. Individuals are not considered.

• Grants must ultimately serve youth in and around the community where the granting YouthBoard is located.

• Grants are restricted to one year. Requests for more than one year of funding will not be considered.

• The applicant must use the grant funds only for the purposes for which the grant was made.

• Applicant acknowledges that YouthRoots has the authority to withhold and/or recover grant funds in case such funds are, or appear to be, misused.

• Individuals and organizations supporting political candidates are ineligible to apply.