

Outdoor Equity Grant Program 2023



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The Cycle Effect participant checking her personal gear before a ride

Cover photos courtesy of Adaptive Adventures, Cal-Wood Education Center, Latino Outdoors, and elevateHER, clockwise from top.

The Outdoor Equity Grant Program

Overview

The Outdoor Equity Grant Program (OEGP) is the product of a statewide community-led effort to expand access to the outdoors for communities that have traditionally been excluded from conventional recreation and conservation activities. Modeling after New Mexico’s Outdoor Equity Fund, the effort to create a similar fund in Colorado was spearheaded by Next 100 Colorado, a coalition of organizations and individuals striving toward an inclusive approach to public lands in the state. This is the first annual report as required in the Create Outdoor Equity Grant Program Act.

The passage of HB21-1318 in June 2021 created the Outdoor Equity Fund and the OEGP, with the goal of supporting equitable opportunities for youth up to age 25 from underrepresented communities and their families to experience Colorado’s parks and open spaces, to participate in outdoor recreation, and to engage in conservation activities, career exploration, and outdoor job training. The traditionally-excluded communities served by this program include: Black, Indigenous, and people of color; LGBTQ+; people with disabilities; and low-income.

The Outdoor Equity Grant Board (OEGB), comprised of nine members appointed by the Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and three non-voting members, administers the program and awards grants. Three seats on the Board are held by youth under the age of 25. CPW recruited board members over the fall of 2021 and the Board became operational in January 2022.

The OEGP is funded through Colorado Lottery proceeds. The amount transferred into the fund each year is as follows: \$750,000 in FY21, \$1,500,000 in FY22, up to \$2,250,000 in FY23, and up to \$3,000,000 in FY24 and in subsequent years, to the extent available.

Outdoor Equity Grant Applications

The OEGB solicits applications through a concise, inclusive, and accessible application process, and reviews applications in a straightforward and objective way. In addition to assessing grant proposals based on OEGP goals, the Board also makes efforts to equitably invest across the state’s regions and across the populations named in HB21-1318.

The Board follows the annual grant application and review process as outlined in the Outdoor Equity Board Operations policy posted on the OEGP website: <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Outdoor-Equity-Fund.aspx>

The Board hosted two application periods in 2022, one in the spring and one in the fall. Throughout both application periods, the Board received over 300 applications, totaling to over \$23,000,000 in requests. Grant awards were announced in July and December.

Outdoor Equity Grant Awards

In its first year of operation, the Outdoor Equity Grant Program awarded nearly \$3.1 million to 69 organizations.

Grant Cycle	Number of Awards	Total Awards
Spring 2022	42	\$1,763,000*
Fall 2022	27	\$1,321,808
Total	69	\$3,084,808

Figure 1. Total Awards and Total Award Amounts

*Additional investments from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado increased funds available to help respond to respond to high interest in the first grant cycle.

Grant Award Information

Smallest Grant	Largest Grant	Mean Grant Amount
\$4,000	\$150,000	\$44,707

Figure 2. Minimum, Maximum, and Mean Award Amount

Organizations that were awarded grants included non-profits, for-profits, local governments, school districts, universities, and federally-recognized tribes located within the state.

Many grantees work in partnership with other organizations to implement their Outdoor Equity projects.

Types of Organizations Receiving Funding

Type of organization	Total Awards
Non-profit	53
School (K-12, College, or University)	8
Local Government	3
For-Profit (B-Corp or LLC)	2
Federally-recognized Tribe	2
Non-government District (eg. Library District)	1

Figure 3. Types of Organizations Granted Awards



Outdoor Equity Grant Outcomes, 2022

From July 1 – December 1, 2022, 33 Outdoor Equity Grant recipients began work on their grant projects. The OEGP supported a total of 7498 participants in accessing outdoor programming. Grant funds supported participants in 34 Colorado counties.

Grant funds reached participants who are residents of the following counties: Adams, Alamosa, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, Gilpin, Grant, Gunnison, Jefferson, Lake, La Plata, Larimer, Las Animas, Mesa, Mineral, Montezuma, Morgan, Park, Pitkin, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Routt, Summit, Weld.

Participant Demographics

Organizations that receive grant funds are asked to report on relevant demographic data such as race, ethnicity and participant age. Some grantees also choose to report on the percentage of participants who have a disability.

In the first year of operation, an overwhelming majority of participants reached by OEGP funding were youth. Youth are defined as persons younger than the age of 25 in HB21-1318. A majority of participants identified as Hispanic or Latino. Grantees reported that about 5% of total participants were people with disabilities.

Participant demographics are aggregated across all active grantee programs and are based on estimates submitted by grantee organizations. However, some grantees focus on a particular population as named in HB21-1318, such as youth with disabilities, or Black youth.

Demographics are based on the first six month reports from grantees. The OEGP expects the impacts of the program, including participants reached, to expand considerably over the next year.

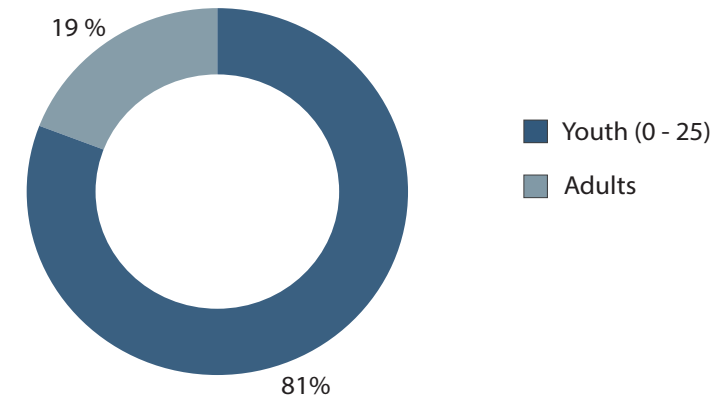


Figure 4. Participant Ages

Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin	Participants, percentage of total
Hispanic or Latino	54%
White	9%
Black	9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	3%
Two or More Races or Multiracial	2%
Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian	1%
Not Collected or Unknown	22%

Figure 5. Participant Race and Ethnicity

Highlights from Grantees

Adaptive Adventures, Westminster

Thanks to the Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant, Adaptive Adventures delivered six Get Outdoors and Play Multisport Days, provided free of charge to children, adults, and veterans with physical disabilities and their families. Adaptive Adventures provided adaptive cycling, adaptive climbing, adaptive kayaking, and paddle boarding. They also hosted four Adaptive Sports for Kids programs, to help foster individual skill development and exploration, as well as relationship and team building activities through adaptive cycling, climbing, and paddling. Over the course of the grant, 342 unique individuals with physical disabilities were served in a total of 514 participation days.

Adaptive Adventures held their Get Outdoors and Play Multisport Days at Chatfield State Park, so in addition to offering the opportunity for people with disabilities to try adaptive sports, they also invited participants to experience a state park. The age range of participants served was 6 years old to 78 years old. Adaptive bike equipment available included adult and youth handcycles, recumbent trikes, tandem trikes, and upright bikes, as well as hand and foot adaptations. Paddling equipment included single kayaks, tandem kayaks, paddleboards, and all adaptations. Returning participants were offered challenges to help progress their skills.

“A little girl and her family came to see if it was possible for her to ride a bike with Spina Bifida. Chris and Gilbert fit her for an adaptive trike and then outfitted her entire family to ride with her. Her parents were in tears because they didn’t know it was possible for them to participate in an activity together as a family.”

- Chelsea Elder, Executive Director, Adaptive Adventures

“Adaptive Adventures changed my life. I’m so grateful for your organization, staff and all the volunteers. This year I accomplished what I thought was impossible last year, to be able to ride around Chatfield Reservoir by myself and without a buddy rider escorting me and helping me up tough hills. Riding my recumbent trike has helped my physical pain and relief/outlet for a mentally tough year of losses for me. I didn’t quite make my goal of 500 miles. I was able to ride farther and without my oxygen.”

- Adaptive Adventures Participant



Diversify Whitewater, Loveland

Diversify Whitewater provided four free, safe, all-ages opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and allies to learn paddle sports. Events included a Community River Float on the Cache la Poudre River in Northern Colorado, a Stand-up Paddle Boarding Skills Day in Denver, a Paddling Skills Day in Avon, and a Paddling Skills Day in Pueblo. Diversify Whitewater reached 216 participants over the four events. Ninety percent of participants said “I had an amazing time,” and 95% of participants agreed with the statement, “the Diversify Whitewater event removed barriers for me to go paddling.”

“Thank you so much for making some of this information and the experience available to communities who would otherwise not have the opportunity.”

- Diversify Whitewater Participant

Colorado Canyons Association, Grand Junction

Colorado Canyons Association guided 45 fifth grade students from District 51 Dual Immersion Academy (DIA) and their teachers on a bilingual river program in the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Over the two-day program, students experienced hands-on lessons ranging from STREAM topics to agriculture to Leave-No-Trace principles and Old Spanish Trail history. Most of the students had never been on a river trip before. Fewer still had hiked into a wilderness area before the program. DIA student body is over 60% Hispanic and nearly 50% low-income.

“Hearing these topics outside of the classroom, in Spanish and English, had an impact on the students. Leave-No-Trace principles were shared so the students could learn to treat their public lands with respect, an important lesson for first-time public land and wilderness users.”

- Colorado Canyons Association Staff Member

Kwiyagat Community Academy, Towaoc

Outdoor Equity Grant Funds are supporting the Nuchiu Outdoors program, which serves all 48 students at Kwiyagat Community Academy, and involves their teachers, classroom aides, community members, and parents in a series of at least six field trips during the 2022-23 school year.

Second grade students planted cottonwood and sumac trees, which are traditional plants of the Ute Mountain Ute people and used for ceremonies and basket-weaving, in the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park.

First and second graders took field trips to the Ute Mountain Ute Farm and Ranch to collect pumpkins and learn about the blue and yellow corn operations at the facilities. The students brought back pumpkins for their families and the kindergarten class. The student body at Kwiyagat Community Academy is 100% Native American.

“It was great to include the children in the restoration efforts along the Mancos River in the Tribal Park. They felt part of a bigger effort by doing the simple act of planting trees.”

- Hannah, Trees, Water, People

“The tree planting is part of our larger effort to have a land-based academic program.”

-Dan Porter, Principal at Kwiyagat Community Academy



Kwiyagat Community Academy students plant trees along the Mancos River

Lincoln Hills Cares, Denver

Lincoln Hills facilitates culturally responsive outdoor education and recreation programs for marginalized, low-income, and underrepresented youth and families that encourage discussions about cultural history, natural sciences, the environment, and outdoor recreation.

Supported by the Outdoor Equity Grant, Lincoln Hills Cares has served 1176 low-income youth and youth of color from the greater Metro-Denver through the Lincoln Hills Cares Outdoor Education program, the ESTEM program, and the LHC Pathways Program. This includes the Trout in the Classroom program, hosted in two high schools in the Denver Metro area, which merges science and environmental stewardship to connect students to environmental science activities in the classroom and outdoors. In this program, students are introduced to the life cycle of the trout by creating an independent hatchery in five fish tanks in student classrooms.

“I am so grateful for the Lincoln Hills staff and leadership! We have an amazing time when we come and learn so much from all of the staff members! It is such a special place and it’s so healing and restorative to visit and learn from everyone!”

-Lincoln Hills Participant

Pueblo School District No. 60, Pueblo

After observing how the pandemic put a social and emotional strain on our students and families, 75% of which are considered economically disadvantaged, Pueblo School District 60 provided an opportunity for students to participate in outdoor activities to help ignite a sense of curiosity, connection and inclusion. The Outdoor Equity Grant helped provide an outdoor team bonding experience for all sixth graders from eight district middle schools, in order to ease the transition from elementary to middle school. The program provided 862 students with the opportunity to improve their capacity to create and maintain healthy relationships with their peers and teachers while establishing a safe, positive, and mutually beneficial environment.

The Cycle Effect, Eagle

Outdoor Equity Grant funds support The Cycle Effect’s Girls Mountain Bike Program, a year-round program which leads young women, a majority identifying as Latinx or BIPOC, through a mountain-biking curriculum, one-on-one mentorship and coaching, strength training, and goal-setting. High school participants also get the opportunity to race on their local high school team each fall. The program served 262 participants, 86% of which identified with one or more at-risk factors such as high stress, difficulty making friends, having been bullied, self-harm, or thoughts of suicide. Eighty-five percent of participants reported an average increase of four hours or more of physical activity per week from their baseline from when they started the program, and 75% of participants reported that participating in mountain biking helped them manage daily stress.

The program teaches participants responsibility for their bikes and asks them to take ownership of their personal gear. This expectation provides them with the autonomy and confidence that comes from ownership of their gear. Participants are able to perceive challenges as an opportunity to learn and grow, which fundamentally shapes how they feel about their ability to handle difficult and new situations.

“To me, being part of The Cycle Effect is being part of an amazing team of inspiring and talented people that always supports and encourages one another. In four years, there isn’t a practice I regret going to. I always feel stronger and more empowered. The most important thing I’ve learned is that improving is a process.”

-Paola, The Cycle Effect Participant



The Cycle Effect participants take part in a volunteer trail building project



Students from Ft. Lewis College hike to Falls Creek

2023 – 2024 Grant Timeline

Starting in 2023, the Board expects to open the Outdoor Equity Grant Application once annually, in the fall. Important dates for the FY24 grant cycle are listed below.

Activity	Date
Outdoor Equity Grant Application Opens	August 1, 2023
Questions and Answers with the OEGB	August 10, 2023, 10 am
Application Closes	September 15, 2023, 5 pm
Grant Decisions Announced	December 15, 2023
Grant Funds Disbursed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife	March 31, 2024

Appendix 1: Reporting Requirements for the Outdoor Equity Grant Program

The Create Outdoor Equity Grant Program Act (HB21 13-18) was signed into law on June 21, 2021. The act establishes an outdoor equity board in the division of parks and wildlife. The board is responsible for the governance of the outdoor equity grant program, which is created in the act. The purpose of the outdoor equity grant program is to increase access and opportunity for underserved youth and their families to experience Colorado’s open spaces, state parks, public lands, and other outdoor areas.

The act specifies that the board may award grants to applicants that will directly utilize the grant to engage eligible youth and their families by reducing barriers to the Colorado outdoors, creating pathways for formal or informal conservation of the Colorado outdoors, or offering environmental and Colorado outdoor-based educational opportunities.

The act funds the grant program through a redistribution of lottery money that is earmarked for the general fund.

The act also directs the Board to:

E) COMPILER AN ANNUAL REPORT THAT DETAILS INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMS THAT ARE AWARDED GRANTS, INCLUDING: THE ETHNIC AND RACIAL MAKEUP OF THE PARTICIPANTS, THE AGES AND LOCALITIES OF PARTICIPANTS, THE TYPES OF PROGRAMS, AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT THE BOARD SEES FIT; AND

F) I) TO PRESENT THE REPORT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(e) OF THIS SECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION, AND TO MAKE THE REPORT PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE, INCLUDING POSTING THE REPORT ON THE BOARD’S WEBSITE.

(II) IN JANUARY 2023, AND EACH JANUARY THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT ON THE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(e) OF THIS SECTION, AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT’S PRESENTATION TO ITS COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AT A HEARING HELD PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203 (2)(a) OF THE “STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT”.

Appendix 2: Outdoor Equity Grants, FY21-FY22

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Acequia Institute	San Luis	\$80,000	The Acequia Youth Apprenticeship outdoor education program is part of a larger project designed to improve community health in Costilla County through the San Luis Food Sovereignty Initiative. OEGP funding will help support local youth participation in the Acequia Youth Apprenticeship (AYA) program. Each apprentice will receive a stipend for participation in an outdoor and environmental education experience focused on land and water ethics in caring for the acequia heritage landscape that is recognized for its provision of astounding ecosystem and economic base services. Additionally, funding will support young adults who will be assigned to keeping a five-acre community farm at the Carpenter Ranch. Youth will participate in an outdoor education curriculum which focuses on agroecology, acequias, Indigenous soil knowledge, place-based land and water ethics, and ecological history of the Upper Rio Grande bioregion.
Adaptive Adventures	Westminster	\$45,000	The mission of Adaptive Adventures is to provide progressive outdoor sports opportunities to improve quality of life for children, adults, and veterans with physical disabilities and their families. Adaptive Adventures ensures that all individuals with physical disabilities have access to participation in outdoor sports regardless of their location, equipment needs or economic status. Funds will be used to provide adaptive cycling, adaptive climbing, adaptive kayaking and paddle boarding opportunities during Outdoor and Play Multisport Days and Adaptive Sports for Kids Days. Adaptive Adventures will provide instructors and adaptive gear to fit the needs of participants with physical disabilities of varying experience levels, ages, and abilities
Adaptive Sports Association	Durango	\$50,000	The Adaptive Sports Association (ASA) provides outdoor, sport, and recreational experiences for people with disabilities. These activities are provided regardless of individual financial limitations and create an atmosphere for learning and enhancing self-esteem. Using specialized equipment and trained volunteer instructors, ASA strives to make the transformative power of the outdoors accessible to all. The OEGP will provide programmatic support for ASA's year-round programs.
Americas for Conservation and the Arts	Boulder	\$20,000	Americas for Conservation and the Arts is advancing healthy communities through environmental and cultural stewardship that can best bridge the outdoor and creative inclusion gaps and serve the most underserved. Americas for Conservation + the Arts' largest program is Promotores Verdes or Nature Health Workers, which merges the key concepts of public health and environmental stewardship to connect low-income BIPOC to public lands, educate them about the long-term health benefits of nature, and engage families in citizen science and stewardship action, with a goal of restoring both nature and ourselves. Funding will support twelve guided outings on public lands for BIPOC families that will improve access to nature and knowledge of sustainability for at least 150 individuals.
Asian Girls Ignite	Denver	\$78,000	Asian Girls Ignite envisions a world where Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) girls and women define their power. AGI's mission is to build a strong community of AAPI girls and women to celebrate their individual and collective power through shared stories. Funding will support AGI Outdoors, which addresses the lack of AAPI representation in outdoors spaces by providing AAPI girls access to learn outdoor skills, build confidence and self-efficacy, and connect with the community of AAPI women who have a passion for the outdoors.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies	Aspen	\$25,000	Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) is a non-profit environmental science education organization with three locations in the Roaring Fork watershed. ACES mission is to "educate for environmental responsibility" and they make more than 125,000 annual education contacts reaching Colorado residents and visitors through guided hikes, environmental science lessons in schools and in the field, kids' camps and adult classes, public lectures, community events, and more. Grant funds will be used to ensure equal access to nature and science education for low-income, underserved, and minority students from Basalt to Rifle. Grant funds will enable ACES' outdoor field science programs for K - 8 grade students in an effort to expand programming to accommodate students with different backgrounds, geographic locations, and language barriers to better meet the dynamic needs of the diverse valley.
Basalt Regional Library	Basalt	\$5,000	This grant will allow the library to purchase camping equipment, including tents, sleeping pads, camp stoves and cook sets, tables, and chairs to lend out to patrons. Located in the Roaring Fork Valley, the library is surrounded by hundreds of acres of National Forest and Wilderness Areas as well as many State Parks. Camping kits will make it possible for families to experience the natural environment by providing the bulk of the equipment needed.
Big City Mountaineers	Denver	\$28,093	Big City Mountaineers is committed to providing transformative experiences through nature that strengthen life skills and build community for youth from disinvested communities. Funding will support Big City Mountaineers in serving approximately 140 students in Colorado during the 2022 and 2023 program seasons by providing free, fully outfitted, and professionally led outdoor experiences for youth from disinvested communities. As an organization dedicated to increasing representation in the outdoors for communities who have traditionally not been as able to engage with the natural world, BCM has 30+ years of experience creating opportunities for BIPOC-identified students and low-income students to cultivate a sense of belonging in outdoor spaces.
Black Parents United Foundation	Aurora	\$55,875	The Black Parents United Foundation (BPUF) is a 501(c)3 community-based non-profit organization created to empower parents of black and brown children to empower their children, and to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion through confidence building, community development, and community engagement. The goal of the BPUF Outdoor Program is to inspire growth and foster connections by reducing barriers of black and brown families to the Colorado outdoors by creating pathways offering environmental and Colorado outdoor-based educational and recreational opportunities. Funding will support strategic planning of an event and outreach schedule and accessibility plan, will support inviting 50 new community members to community outdoors and environmental justice events, and will support the Executive Director and Director of Health and Wellness Outdoors Program.
Blackpackers	Colorado Springs	\$60,000	The mission of Blackpackers is two-fold: To provide gear, outdoor excursions and outdoor education for free or at subsidized cost, and to connect participants with volunteer opportunities, internships, jobs, and post-secondary education resources to create a pipeline from outdoor recreation to outdoor industry careers. Funding will be used to provide living wages for two full time employees while the organization continues to pursue sustainable revenue streams for ongoing work.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County	Pueblo	\$150,000	Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County's mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Over the last 50 years, BGCPC has witnessed youth in high-poverty areas and communities of color in Pueblo express interest in exploring nature but confront barriers such as lack of reliable transportation or cost. Funding will allow BGCPC to hire a full-time Outdoor Manager, who will coordinate outdoor safety training for staff and create new activities such as environmental education, field trips and outdoor activities, working with the Career & Education (STEM) Coordinators in the eight BGCPC Clubs to create adventurous, fun and educational activities for members.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Cal-Wood Education Center	Jamestown	\$50,000	Cal-Wood's mission is to offer a unique outdoor educational experience to youth and adults at their 1,200 acre mountain site in Jamestown, CO. Their founding vision has guided our organization since 1982: to inspire a greater appreciation for the natural world; to offer environmental education to those who would not otherwise experience it; and to provide unique educational opportunities in a special mountain setting. Funding will support the implementation and expansion of Cal-Wood's Latino Family Camps, including creating a replicable curriculum; implementing three camps in Leadville, Colorado Springs, and Trinidad; and helping implement Cal-Wood's summer 2022 season serving 960 Latino family members, and to distribute gear to participants.
Chaffee County Public Health	Salida	\$65,000	The Chaffee County Outdoor Equity Coalition is building a mobile gear library that will directly address the barriers of lack of gear and money, for both Chaffee County youth and the network of youth serving agencies, including Generation Wild initiatives, across the state that are working to reduce barriers to accessing the Upper Arkansas Valley's pristine public lands. An added benefit will include education about responsible recreation for participants. Organizations involved in Chaffee's coalition include: Chaffee County Public Health; Envision Chaffee County; the Town of Buena Vista; City of Salida Parks & Recreation departments; Chaffee County Boys and Girls Clubs; Buena Vista and Salida School Districts; the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA); the CPW Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA); Bureau of Land Management - Royal Gorge Field Office (BLM); and US Forest Service - Salida Ranger District (USFS-SRD).
City of Colorado Springs Therapeutic Recreation Program	Colorado Springs	\$17,800	The mission of the Therapeutic Recreation Program is to provide opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities to acquire skills that enable them to participate in recreation and leisure experiences of their choice and enhance their ability to function in a community setting. Support and advocacy are provided for individuals with disabilities to participate in general recreation activities as well as specialized therapeutic activities that include opportunities in outdoor adventure, arts & culture, social enrichment, community integration & leisure education and sports, fitness, and aquatics. Funding from the OEGP will help implement the track chair program, which will help individuals with paralysis and mobility impairments increase freedom and independence, will broaden the horizon of possibilities of where they can travel on off-road and backcountry areas, and allow individuals to be more included in the community in which they live.
Cloud City Conservation Center	Leadville	\$25,000	Cloud City Conservation Center (C4) fosters pathways to a healthier planet and community through initiatives that inspire the conservation of our natural environment. C4 engages Lake County community members in education and action on environmental issues while also addressing inequities that increase the impact of those environmental issues on community members. Their three main programs are energy efficiency, waste diversion, and sustainable food. Within all three areas, C4 focuses on climate solutions and programs that are accessible to all members of the community and have a direct impact both on our community members' lives and the environment. General operating funds will support environmental justice work across all programming in partnership with our stewardship and conservation education for Lake County youth and families.
Colorado Canyons Association	Grand Junction	\$7,500	Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) fosters community stewardship, education, and awareness of National Conservation Lands in Western Colorado. Their pilot program, Dias del Agua y Tierra, will serve bilingual students, will let them see the landscape through the lens of two languages, and will provide trip information and permission forms in Spanish for their parents. During this two-day program, Spanish and English will be spoken as students hike and raft through the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Educators will teach hands-on lessons ranging from STEM topics to Leave-No-Trace principles and Old Spanish Trail history. The curriculum will also address leadership, social skills and personal safety.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Colorado Center for the Blind	Littleton	\$50,000	Colorado Center for the Blind provides training, support and opportunities that blind individuals and others need to empower them to develop positive attitudes and lead independent lives as fully integrated, productive and contributing members of society. Funding will support breaking barriers to get underserved blind youth to equally participate in outdoor recreation, learn environmental and conservation science, and learn about new career fields while developing non-visual skills and confidence to reach a full and independent life.
Colorado Discover Ability	Grand Junction	\$50,000	The mission of Colorado Discovery Ability (CDA) is to increase the independence, self-confidence and self-worth of people with disabilities through outdoor recreation. CDA works to bring joy, improved health, a sense of camaraderie, and new skills to those often overlooked. Funding will help expand the number of young adults, teens and children involved in adaptive outdoor sport and recreational experiences and improve outreach efforts to engage racially and ethnically diverse, low-income, and severely-disabled youth.
Colorado Institute of Developmental Pediatrics Inc, dba Adam's Camp	Englewood	\$47,700	The mission of Adam's Camp is to realize the potentials and develop the strengths of children and young adults with disabilities by bringing together families with professionals and volunteers to collaboratively provide customized, intensive therapy, family support, and recreation in a camp environment. Funding from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Equity Grant will support about 10% of costs to run a summer of Mountain Therapy Camp. Mountain Therapy Camp, now in its 36th year, is held for 5-6 weeks each summer at the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch. Campers experience a week-long, multidisciplinary personalized therapy camp with strategic goals focused on their unique needs and strengths
Colorado Rocky Mountain School (HS)2 Program	Carbondale	\$6,700	(HS)2 prepares a group of first-generation and low-income high school students of color to succeed in college by empowering them with STEM-based skills, a family of driven peers, and a space to see the light and power in their own voices. At (HS)2, access to the outdoors is core to realizing their mission. With funding, (HS)2 will provide a group of Denver-based students a trip to Buttermilk Mountain for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding, and learning about the impacts of climate change.
Connections for Independent Living	Greeley	\$21,000	Connections for Independent Living challenges barriers, both physical and attitudinal, which restrict the rights and personal development opportunities of people with disabilities. Their mission is to promote the full inclusion and integration of people who live with all types of disabilities into all levels of society. Funding will support a Connect with Friends group with a specialized outdoor emphasis for youth with disabilities in Weld, Morgan, Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma counties.
Conservation Legacy	Durango	\$50,000	Conservation Legacy's mission is to engage future leaders who protect, restore, and enhance our nation's lands through community-based service. Funding will support the Los Valles (LV) Salida-based office to develop a Rainbow Youth Crew model in Chaffee County and year-round rainbow middle school programming to improve LGBTQ2S+ inclusion and representation. The LV office will also implement a Colorful Colorado Youth (CCY) initiative for Latinx youth in the San Luis Valley in 2022 and 2023. Funding will also allow Four Corners Durango-based YCC program to offer youth programs that are inclusive of the LGBTQ2S+ teen community, career pathways development, and mental health support. FC is also working to engage Opportunity Youth in the San Luis Valley and Montezuma County. OEG investments will ensure higher chances of success for participants by bolstering organizational capacity to support local relationship building, targeted recruitment strategies, development of wrap around services, added field support, and project partner development, and will support community needs assessment and program development work for pilot implementation in 2023, including engaging the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Cultivando	Eastlake	\$19,082	Cultivando is an organization that serves the Latino community in Adams County and focuses on community leadership to advance health equity through advocacy, collaboration, and policy change. With grant funding, Cultivando will create programming targeting BIPOC youth from Adams County and North Denver, with the goal of having them learn about land conservation, environmental justice and the outdoors. This will be achieved through two programs: a BIPOC Youth Weekend Intensive at Montezuma Land Conservatory, and a series of BIPOC family day hikes.
Denver Indian Center	Denver	\$85,000	The mission of the Denver Indian Center is to empower American Indian youth, elders, families and community by promoting self-determination and economic, mental and physical health through education, advocacy and cultural enrichment. Funding will increase connections to the land for Native American youth leaders through wilderness first aid, traditional medicine and food collection, and leadership skill training.
Diversify Whitewater	Loveland	\$4,000	The mission of Diversify Whitewater is to promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in paddle sports by removing the barriers that exist for BIPOC and Allies in kayaking, canoeing, rafting, and stand-up paddling. Funding will support four free community paddling events by covering participant transportation, food and beverages, permitting & parking/access fees, and event liability insurance.
Earth Mountain Education Farm	Trinidad	\$50,000	Earth Mountain Education Farm's mission is to educate for a sustainable future through outdoor experiential education programs that encourage personal growth, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship. Earth Mountain Education Farm currently serves marginalized populations and gives access to outdoor education, and with funding will continue to bolster their ability to serve more people who struggle with barriers to safe outdoor experiences. Funding will support the purchase of equipment and tools, build wheelchair accessible trails and paths, upgrade access to gardens and basecamp facilities, acquire a handicap accessible port-o-potty, create a scholarship fund for special needs children to participate in outdoor programs, hire additional staff, and provide staff development opportunities.
elevateHER	Buena Vista	\$8,500	elevateHER's mission is to foster self-worth and grit in young women through mentoring, outdoor adventure and holistic wellness programs. elevateHER's flagship empowerHER program is completely free for participants; removing the barrier of cost even a nominal fee presents. The program serves young womxn from all over Chaffee County and surrounding communities who are entering sixth grade through their graduation from high school. elevateHER exists to identify and serve girls who are from historically marginalized, underserved and underrepresented populations, specifically LGBTQ+ and BIPOC girls. elevateHER's program engages LGBTQ youth, youth of color and their peers in no-cost year-round cumulative outdoor education and mentorship opportunities. Funding will support experiential learning experiences for Chaffee County youth through summer, fall, winter, and spring programming.
Environmental Learning for Kids	Denver	\$75,000	Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is an inclusive nonprofit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25. ELK reaches out to students who have been traditionally overlooked and under-encouraged in science and science-related careers, most notably, youth of color, LGBTQ+, and girls. Funding will support an increase in the number of youth served through ELK's four core programs and the Urban Rangers, ELK's youth employment program.
Fort Collins Community Action Network	Fort Collins	\$50,000	FCCAN's mission is to create community based on furthering economic, social, and environmental justice, sustainability, human rights, and peace for all by building coalitions, developing strategies and actions, and supporting existing progressive organizations. The grant will support efforts alongside affiliate member Fuerza Latina, to improve access to the outdoors for Latinx immigrants in Larimer County, specifically for youth and undocumented members of the community.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Fort Lewis College	Durango	\$25,020	Fort Lewis College started as a military outpost, then an Indian boarding school to rural high school and currently a public college serving a student body of over 57% students of color. Funding will support a 14-week First-Year Launch course for first-year students at Fort Lewis College (FLC) in Durango, CO. The goal of this course is for students to build a connection with a faculty member, their peers, their outdoor community, and the natural world. Many of FLC's first-year students do not drive or have access to a vehicle that allows them an outdoor experience away from campus. This meaningful experience outdoors in nature will help students to feel more connected to the place and those around them.
Fortaleza Familiar	Eastlake	\$61,750	Fortaleza Familiar is dedicated to the wellness of Indigenous Chicana Latinx Lesbian Gay Bi Queer Trans Two-Spirit young people and their families in Colorado. The vision of Fortaleza Familiar is that young LGBTQ2S people and their families reconnect to the ancestral power of their collective voice and resilience to lead healthy and balanced lives. Fortaleza en Naturaleza, or Fortitude in Nature, will provide young people (10-25) access to positive environments outdoors, increase belonging to self, community, and outdoors, and build healthy relationships with trusted adults who affirm their identities by organizing seasonal gatherings and outdoor activities for LGBTQ2S+ youth and their family members.
Friends of Youth and Nature	Hotchkiss	\$67,180	Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) connects youth to outdoor activities to promote healthy physical, social & emotional lifestyles to build resilience; educates youth & community members about environmental stewardship; and provides opportunities to develop outdoor skills. FOYAN will facilitate a coalition of Together for Resilient Youth organizations to eliminate barriers in getting underserved youth outdoors. The program will provide mountain bike gear and mentored outdoor skill building activities for at-risk youth.
Get Outdoors Leadville!	Leadville	\$70,750	Get Outdoors Leadville!'s mission is to deepen the Lake County community's connection to the natural world by expanding equitable access to culturally informed and enriching outdoor experiences. GOL! envisions a world where people of all identities, backgrounds, and abilities experience safety, wellness, and a sense of belonging in the natural world. Funding will support culturally-specific outdoor experiences for Latinx youth and families that foster a sense of connection and belonging to public lands.
Girls On Rock	Boulder	\$46,300	Girls on Rock (GOR), serves girls 16-18 years old that identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), low-income, and LGBTQ+, where girls may be cis girls, trans girls, and any girl-identified youth, as well as non-binary and gender non-conforming youth. The GOR program provides 9-12 participants who have lacked access to the outdoors the opportunity to participate in a 12-day rock climbing and backcountry wilderness expedition, facilitated by 2-3 instructors and a certified mountain guide.
Gypsum Elementary School	Gypsum	\$5,000	Gypsum Elementary School provides P.E. classes with an emphasis on physical and health literacy. Many students do not participate in outdoor activities beyond the playground and soccer field. Gypsum Elementary will introduce and invite students and families to participate in hikes, snowshoeing, fishing, and other outdoor activities. They will invite experts from their own community to share their love of outdoors with students, with the goal of lifelong fitness and health.
Haseya Advocate Program	Colorado Springs	\$70,000	Haseya Advocate Program is a Native-led and operated organization that serves Indigenous survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the Colorado Springs region. Haseya Advocate Program knows and recognizes the power Native peoples hold, and seeks to ensure their safety by providing services, resources, and personalized support. They believe Native survivors are strong and beautiful, and are driven to make sure survivors can live their lives in safety, joy, and peace. Funding will increase access to outdoor spaces and knowledge related to land stewardship and seasonal living for the Native community of the Pikes Peak region.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Hunters of Color	Statewide	\$50,000	The mission of Hunters of Color is to create a more equitable community for hunters of color by dismantling barriers to entry through educational opportunities, mentorship, and resources to increase BIPOC participation in hunting, conservation, and the outdoors. Hunters of Color will be using the Colorado Outdoor Equity grant funds to ensure that "the Outdoors are for Everyone," by providing mentorship, resources, and educational opportunities to BIPOC youth in Colorado. They'll do this through a gear locker which will provide free camping equipment, fishing gear, archery, and other gear; by hosting archery clinics; hosting classes for Spanish speakers and families in partnership with Latino Outdoors, and by building a Colorado community of BIPOC mentors, mentees, and allies.
International Rescue Committee in Denver	Denver	\$30,000	The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster, including the climate crisis, to survive, recover and gain control over their future. Its vision is to lead the humanitarian field by implementing high-impact, cost-effective programs for people affected by crisis. The IRC in Denver's youth program aims to support outdoor access for refugee youth through its Youth Outdoor Learning Opportunities project, promoting environmental education, connection, and integration.
Kwiyagat Community Academy	Towaoc	\$69,200	Kwiyagat Community Academy's mission is to ensure an educational program where the Nuchiu culture and language guides the educational experience and is characterized by small class sizes with an interdisciplinary, indigenous, and project-based approach that results in high academic expectations and desired character skills, personal wellness, and community involvement. Funding will support the hiring of a program coordinator who will plan and complete at least six outdoor learning experiences for 50 students, including field trips to environmental and cultural sites and afternoon classes on environmental topics.
Latino Outdoors	Statewide	\$36,200	The Latino Outdoors (LO) mission is to inspire, connect, and engage Latino communities in the outdoors and embrace cultura y familia as part of the outdoor narrative, ensuring our history, heritage, and leadership are valued and represented. LO will provide access to programming and outdoor gear that is often out of reach due to the high cost of participation to Latinx communities in and other underrepresented communities in the "front range."
Lincoln Hills Cares	Denver	\$52,500	Lincoln Hills Cares develops the next generation of young leaders through outdoor education and recreation, cultural history exploration, and workforce advancement. Lincoln Hill's Cares Pathways Program merges the key concepts of public health and environmental stewardship to connect youth Environmental Associates to public lands, educate them about the long-term health benefits of nature, and engage families in citizen science and stewardship action, with a goal of restoring both nature and us. The program by nature engages BIPOC communities in a movement that has historically left them behind. Activities will include hosting at least 12 outings in and around public lands for youth and families that will improve access to nature and knowledge of sustainability and hosting an outdoor recreation-led, conservation-focused youth leadership summit event that will employ, educate and empower youth in partnership with our Outdoor Education and eSTEM teams.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Metro Denver Partners	Denver	\$59,745	The Gang Rescue and Support Project (GRASP) is applying on behalf of the My Outdoor Colorado Coalition. The Outdoor Equity Grant will support My Outdoor Colorado Coalition's (MOC) Community Connectors. The MOC Coalition is a visionary approach to connecting youth and families with the outdoors through strategic partnerships that provide access to nature education, outdoor recreation, and skill-building opportunities. MOC understands that access to natural spaces and outdoor experiences is a fundamental human right, and their overall mission is to work towards a world where all youth and families find a sense of belonging, comfort, and trust in the outdoors. Funding will support a Cole Community Connector and a Westwood Community Connector, who will connect residents with MOC's programs including trips, events, employment, and volunteer opportunities, as well as school and community organization activities and opportunities for developing outdoor leadership skills.
Montezuma Inspire Coalition	Cortez	\$70,000	Montezuma Inspire Coalition (MIC) creates meaningful social and outdoor experiences for youth to foster connection, curiosity, and discovery. Their vision is that youth of all ages and backgrounds in Montezuma County will respect, care for, and enjoy themselves, their communities, and the natural world. By sharing these values with their family, friends, and across generations, MIC seeks to build an inclusive, strong, healthy and resilient community and economy. Funding will support 6 MIC partners: the Gear Lending Library, Fozzie's Farm, Dolores River Boating Advocates, San Juan Mountains Association, Medicine Horse Center, and Southwest Conservation Corps.
Mountain Dreamers	Frisco	\$40,000	The mission of Mountain Dreamers is to inspire, educate, and advocate for immigrants and their allies to create systems that advance equity and social justice in our mountain communities. Their vision is an inclusive mountain community that promotes equitable opportunities for immigrants from diverse backgrounds to be safe, to be celebrated, and to thrive. Funding will support the OSO Outdoors program. OSO Outdoors' goal is to identify and break down barriers to outdoor access for mountain region immigrant, Latinx, and BIPOC youth and their families.
Northfield High School	Denver	\$7,000	Northfield's La Raza Club, in its second year at Northfield High School, ensures Latino/a students who commute from communities outside of Central Park have a voice and equity in a mostly-affluent school population. Student members are from mostly marginalized communities in the far east of Denver such as Montbello and Commerce City neighborhoods. La Raza Club will inspire member youth to become lifetime stewards of the Colorado mountains and to create future Latinx Colorado mountain stewards and professionals centered in preserving the Colorado outdoor environment through mountain biking trips to Colorado communities for youth and their families.
PABNEEG	Westminster	\$25,000	PABNEEG's mission is building a culturally vibrant Hmong and Asian community. PABNEEG will increase equitable access by promoting and project managing outdoor activities such as the PABNEEG's Children's Field Day event and an outdoors Hmong New Year's event which will educate and support parents about the importance of outdoor activities and how to cost-effectively experience the outdoors by providing resources and bringing in local experts.
Pueblo School District No.60	Pueblo	\$82,500	Pueblo School District No. 60's mission is to provide a high quality education that assures each student the knowledge, skills and dispositions to lead a life of purpose and impact. With funding, every 6th grade student and their teachers will participate in a one-night overnight field trip to Camp Jackson with a focus on team-building and outdoor education learning opportunities. This opportunity will allow nearly 950 students to increase their awareness and experience of the outdoors. All students will lodge in cabins and participate in a "night walk" and an evening campfire. Additionally, each school will be able to select three "teambuilding" activities from the following list; high ropes challenge, low ropes challenge, archery, sling shots, day hike and rock climbing.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Rocky Mountain Welcome Center	Aurora	\$50,000	The Rocky Mountain Welcome Center (RMWC) is an immigrant-led not-for-profit organization with the mission of fostering intercultural learning, understanding, and integration among immigrants, refugees, and Colorado receiving communities through programs and activities that develop supportive multicultural and welcoming environments. Funding will support the Girls Rule the World Program/ Healing Through Arts and Nature. This unique program focuses on helping first generation immigrant girls ages 15-21 to both navigate life in a new country, but also develop healthy lifestyle behaviors to address trauma stress and anxiety produced by the immigration experience. GRW serves Latina, Asian and African immigrant female youth, aged 15-21, from across the Denver metro area. Most participants have never left the metro area, hiked in a national forest or visited a Colorado State Park.
Rugged Research LLC	Longmont	\$22,050	Rugged Research is a fun and exciting nature-based education organization founded by Rocky Mountain Park Rangers designed to spark curiosity and wonder towards the natural world. Rugged Research offers summer camps, homeschool programs, early childhood programs, and more for children ages 3-12. Programs use Colorado's wondrously diverse ecosystems as a giant, learning laboratory to help students fall in love with nature and learn about the impact of their actions on the environment. Rugged Research will partner with Thompson School District to offer nature immersion classes via afterschool programs and in-school field trips that will spark curiosity and wonder, help develop science-related interests and skills, as well as develop a life-long connection to the natural world.
Sims Fayola Foundation	Denver	\$50,000	Sims Fayola Foundation (SFF) is committed to improve the life outcomes of young men and boys of color in the Denver metro area and increase the capacity of those who work with them to provide their services through a culturally appropriate, equity- and gender-specific lens. Funding will support SFF's Male Youth of Color Outdoor Engagement Program, which seeks to reduce barriers to the outdoors for male youth of color by introducing them to outdoor recreation and conservation activities.
SLV Gen Wild/ SLV GO!	Lakewood	\$100,000	The mission of San Luis Valley Gen Wild is working together to create opportunities and connections to the outdoors for all people in the San Luis Valley. Funding will support the Rio Grande Farm Park, which runs an initiative called "Rising Stewards." Targeting local Guatemalan and Hispanic communities, they will host hands-on programs to teach youth about how to grow food on land using traditional methods. The grant will also fund an Outdoor Adventure Director who will coordinate the Boys & Girls Clubs' Outdoor Adventure Program; support the Alamosa Bicycle Coalition (ABC) to strengthen staffing and operating infrastructure to make and repair bicycles, bicycle safety and opportunities to engage in bicycling activities more widely accessible; and to support Alamosa Parks and Recreation in surveying, engineering, and due diligence costs around right-of-way acquisition to connect South Alamosa to downtown Alamosa and the Alamosa Trails Network via a river corridor trail.
Southern Colorado Community Action Agency	Ignacio	\$25,000	The Southern Colorado Community Action Agency (SoCoCAA) provides high quality learning experiences for the positive development of youth so that all youth can realize their full potential. Funds will support SoCoCAA in pursuing a Leave No Trace accreditation in order to support the sustainable use of wildlands and natural areas and encourage youth participants to minimize their impact on the wilderness. They will also offer underrepresented youth outdoor opportunities for recreation, education, and stewardship and provide leisure time activities that promote a healthy lifestyle through outdoor summer activities. They will offer middle school youth an immersive camping experience.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Ignacio	\$10,000	The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is a sovereign Tribe, managing resources and protecting their culture as they serve their people now and into the future. The SunUte Community Center core values are to promote a positive and welcoming community center that is affordable, fun, and clean. SunUte strives to provide professional health, wellness and fitness programs for the Tribal membership and surrounding community. Due to the rural location of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the SunUte community center is the only place to help meet the needs for fitness, health, and wellness. With this grant funding SunUte will update the outdoor basketball court and make it into a multi-use area with the addition of a highly-requested outdoor pickleball court.
Spirit of the Sun, Inc,	Denver	\$100,000	Spirit of the Sun's mission is to work in partnership with Native American communities in urban areas and on reservations to boost the resilience of Native people, especially youth and young adults. Spirit of the Sun's overall strategy is to support, empower, and uplift Native youth by giving them the skills they need to succeed while maintaining strong cultural connections. With funding from the OEGP, Spirit of the Sun will take Native and Indigenous youth on outdoor excursions. The grant will support year-round programs and allow Spirit of the Sun to hire staff that will focus on running programs such as camping, hiking, snowboarding, skiing, biking, rock climbing, and food foraging hikes.
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning	Denver	\$40,815	Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning's mission is to empower people and organizations to succeed across languages and cultures. Since 1979, Spring Institute has provided services to meet the needs of Colorado's refugee and immigrant community. The Refugee and Immigrant Outdoor Youth Empowerment Program will bring refugee and immigrant youth living in the East Colfax on outdoor excursions focused on environmental stewardship throughout all four seasons.
Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports	Steamboat Springs	\$25,000	The mission of Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports is to empower and enrich lives through adaptive recreational activities. Funding will provide general operating funds to support camps and lessons for youth with disabilities who reside in Colorado. Programs will take place outdoors and strive to increase physical activity, social skills, and learning while building confidence and a sense of belonging using sports like skiing, horseback riding, water sports, hiking and more – with the overall goal of improving the lives and well-being of participants.
STEM Launch K-8	Thornton	\$20,000	STEM Launch is a Title One STEM School in Thornton, Colorado, that was established on the idea that engaging in authentic learning is an act of equity in education. STEM Launch utilizes problem-based learning (PBL) through inquiry to engage all students in owning their education. The student body composition is 80% from the Latinx community. With funds, the school will organize an annual 3 day, 2 night outdoor education experience for 6th graders at the YMCA of Rockies in Estes Park with day trips to Rocky Mountain National Park.
TEENS, Inc. (TeamWorks Program)	Nederland	\$10,000	TeamWorks' Mission is to connect young people to nature and community. TeamWorks (TW), an education based youth employment program, integrates 30 rural and 30 urban youth into four mixed crews. Through community-based environmental activities on public lands, youth foster environmental stewardship while bolstering life skills, collaboration and career preparation. TW serves higher-risk populations in rural areas, and also targets diverse urban youth who are often underrepresented in outdoor pursuits and activities. Funding will help TW in offering a platform for workshops for other crew leaders and offering completion bonuses and Wilderness First Aid certification for junior crew leaders who have aged out of the program and want to advance their careers. This funding will also support more extensive DEI training for all crew members and leaders.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
The Cycle Effect	Eagle	\$25,000	The Cycle Effect's mission is to empower young women through mountain biking to create brighter futures and build stronger communities. Founded on the belief that all young women deserve equal access to the outdoors and mountain biking, the Girls Mountain Bike Program is designed to make mountain biking accessible, affordable, and inclusive, especially for young women of color. Funding will help support the implementation of the Junior Coaches position which allows high school juniors and seniors to apply to work as paid junior coaches, will support and diversify the pool of coaching staff, and will provide more scholarship opportunities for participants.
The JEKL Institute	Denver	\$37,750	The JEKL Institute for Global Equity and Access's mission is to embrace and support the uninitiated in order to close the gap between access and real opportunity. The JEKL Institute intends to impact the lives of those whose access to the outdoors is constrained for any one of several documented reasons. In partnership with Lincoln Hills Cares, funds will support an opportunity to target and transplant youth and their families for a day of fly fishing, archery and hiking while educating them on the history of Lincoln Hills. Funds will also support a partnership with Denver Museum of Nature & Science to expose families to both the museum and archaeology, allowing them to participate in an outdoor experience that seldom includes people of color. Funding will also support demographically underrepresented communities in traveling from their urban comfort zones to the mountains of Colorado for healthy adventure and fun.
The Nature Connection	Hotchkiss	\$40,000	The Nature Connection is a school district program dedicated to eliminating barriers to getting outside for youth and families in Delta County and Olathe. Their vision is to be a trusted provider of high-quality, K-12 school, summer and job pathway programs that help young people develop outdoor skills and the confidence for exploring the "best backyard in the world." Funding will support additional field staff salaries to serve the low-income and diverse schools in their community.
The Storytellers Project	Denver	\$50,000	The Storytellers Project aims to increase emotional intelligence and healthy coping skills in youth and adults by encouraging them to use the arts as a vehicle to tell their stories, deal with stress, and heal from trauma. They envision a world where adults and children have strong and healthy coping skills that can protect them against the unhealthy results of trauma including depression, PTSD, drug abuse, and prevent the repetition of cycles of family violence. Funding will support a month-long Outdoor Adventure Camp for youth whose lives have been impacted by the incarceration of a parent.
University of Northern Colorado	Greeley	\$36,435	The goal of AGES is to draw connections among the disciplines of Anthropology, Geology, and Environmental Studies to inspire students to explore and preserve our natural world for the prosperity of people and the planet. With this funding, UNC will implement a pilot field-based summer bridge program for high school students. The bridge program will expose HUU Colorado students and their families to AGES disciplines through a place-based AGES course for high school students that includes a family day.
Vibe Tribe Adventures	Aurora	\$80,000	Vibe Tribe Adventures helps Colorado's urban and rural communities in Denver and the Front Range connect, reconnect, or deepen their natural right to nature, conservation, and the outdoor industry. They accomplish their mission through outdoor recreation, extreme sports participation, backcountry and water safety, stewardship and conservation, outdoor industry employment training and resources, and outdoor industry entrepreneurship training and mentoring. The grant will support three of their programs: Black Girls Hike, the American Adventure Sports Club, and the Urban Trekker youth program. Their vision is to create life-long outdoor recreation enthusiasts, employees, and entrepreneurs from formerly marginalized communities within the outdoor and conservation industries through consistent and quantifiable training and engagement and to equip and empower their participants to share their knowledge with friends, family, and peers.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Mission and Outdoor Equity Project Description
Village Exchange Center, Inc.	Aurora	\$20,000	The Village Exchange Center is a community center and multi-faith worship space that celebrates religious and cultural diversity by creating an inclusive environment where residents from all backgrounds can practice, interact, share, and develop together. We seek to assist the immigrant and refugee population to feel empowered to use their existing strengths and unique perspectives to enrich the city's diverse and inclusive community. The Village Youth Program provides extracurricular activities to refugee and immigrant youth through after school and summer camp sessions. Funding will be utilized to provide environmental, experiential, outdoor and or stewardship and conservation education.
ViVe Wellness	Denver	\$70,000	ViVe was founded in 2017 with a mission to address health equity in Denver's underserved communities through wellness and education. ViVe plans recreation activities, particularly in the outdoors, for Denver's low-income, Latino youth. Funds will provide 18 months of continuous outdoor programming, including environmental & career path education opportunities, for children, youth, and families that are nature-deprived and haven't had opportunities to spend time in the outdoors.
Walking Mountains Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement	Avon	\$75,000	Walking Mountains Science Center is a place-based environmental education nonprofit that subscribes to the notion that scientific knowledge begins and grows in the outdoors. Their mission is to awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability through natural science education. The Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement (EVOM) is a group of organizations and community members led by Walking Mountains Science Center, striving to provide equal access to outdoor spaces and opportunities for Latino/a/x youth and families in the Eagle Valley. The mission is to strengthen community and appreciation of nature through shared outdoor experiences for people of all ages, abilities and cultures. Funding will allow them to launch a bilingual EVOM Ambassador program that will address the growing need for more outdoor family experiences.
Youth Club of Trinidad	Trinidad	\$55,363	Youth Club of Trinidad's mission is to enable disadvantaged young people to reach their full potential by providing opportunities to help them achieve academic success, build healthy habits, and reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Their vision is to significantly transform the lives of youth through providing: a safe, positive, equitable, and inclusive environment to learn and grow; opportunities to build positive, meaningful, and healthy connections with their peers and adults and the outdoors; high-quality strength-based activities and programs to explore and obtain skills necessary to make good decisions; engaging experiences that foster hope, belonging, and a sense of purpose; and opportunities for youth to lead, contribute their ideas, and be recognized. Funding will help purchase a van to transport youth to outdoor programming and will support an additional staff member who specializes in outdoor education during the busy summer camp season.
Youth Seen	Denver	\$75,000	The mission of Youth Seen (YS) is to foster and empower the social and emotional well-being of LGBTQI youth and their families in all communities. YS envisions a place where young people are empowered as individuals to receive non-judgmental and unbiased interactions in every aspect of their lives. Camp Seen is a 7-day summer camp where QTBIPOC and other LGBTQ youth ages 13-17 have an opportunity to meet youth like themselves in a safe environment free of judgments and expectations.



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