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 $140,000 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 Dearborn, MI through partnerships with local community foundations. Please contact us to receive a copy of 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.
Denver is certainly unique - our mountains, our cities, our peoples; but this also includes lack of awareness about immigration and victims of addiction. Because we live here, we have to dedicate ourselves to being a true part of the community. As students in south Denver, we have a unique perspective on these issues. We have friends who are immigrants who've risked their lives coming here, and we know teens who are battling the debilitating effects of addiction. As such, the South 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 South Denver community:

**IMMIGRANT SUPPORT/IMMIGRATION RIGHTS**

Nearly 10 percent of Colorado residents are immigrants, and nearly 40 percent of those are undocumented immigrants, many of whom don’t know their rights or don't have access to important resources. We want to fund organizations that provide support for immigrants in our community.

**TEEN DRUG/SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Many high schoolers in Denver experience life-threatening drug addictions and don’t seek medical help due to a variety of barriers. We know these students: they are in our classrooms, our neighborhoods, and all throughout Denver. We hope to fund organizations that provide assistance to youths experiencing life-threatening addictions.

Geographic Restrictions: Organizations must provide programming 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: The South YouthBoard is particularly interested in organizations that directly serve high school students or their families, as well as provide opportunities for high school students to volunteer or get involved. Additionally, organizations that employ a social enterprise or earned income model for some portion of their revenue are especially encouraged to apply.

Make Change Take Root,

South YouthBoard
The North 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 Northern Denver community:

MENTAL HEALTH
The North YouthBoard chose this need because of an increase in poor mental health among students in the area. Mental Health is very crucial to one’s overall wellness. The North board recognizes that anyone can suffer from mental health challenges, but it often goes undiagnosed and untreated. That is why the North YouthBoard is interested in funding nonprofits that will assist people in being healthy with their minds.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS
The North YouthBoard chose this need because many youths in our communities are minority students from small schools who traditionally have no support from outside sources. There are few opportunities and limited resources for first-generation college students.

LGBTQ+ SUPPORT
The North YouthBoard chose this need because LGBTQ youth in our community have limited support in schools and few resources for assistance. We hope to fund organizations that provide support and resources to LGBTQ youth.

Geographic Restrictions: The North Board is based in Thornton, Co and is looking for organizations that will make an impact in Thornton and nearby 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: Startups are welcome to apply, as well as nonprofits that specialize in mentorship.

Make Change Take Root,

North YouthBoard
The Denver Central 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**
Homelessness is a cyclical, growing problem that lacks abundant solutions and can deeply impacts teens. While there are organizations in the Denver area whose missions are to provide support to the homeless, we want to focus on organizations that can also provide solutions for youth homelessness.

**FOSTER CARE SYSTEM**
The foster care system is an integral part of our community. However, it isn’t built to aid children and young adults who age out of the system, which can result in homelessness. This is a very important issue that requires more attention and awareness.

**PREVENTIVE PROGRAMS**
Preventive programs can include educational activities in schools, one-on-one counseling, and others. Programs that address issues such as drug abuse, mental health, and education can make a substantial impact in the outcome of a young individual’s life. Our board found preventative programs to be an underfunded sector that yields promising results.

Geographic Restrictions: Our YouthBoard has decided that it would be most beneficial to provide support to organizations that are focused on the heart of the Denver area. In doing so, we hope to mitigate these problems, spread awareness, and spark drive in others to make a difference. (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 as a YouthBoard understand that the needs we have identified are all interconnected. One can be the cause of another; and vice-versa. We would like to help organizations that focus on prevention of contributing factors to youth homelessness. For example, we are interested in organizations that address specific needs, such as: 1) Prevention programming related to trauma and mental health, 2) Transitional/support programs for youth exposed to the foster care system, 3) Substance use treatment and support, and 4) School support for youth trying to be successful in school while dealing with these issues. This way, we can donate to multiple organizations that all focus on one aspect of our needs. We hope that this produces a holistic approach that helps provide support to our identified needs.

Make Change Take Root,
Central 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:

**SEXUAL ASSAULT**
The Douglas County YouthBoard has decided to focus on sexual assault because of its prevalence in the community, despite the fact that it is highly underreported. Additionally, sexual assault is common among high-risk youth.

**MENTAL HEALTH**
The Douglas County YouthBoard has decided to focus on mental health because of its pervasive impact on the daily lives of youth. Mental health awareness and education is extremely necessary for youth, especially as a pathway to suicide prevention. Additionally, because of its broad nature, mental health is connected to other challenges.

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.)

Other Notes: Organizations that are especially concerned with providing preventative resources for youth are encouraged to apply.

Make Change Take Root,

Douglas County YouthBoard
The Aurora 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 Aurora community:

**SUICIDE PREVENTION**
Suicide is increasing in school age populations. Youth are experiencing high levels of stress. Some contributing factors include social media, bullying, isolation, cultural differences, and academic pressures. The Aurora YouthBoard is looking to decrease suicide among youth through both prevention and intervention.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
At-risk youth are more likely to experience mental health challenges leading to substance abuse. The Aurora YouthBoard is seeking to decrease substance abuse among youth through programs fostering prevention and intervention.

**MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS**
Awareness and adequate mental health services are lacking among diverse populations in Aurora. The Aurora YouthBoard is seeking to increase awareness of and accessibility to mental health care (including medication and psychiatric services) throughout diverse populations of youth.

**DIVERSITY OF MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**
It is vital that professionals of diverse populations are present and vocal in the mental health community, help individuals of diverse populations find face to face connections in their community and model help-seeking behaviors. The Aurora YouthBoard wants to ensure that people can find mental health practitioners from diverse populations.

Geographic Restrictions: Open to applicants serving Aurora youth. (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 looking for organizations that show a genuine and meaningful investment in bettering the mental health of Aurora youth. We value both prevention and intervention programs.

Make Change Take Root,

Aurora YouthBoard
The Jefferson 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 Jefferson County community:

**SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES/SPECIALISTS**
In 2017, 192 youth in Colorado died by suicide (Colorado Health Institute). Youth are in need of greater access to mental health programs and specialists in schools/communities to combat high suicide rates.

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR LGTBQ+ YOUTH**
In 2017, 44% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide compared to 13% of heterosexual youth (Healthy Kids Colorado Survey). LGBTQ Youth are in need of resources and trusted adults that can help them feel safe and decrease mental health struggles.

**SERVICES FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**
Many youth do not have adequate access to effective resources and trusted adults to make safe and informed decisions about their sexual health or healthy relationships. Health educators, counselors, community health centers, and programming can provide youth with the resources and knowledge to support healthy relationships during adolescence and into adulthood.

Geographic Restrictions: Metro Denver 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,

Jefferson County YouthBoard
SCHEDULE

March 4, 2019 - 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 4, 2019. Please also submit an electronic copy to erin@youthroots.org. You will be notified by email within a week that it was received.

March/April 2019 - Grant Finalists notified
You will be notified if you are a finalist by the date below (varies by YouthBoard location):
March 20, 2019 - Denver Central, North, South YouthBoards
April 10, 2019 - Douglas County YouthBoard
April 11, 2019 - Jefferson County YouthBoard
April 12, 2019 - Aurora YouthBoard

April 2019 - Finalist Presentation Date/s
If you make it to the finals, you will be asked to present on the date below. The presentations should be 10-15 minutes, given anytime between 5:30-8:30pm at a location TBD. The presentations should be a brief summary of your organization and program with time left for a Q&A at the end. Dates are as follows:
April 9, 2019 - Denver Central, North, South YouthBoards
April 18, 2019 - Aurora YouthBoard
April 23, 2019 - Douglas County YouthBoard
April 24, 2019 - Jefferson County YouthBoard

April 29, 2019 - Announcement Date
You will be notified of the YouthBoard’s final decision by this date.

May 10, 2019 - 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.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 - The Funding Period
The final report is due August 1, 2020 via Google Forms (YouthRoots will send the link to you in June 2020).

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.