

Outdoor Equity Grant Program

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Cover photos courtesy of Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, My Outdoors Colorado, Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County, Adaptive Sports Association clockwise from top. Above, an Asian Girls Ignite outdoor mentor teaches a student about bouldering.

The Outdoor Equity Grant Program

Overview

The **Outdoor Equity Grant Program (OEGP)** was established in June 2021 through the passage of HB21-1318 to support youth up to age 25 from underrepresented communities and their families to participate in equitable opportunities 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 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, \$2,250,000 in FY23, and up to \$3,000,000 in FY24 and in subsequent years, to the extent of funding available.

The Outdoor Equity Grant Board

The Outdoor Equity Grant Board (OEGB), composed 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 for youth under the age of 25. The other six voting seats are:

- One member who is personally impacted by and has experience in racial justice issues
- One member who is personally impacted by and has experience in environmental justice issues
- One member with experience working on conservation issues
- One member with experience in providing outdoor education programs
- One member personally impacted by and with experience in providing disability-accessible outdoor programming
- And one member personally impacted by and who has experience working in equity for individuals who identify as LGBTQ+

The three non-voting members of the board include appointees representing Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), and the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office (OREC).

In 2023, all nine voting members of the board returned for their second year of service and decided on the third round of grant investments. At the end of 2023, CPW began recruiting to fill upcoming vacancies in the board including the racial justice seat, conservation seat, one-year youth seat, and one two-year youth seat. New board members will be appointed by February 2024.

In 2023, the board underwent a values-creation exercise, to help guide the investments and mission of the board now and into the future.

Board Values

In July of 2023, the OEGP Board adopted the following values:

1. We value opportunities that respect the community’s ability to define their own priorities so they can obtain the resources to achieve their goals.
2. We value opportunities that instill a sense of wonder, excitement, and responsibility for the environment in Colorado youth and families.

The OEGP Board used these values to guide funding decisions in the 2023 grant cycle, prioritizing grant proposals that bring to life these values.

Application Process

The Outdoor Equity Grant Program Board solicits applications through an annual, competitive application process open to non-profit organizations, schools and school districts, local governments and governmental districts, federally-recognized Tribes, and for-profit businesses. The board makes investments in projects that will meet the stated goals of the OEGP, as set in statute. The board also makes efforts to equitably invest across the state’s regions and across the populations named in HB21-1318.

The OEGP application opened in August 2023 and closed at the end of September. CPW received nearly 250 applications, totaling over \$17,000,000 in requests. Grant awards were announced on December 15.

Outdoor Equity Grant Awards

The OEGP announced \$2,240,000 in FY24 awards on December 15, 2023. In March, CPW announced an additional \$200,000 in Outdoor Equity Grant awards from CPW cash funds. Outdoor Equity Grants were awarded to 37 nonprofit, educational, and tribal organizations. During the 2023 application period, organizations who had spent the majority of their previous grant award were eligible to reapply for funds, and 12 of the awarded organizations are receiving a second grant award.

Grant Award Information

Grant Cycle	Number of Awards	Total Awards
FY 2021-2022	42	\$1,763,000*
FY 2022-2023	27	\$1,321,808
FY 2023-2024	37	\$2,440,100†
Total	106	\$5,524,908

*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.

† Additional funds made possible through OEGP operational costs savings and additional investments from CPW cash funds.

Smallest Grant	Largest Grant	Mean Grant Amount
\$17,105	\$100,000	\$64,000

Types of Organizations Receiving Funding

Type of organization	Total Awards
Non-profit	34
School (K-12, College, or University)	2
Federally-recognized Tribe	1

Types of Programs Receiving Funding

Type of Program	Total Programs*
Outdoor or Conservation Education	12
Outdoor Sports Programs	6
After-school Clubs	5
Summer Camps	4
Community or Family Programming	3
Job and Career Training	3
In-School Programming	1
Gear Lending, Purchasing, or Provision	1
Outdoor Space Improvements	1
Outdoor Excursions	1

*Some programs span several categories

Figure 1. Total Awards and Total Award Amounts, 2022-2024

Figure 2. Minimum, Maximum, and Mean Award Amount, 2023

Figure 3. Types of Organizations Granted Awards, 2023

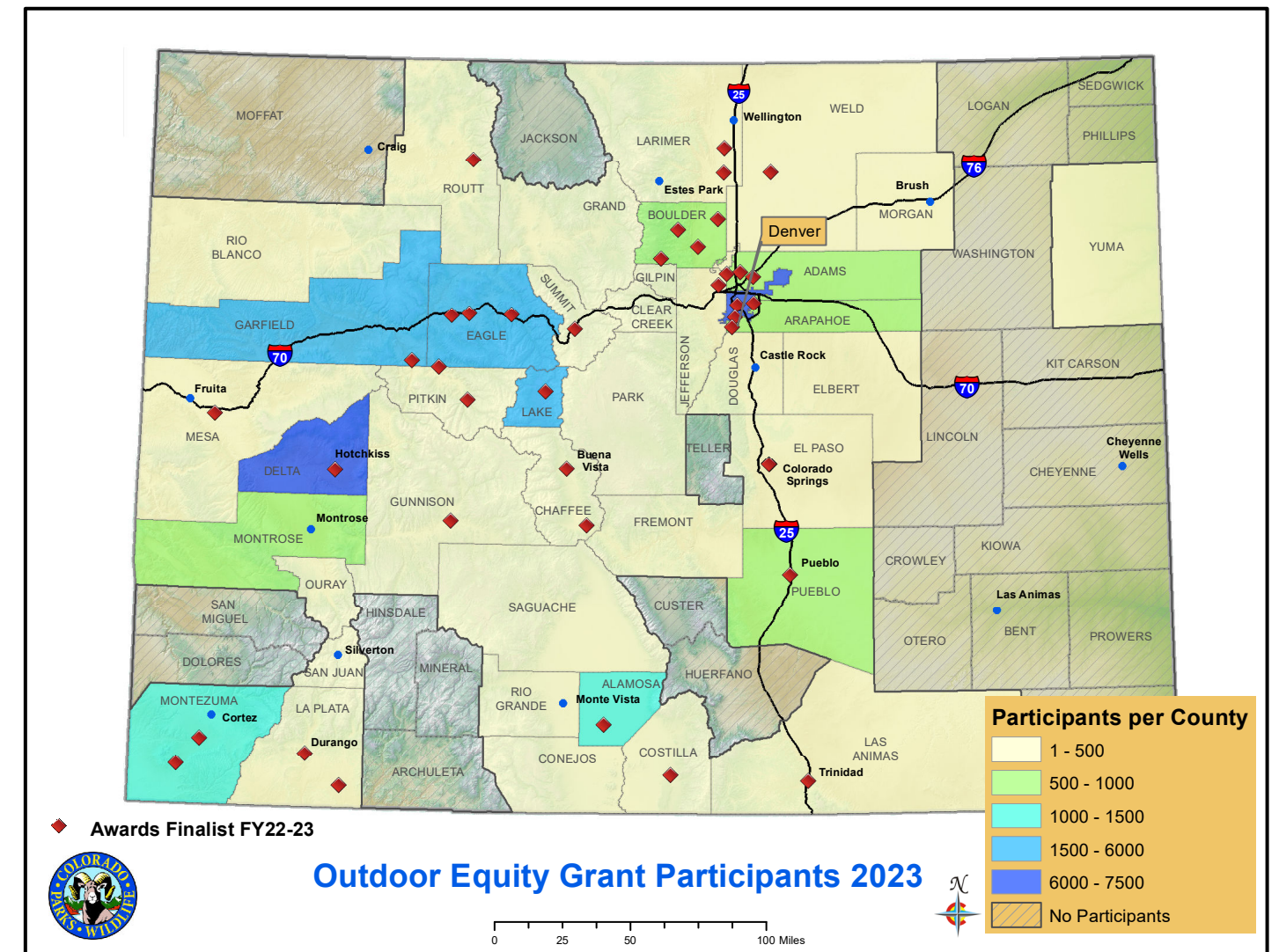
Figure 4. Types of Programs Awarded, 2023

Outdoor Equity Grant Outcomes, 2023

To date, OEGP funds have supported **38,000** participants in accessing recreation, conservation, educational, and career opportunities in Colorado’s outdoors.

In 2023, 67 Outdoor Equity Grant recipient organizations began or continued work on their grant projects, and supported **more than 30,000** youth and adult participants in accessing the outdoors through reduced barriers to outdoor recreation, conservation, and job training opportunities. Grant funds supported participants in 41 Colorado counties.

Figure 5. Number of Participants per County, 2023



Based on aggregated demographic data from bi-annual reports completed by awarded organizations

Grant funds reached participants who are residents of the following counties: Adams, Alamosa, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Conejos, Costilla, Delta, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Gunnison, Jefferson, Lake, La Plata, Larimer, Las Animas, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Ouray, Park, Pitkin, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Routt, Saguache, San Juan, Summit, Weld, and Yuma.

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 or identify as LGBTQ+.

The majority of participants reached by grant funds were youth, defined as persons younger than the age of 25 in HB21-1318. The age group that was reached the most with grant funds were youth ages 6 - 10. The breakdown of race/ethnicity of participants is below:

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.

Grant funds reached **over 450 LGBTQ+ participants** and **over 1300 participants with disabilities**.

The breakdown of race and ethnicity of participants, as reported by grant recipients is below:

Participant Age

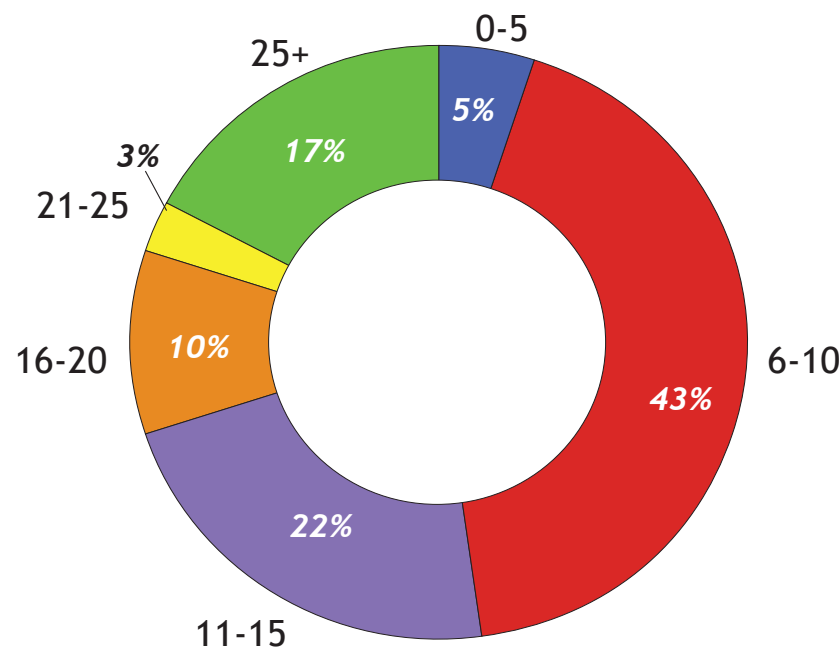


Figure 6. Participant Ages, 2023

Participant Race and Ethnicity

Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin	Number of Participants	Participants, % of total
Hispanic or Latino	7655	25%
White	5050	17%
Black	2202	7%
Two or More Races or Multiracial	1842	6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	717	2%
Asian	312	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	18	Less than 1%
Information not collected or unknown race	12,704	42%

Figure 7. Participant Race and Ethnicity, 2023

Based on aggregated demographic data from bi-annual reports completed by awarded organizations

Our Collaborative Approach to Inclusive Outdoor Education

CPW fosters the dissemination of resources and the growth of knowledge among recipients of the Outdoor Equity Grant. These recipients possess the expertise and capability to deliver culturally-responsive and culturally-informed programming tailored for youth and families from underserved communities. CPW, equipped with insights on state parks and recreation areas, activities, and safety measures, plays a pivotal role in empowering grant recipients with essential outdoor expertise.

In 2023, CPW initiated a quarterly community of practice with grant awardees, facilitating an environment for shared success, collaborative problem-solving, and mutual support. The discussion topics within this community included the exchange of success stories, seeking assistance from fellow grant recipients on common issues, promoting collaboration, nurturing regional partnerships, understanding GOCO Generation Wild Communities and strategies to engage with them, and delving into hunting programs available through CPW.

This collaborative initiative is proving instrumental in establishing stronger connections and enhancing the quality of outdoor programming. By pooling resources and knowledge, grantees gain valuable insights into outdoor experiences, particularly as some are in the early stages of incorporating outdoor opportunities into their activities. The shared experiences and expertise within the community of practice contribute significantly to the collective learning and growth of both grant recipients and CPW, fostering a more inclusive and informed approach to outdoor education and recreation.

CPW plans to further enhance learning opportunities for Outdoor Equity Grant recipients, aiming to cover topics like wildlife, angling, careers, internships, and more in continued sessions. This initiative emphasizes a reciprocal relationship where CPW not only shares knowledge but also learns from grant recipients, valuing their insights for continuous improvement. CPW is committed to incorporating communities' input into its programs and practices, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas. Initiatives like the quarterly community of practice exemplify this collaborative approach, providing a platform for shared success, problem-solving, and mutual support among grant recipients, and creating an inclusive and informed approach to outdoor education and recreation that aligns with CPW's dedication to empowering underserved communities and continually improving outdoor experiences for all.



Above, students learn about geology at the Maroon Bells with the Aspen Center for Environmental Science program, which was funded by the Outdoor Equity Grant Program.

Highlights from Grantees

Denver Metro Partners and Gang Rescue and Support Project, Denver

Denver Metro Partners' My Outdoor Colorado (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. Supported by the Outdoor Equity Grant, MOC expanded their Community Connector team, recruiting and hiring four community leaders who led outdoor experiences for residents of the Westwood and Cole neighborhoods in Denver. This growth enabled MOC to more than double its engagement opportunities in 2023, offering 66 Family Nature Club programs and reaching over 1,200 participants. The Community Connectors, who are deeply rooted in their communities, played a crucial role in shaping these culturally relevant and accessible programs. Informed by community interest and input, the Family Nature Clubs fostered a safe, validating, and authentic connection to nature and the outdoors.



"During the time that we have been supported with the Outdoor Equity grant, I have had time to create new connections with organizations and partners. I have made new programs for the community with their support, creating better relationships for the future. The Westwood Family Nature Club is growing, new families have joined the programs and having another connector working with me has been a great help. Thank you for supporting and contributing to our work."

- Mary Reyes, Westwood Connector

"I have two favorite Family Nature Club experiences. The first one would be the candlelight snowshoeing at Echo Lake. It was my first time doing so, and I think I shared that sentiment with some of the community members that attended. Hiking around in the snow while surrounded by candlelight and a clear sky with visible stars made for a magical experience."

Secondly, the Red Rocks Trail Post Hike was a favorite experience for me because it really showed the potential of our programs. We had people of different levels join us on this hike. Overall, it makes experiences better when people are trying something new and you are able to be there to enjoy these moments with them."

- Maggy Lomeli, Cole Connector



Cloud City Conservation Center, Leadville

Cloud City Conservation Center (C4) utilized Outdoor Equity Funding to advance environmental justice initiatives, engaging Lake County youth and families in stewardship and conservation education activities. C4 addresses inequities that increase the impact of environmental issues on the Lake County community, while also engaging community members in education and action on environmental issues. In 2023, C4 served 1,164 people, addressing environmental inequities and promoting education and action.

The Sustainable Food program utilizes the Cloud City Farm as a living classroom, offering 82 educational opportunities for 921 youth and enrolling 20 households in the Cloud City Community Garden. Youth in the Farm to Table Camp experienced a unique curriculum, which blended learning about high-altitude gardening on the farm and cooking with the harvested vegetables in the kitchen, increasing food access and hands-on outdoor education

With support of the Outdoor Equity Grant, C4 also improved the health, safety, and energy efficiency of 171 low-income households and engaged 32 households in the community compost program to divert waste from the local landfill. Their comprehensive approach reflects a commitment to sharing sustainability and daily conservation practices with their community.

All participants engaged by C4 are residents of Lake County, and while C4 does not collect racial and ethnic makeup across all of their programs, they estimate that 70% of participants across programs are Latinx.



Denver Indian Center, Denver

The Denver Indian Center hosted the Outdoor Native Youth Wellness Camp, a two-part program for urban Native youth, aimed to instill Native traditional values through hands-on activities, Native wisdom from elders, team building, and outdoor fun. The camp took place in the summer of 2023 at TallBull Memorial Park in Douglas County, Colorado. The camp invited Native American youth entering middle or high school to participate, with 24 youth attending.

During the camp, youth were introduced to information that is designed to help them in all aspects of life, including family and community life. The camp addressed the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of decision-making for youth, and reinforced Native American values around respect, leadership, family and community.



Southern Colorado Community Action Agency, Ignacio

The Ignacio Youth Services Division of Southern Colorado Community Action Agency provides free out-of-school time programs for youth in grades 6-12 in the Ignacio School District, situated on the Southern Ute Reservation in rural La Plata County in Southwest Colorado. They organized a weeklong overnight summer camp in June and a series of summer camp day sessions in July, featuring outdoor recreation, education, and service projects.

Throughout the school year, they offered after-school and all-day Friday activities, providing nature-based opportunities for recreation, education, and stewardship when school wasn't in session due to a 4-day school week. The programs focused on a variety of activities that emphasize Leave No Trace principles and promote healthy lifestyles that youth may not have accessed otherwise.



Boys and Girls Club Pueblo County, Pueblo

In 2023, the Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County entered the second year of Outdoor Equity Grant funding, expanding programming to serve 611 individuals through strategic partnerships. During the school year, they implemented weekly outdoor programs and increased family-centered events that focus on environmental stewardship and nature-based recreation. Events included: hosting a Girl Scouts Troop, visiting the Pueblo Zoo, and collaborating with the Sea Research Foundation to learn about water conservation and trout spawning.



The Boys and Girls Club eight-week summer program featured a family night at Lake Pueblo State Park and an overnight trip to Salida for high school teens. During the program, a mother and her two daughters attended events and reignited their affinity for nature following the loss of their father. The daughters have since enrolled in one of the Girl Scouts Troops affiliated with the club. This initiative underscores the positive impact of community engagement and support in fostering resilience and well-being.

"I was really nervous about starting middle school at a new school. I was invited to go to Project Venture which helped me make friends, and we go on fun adventures. My favorite activities have been the high ropes challenge course, learning to fish and playing the Leave No Trace games!"

- 6th grade participant

"This past year we have had the opportunity to work with a young girl who had recently been adopted by her foster family. She was only able to join us for our Friday outings and our overnight trips because of her home school schedule.

She has since decided to spend her summer participating in a youth conservation corps program. Throughout the year her love for the outdoors was noticeable, she gained knowledge and would help new youth remember their Leave No Trace Principles. We are so very proud of her decision to continue her outdoor education and stewardship journey this summer."

-SoCoCAA Employee

"The Salida trip was the highlight of my summer."

-Audie, 12th grader

"It was super amazing we got to learn about birds and talk to people about the birds...and I really love these programs that we do outside."

-Cynthia, middle school student

The Storyteller’s Project, Denver and Aurora

The Storyteller’s Project conducted a 13-day Outdoor Adventure Camp during the summer, catering to 21 youth aged 5-16 in the Denver and Aurora area who have been affected by the incarceration of their parents or loved ones. The camp offered outdoor experiences, including visits to national, state, and local parks, reservoirs, and educational centers, as well as engaging activities like horseback riding and challenging ropes courses.

Youth learned plant identification, about geology and fossils, and experienced moments of compassion and leadership during mental and physical challenges. The camp was successful in providing both educational and emotional benefits over the two week experience. Post-camp surveys revealed positive impacts on mental well-being, with the majority of youth reporting reduced feelings of sadness and loneliness. There was an increased sense of connectedness to family and friends, along with enhanced self-confidence. Moreover, all participants demonstrated knowledge of Leave No Trace principles and exhibited awareness of outdoor careers they were exposed to through the summer camp.



“[The outdoor adventure camp] gave me the chance to do fun things I wouldn’t do outside the camp and gave me new friends.”

-Marlene, age 9

“[The outdoor adventure camp] pushed me and gave me more confidence in myself because I tried things I was so scared to do like zip lining.”

-Mariah, age 17



Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports, Steamboat Springs

Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports (STARS) provides immersive adaptive recreational sports camps for young people with either cognitive or physical disabilities and increases equitable access to the outdoors. In 2023, STARS welcomed a record number of Colorado youth to participate in their life-changing adaptive sports programming. They provided a summer and fall of adaptive recreational programming for Colorado youth with disabilities which included a variety of day camps for local kids, overnight camps, equine therapy lessons, community events, and outdoor sports and activities such as hiking, biking, paddle sports, fishing, yoga, archery and horseback riding.

STARS asserts that children with special needs benefit greatly from access to the outdoors and options for being physically active to help improve their mental health and reduce depression and anxiety – while also boosting their self-confidence and improving on their relationship-building skills. Whether helping to saddle up one of the therapy horses, pitching a tent or riding alongside each other on a bike path, STARS staff saw the joy and excitement in each participant.



“Thank you so much for being so thoughtful and allowing me to go horseback riding this summer! Because of you, I was able to go riding 15 times, and I had so much fun! Before I got hurt, I would go riding all the time. I used to barrel race, and I was pretty good. Every year I get better and better at riding, and it is such a good feeling and really brings joy to life. And because of generous people like you, I still can enjoy something I love, and I cannot thank you enough.”

- STARS participant, age 17



2024 – 2025 Grant Timeline

The Outdoor Equity Grant Application opens annually, in the fall. Important dates for the FY25 grant cycle are listed below.

Activity	Date
Outdoor Equity Grant Application Opens	August 2024
Questions and Answers with the OEGB	August 2024
Application Closes	Late September 2024
Grant Decisions Announced	December 2024
Grant Funds Disbursed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife	March 31, 2025

Check the OEGP website for updated dates: <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Outdoor-Equity-Fund.aspx>

Above, a middle school group from Durango skis together at Purgatory Resort with Adaptive Sports Association (ASA). ASA pairs students with disabilities with their peers in school to create community based on a shared love of recreational sports.

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.

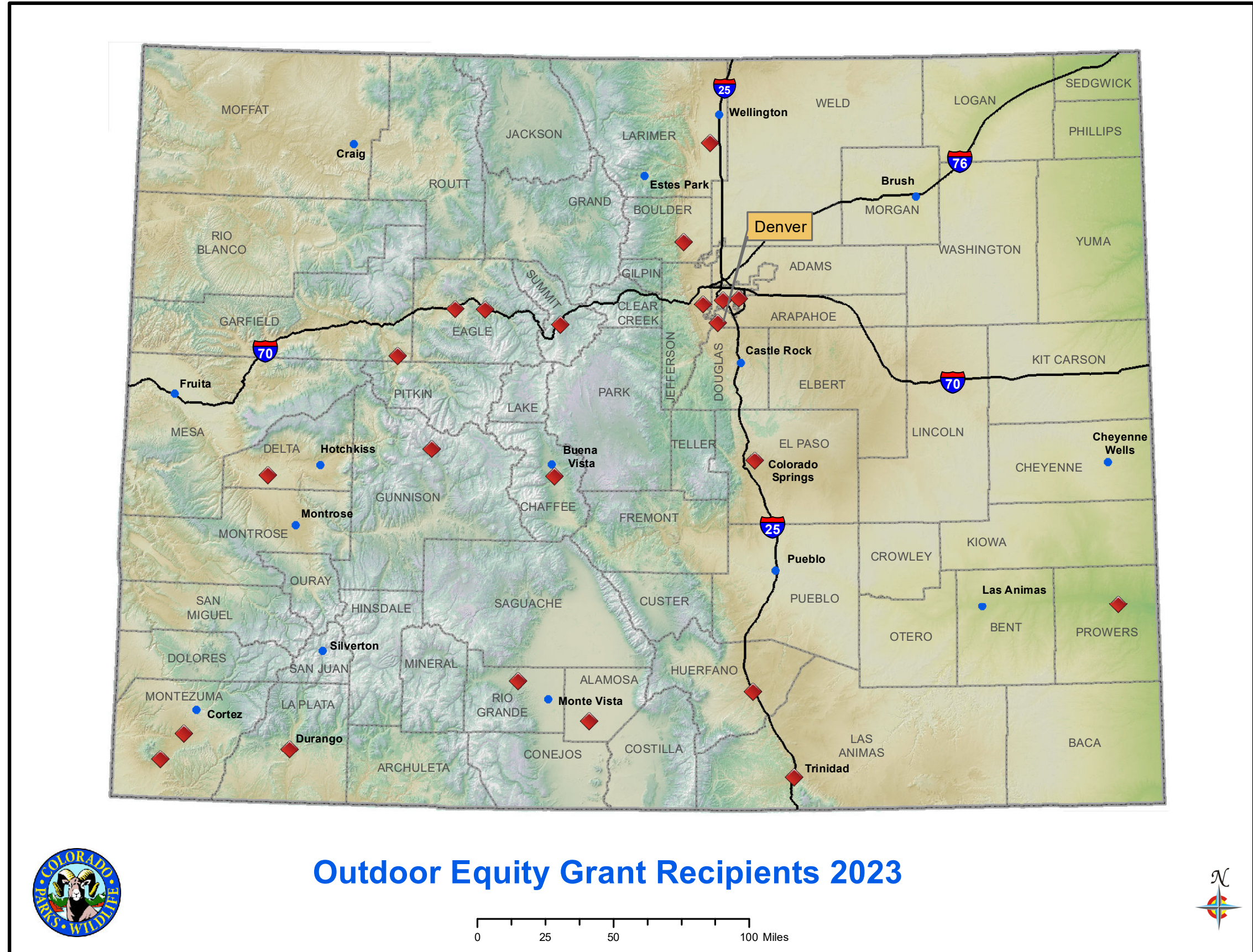
The act funds the grant program through a redistribution of lottery money that is earmarked for the general fund.

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”.



Outdoor Equity Grant Recipients 2023



0 25 50 100 Miles

Appendix 3: Outdoor Equity Grant Awards, FY 2023-2024

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Outdoor Equity Project Description
Access Unbound	Edwards	\$35,000	Access Unbound's mission is to make the empowering world of snow sports accessible to people with disabilities by providing crucial financial support and partnering with professional adaptive programs. The grant will cover sholarships and ski passes for participation in adaptive snowsports lessons through partner programs at ski resorts.
Adaptive Sports Association	Durango	\$75,000	ASA is committed to addressing barriers to participation in transformative outdoor recreational programs for individuals with disabilities. Funds from the OEGP will be used to support ASA's growing year-round program offerings. This includes ongoing financial assistance for participants and families in need, the purchase of safe and reliable adaptive equipment, instructor training programs, facility costs, and other program-related expenses for both winter and summer program offerings.
Adaptive Sports Center	Crested Butte	\$40,000	The Adaptive Sports Center (ASC) facilitates outdoor adventure recreation programs for groups and individuals with disabilities and their families. Of the 1,000 participants served annually, 36% live in Colorado. Approximately 38% of Colorado participants are disabled or at-risk youth and young adults 25 and younger. Grant funds will support the Adaptive Sports Center's new Access for All rate, which aims to eliminate cost as a barrier to participation in ASC programs for these participants and their families.
African Leadership Group	Denver	\$100,000	From the Outdoor Equity Grant, African Leadership Group (ALG) will serve its young African immigrant and African American members living in the Denver-Metro region through a multi-faceted, collaborative approach to expose youth to both outdoor recreational activities as well as education and hands-on experiences with self-sustaining lifestyle practices. This will include knowledge, experiential activities, and access to the outdoors and community gardening.
Amache Alliance	Granada	\$50,000	Amache Alliance unites Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Japanese American youth at Amache and Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Sites, fostering inter-generational healing and cross-cultural education on the Colorado prairie. Their program empowers youth to participate in site-based community events while building a coalition of stewards for Colorado's newest national park. The voices of Amache and Sand Creek Massacre youth descendants are essential for site conservation, yet often unheard. Amache Alliance aims to be a lasting partner in changing this dynamic.
Colorado Asian Culture And Education Network	Aurora	\$100,000	The Colorado Asian Culture and Education Network (CACEN) and Outdoor Asian Colorado (OAC) will increase access to the outdoors for Asian American and Pacific Islander youth and families by trip planning and transportation to unique outdoor opportunities through existing partnerships with CPW, the National Park Service, and other partners as well as metro area parks that combine outdoor recreation and cultural connection like Tai Chi in the park or the Dragon Boat Festival.
Colorado Center for the Blind	Littleton	\$50,000	The Colorado Center for the Blind empowers blind youth to live the life they choose by having more opportunities and learning responsibilities. With the Outdoor Equity Grant, Colorado Center for the Blind is transforming the great outdoors into an educational playground for blind youth. They believe that the most effective learning occurs when they ignite enthusiasm, immersing blind youth in outdoor recreation activities, natural resources education, career exploration and stewardship while breaking barriers of fear, opportunity and low expectations.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Outdoor Equity Project Description
Cottonwood Institute	Denver	\$50,000	Cottonwood Institute (CI) connects middle and high school students to nature and inspires them to protect it. In a world dominated by screens, their programs foster this critical connection between the outdoors, conservationism, and career pathways through no-cost educational, service, and apprentice programs that are integrated with schools and supported by partnerships. Their award-winning programs go beyond outdoor access, igniting an appreciation of nature and inspiring youth as environmental leaders.
Crowley Foundation, Inc.	Denver	\$100,000.	Funds will support the Crowley Foundation's mentorship programs, which connect youth with experienced outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists from their own communities. These mentors will guide and inspire participants, helping them develop leadership skills and a sense of stewardship for the environment. They will also organize a series of outdoor adventures and excursions, such as hiking, camping, and nature walks, specifically designed to introduce youth and families from underrepresented communities to the joys of outdoor recreation. These outings will be accessible, safe, and educational, fostering a love for nature.
Denver Indian Center, Inc.	Denver	\$75,000	The Denver Indian Center, Inc. will provide an opportunity for urban Native American youth to attend a 4 day outdoor retreat in a mountain location, CAL-WOOD Education Center in Jamestown, Colorado. They will experience learning about stewardship of the land from a Native American perspective, while experiencing a holistic approach to learning more about their Native culture through teachings of history, traditional values and leadership. This opportunity for Native youth will expose them to the outdoors and teach and encourage youth to experience nature that otherwise may not be available to them because of economic, social and educational disadvantages.
Easterseals Colorado	Lakewood	\$41,527	Easter Seals Colorado (ESC) will enhance programming at its Rocky Mountain Village (RMV) Camp. Funds will purchase five custom-made wall tents and install them on existing platforms. These tents will make camping accessible for a large number of youth with disabilities and expand ESC's Outdoor Living Skills program. This program, which instills conservation values in participants, will be able to offer a full camping experience to youth for whom it is currently out of reach.
elevateHER	Buena Vista	\$60,940	Funds will support elevateHER's year-round outdoor education programming for youth living in the greater upper Arkansas River Valley of Colorado. Funding from the Outdoor Equity Grant Program will specifically help fund the purchase of a passenger van and personnel costs for the Outdoor Mentor and Program Coordinator roles. elevateHER exists to increase access to the outdoors for young womxn by providing all the transportation, instruction, gear and food necessary for underserved youth to experience their big, beautiful backyard in Chaffee County.
Families Plus	Delta	\$25,750	Families Plus offers a high-impact wraparound program for at-risk, impoverished youth from all backgrounds who live in the most challenging situations. They will provide outdoor skill-building activities and outdoor prosocial activities. These programs encourage youth to be active and involved outside. Youth will learn safety and stewardship, and each activity will foster a positive relationship with youth and the outdoors.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Outdoor Equity Project Description
Fortaleza Familiar	Denver	\$99,550	Fortaleza Familiar is dedicated to the wellness of Indigenous, Chicanx, Latinx, lesbian, gay, bi, queer, trans, Two-Spirit young people and their families. Funds will support the expansion of Fortaleza En Naturaleza, which was created to increase access by breaking down barriers to the outdoors which include both racial inequities and safety concerns for the community of LGBTQ2S+ youth of color and their families. With the support of the OEG, Fortaleza Familiar were able to deliver a successful pilot program, which was requested to continue and expand by the community. With future funding support, Fortaleza en Naturaleza will continue to provide access to young people ages 10 to 25 and their families to positive environments outdoors, increase belonging to self, community, and outdoors, and build healthy relationships with trusted adults who affirm their identities.
Fort Collins High School	Fort Collins	\$21,525	The Fort Collins High School outdoor program is designed to offer low-income, Latino boys at Fort Collins High School the opportunity to develop a sense of self, community, and connectedness to nature through outdoor education. Students will participate in an outdoor education trip in the fall and engage in mentorship and leadership at school with the goal of building strong connections and, in turn, academic success. Additionally, students will meet recreation industry professionals to gain a clearer picture of what professional work opportunities exist in the Colorado outdoors.
Groundwork Denver	Denver	\$99,012	Funding will support Groundwork Denver's youth programs, which employ 60 under-resourced BIPOC youth facing disproportionate barriers to participation in the growing green jobs industry, outdoor education and outdoor recreation opportunities. In tandem with paid employment and job training focused on environmentally-based community improvement projects that place youth on pathways to green careers, youth will participate in outdoor recreation and education opportunities in the spaces they are working to protect.
Haseya Advocate Program	Colorado Springs	\$78,825	Haseya will utilize grant funding to host a Native cultural immersion 3-day camp at Tall Bull Memorial Grounds. This camp will serve the survivors of gender-based violence and their children. Funds will also support families to participate in a weekly equestrian therapy program.
High Valley Community Center, Inc.	Del Norte	\$70,784	High Valley Community Center (HVCC) focuses on outdoor education and equity in their after-school, Fridays, and summer programs. HVCC will provide no-cost opportunities for youth to engage in swimming, hiking, winter sports, waterfalls, rafting, avalanche safety, river-safety, state and national parks, and more. Youth who are historically unable to grow a love and appreciation for the outdoors will receive the same experiences as their peers, creating a life-long relationship with the amazing natural resources available to Colorado and the San Luis Valley.
Huerfano Re-1 School District and Walsenburg Jr./Sr. High School	Walsenburg	\$26,065	Funds will support an outdoor education program for seventh to twelfth graders that will increase students' knowledge of and access to outdoor recreation, sustainability practices, and career opportunities. Huerfano School District will partner with outdoor-focused organizations to bring in guest speakers, CPW archery, facilitate education and work in the school garden, and take students on hikes at Lathrop State Park where they will learn about trail building, sustainability, and maintenance. They will also participate in outdoor trips and excursion to ski areas, national and state, parks, and other green spaces.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Outdoor Equity Project Description
Inside Out Youth Services	Colorado Springs	\$99,918	Queer Scouts is a new program at Inside Out Youth Services intended to provide LGBTQIA2+ youth and young adults age 13 to 24 with outdoor experiences and to learn about our environment and how to pay respect to the land that holds us. They envision a world where historically excluded queer, trans, and LGBTQIA2+ youth and adults create community, develop leadership skills, and gain confidence through the shared experience of outdoor adventure, resources, and physical activity.
International Rescue Committee	Denver	\$50,000	The International Rescue Committee in Denver's Youth Outdoor Learning Opportunities (YOLO) program is looking forward to expanding outdoor access for refugee youth and families by minimizing barriers to the outdoors and environmental education in a culturally responsive way. Building upon the accomplishments of the successful 2023 program, YOLO aims to expand its reach by adding multi-generational family events, park guides at events, and addressing language and transportation barriers.
Mile High Youth Corps	Denver	\$40,000	Mile High Youth Corps (MYHC) connects young adults, ages 18-24, with opportunities to earn while they learn and develop skills in meaningful career pathways. MYHC will increase access to the outdoors while providing hands-on conservation opportunities for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ youth through their participation in Land Conservation program affinity crews. Working on conservation projects throughout the state and alongside peers with similar backgrounds, youth who have historically been discriminated against and marginalized will earn a paycheck, build skills for their future, and grow into their roles as future caretakers of the environment.
Montezuma Inspire Coalition	Cortez	\$100,000	The Montezuma Inspire Coalition (MIC) is a group of organizations in Montezuma County that work together to reduce barriers to getting youth and families into the outdoors. With grant funds, they will continue the work they began with their first OEG grant award with specific outreach to Latinx, tribal, exceptional student, and low-income youth for various outdoor programming through 7 different MIC partners.
Mountain Dreamers	Frisco	\$100,000	Mountain Dreamer's OSO Outdoors program will connect immigrant and Spanish speaking local families to the outdoors and will organically foster conservation opportunities. The program includes removing barriers to accessing, learning, and continuing on with skiing and snowboarding; increasing culturally and linguistically appropriate access to local trails; working behind the scenes to build a regional coalition for outdoor equity and inclusion; and leading by example in teaching community members the importance of recreating in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.
Mountain Pride	Avon	\$45,100	Grant funding will support Mountain Pride to enhance its efforts as the first LGBTQ+ summer camp programming on the Western Slope, creating a safe haven for queer youth to enjoy outdoor adventures. The summer camp blends outdoor exploration with conservation education, featuring LGBTQ+ role models, fostering a tight-knit community, and empowering participants to be advocates for nature and LGBTQ+ inclusivity.
Right Relationship Boulder	Boulder	\$50,000	The Mediators Foundation's week-long summer program at YMCA Of The Rockies connects Indigenous Arapaho youth and elders with their ancestral homelands in meaningful ways. Although these federally-recognized tribes were forcibly displaced to Wyoming and Oklahoma, their language, history, culture and heritage are rooted in the Colorado wilderness. Combining outdoor activities, language acquisition, and cultural revitalization, elders will teach youth and others about their homeland, local plants and animals, and how to identify important plants for food, medicine and sacred Arapaho ceremonies.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Outdoor Equity Project Description
San Juan Mountains Association	Durango	\$75,000	San Jan Mountains Association's Youth Wellness in Nature Collaborative (WIN) provides outdoor experiences, environmental education, and opportunities to explore career pathways for rural, Latine, tribal, and under-resourced youth. The program engages students with the natural world through service learning, stewardship, community building, reaping the benefits of the outdoors through better mental health, connectedness, and inspiration for future careers. SJMA will work with students through after school programs, activity Fridays, and youth corps.
San Luis Valley Great Outdoors!	Alamosa	\$100,000	The grant for the San Luis Valley Genwild Coalition will support four key program areas: the Boys and Girls Club (BGC) outdoor education program and its expansion into rural communities, the Rio Grande Farm Park (RGFP) and its Rising Stewards program, the SLV GO! Embajadores program, and the creation of a mobile gear library. The programs will directly serve the Hispanic and minority communities within the SLV, and the gear library will support programs and help break down equipment barriers.
SOS Outreach	Edwards	\$65,000	SOS Outreach will alleviate access and inclusivity barriers for 450 low-income and racially and ethnically diverse Eagle County youth and families, creating a sense of belonging in the mountains through responsible recreation via skiing and snowboarding. The organization will deepen equity efforts through the expansion of the alumni network and the consistent incorporation of participant feedback, and expand opportunities for career pathways for our young adults with a career development program.
The Cycle Effect	Eagle	\$100,000	The Cycle Effect will increase access to the outdoors and promote stewardship of the environment by engaging underrepresented youth and their families in the sport of mountain biking, building a sense of belonging in outdoor recreation and establishing a supportive community for individuals to pursue their interests and feel empowered to make positive change in their lives.
Urban Peak	Denver	\$24,000	Funding will support outdoor activities and adventure therapy for the 900 youth Urban Peak serves each year. Outdoor activities will consist of social-centered, enjoyment-based outdoor events and outings for the sake of fun, exposure, and conservation promotion. Urban Peak will utilize adventure therapy to kinesthetically engage clients on cognitive, affective, and behavioral levels.
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Towaoc	\$100,000	The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will weave together several youth-serving programs to increase access to the outdoors. Grant activities will include visiting ancestral lands with overnight hiking and camping at Lizard Head Pass and surrounding areas and a one-week hiking and camping retreat at Pinecrest Ranch, the Tribe's protected camping and conservation area. They will also host ski trips to Telluride, Purgatory Resort in Durango, and Wolf Creek in Pagosa Springs, purchase mountain bikes for local youth programming to use on a newly installed bike park and existing dirt trails on the reservation, and host an outdoor career fair for youth.
Vibe Tribe Adventures	Aurora	\$40,000	Vibe Tribe Adventures works to ensure that financial constraints, lack of representation, and cultural barriers no longer hinder individuals from enjoying the benefits of outdoor recreation. By offering no-cost and affordable programming, educational resources, and community engagement, they aim to increase access to the outdoors, promote conservation opportunities, empower individuals to connect with nature, develop a love for the outdoors, and lead healthier lives. Funding will support the BIPOC Mountain Collective, which unites and empowers individuals from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, who share a profound passion for snow sports and outdoor adventures.

Organization Name	Location	Grant Amount	Outdoor Equity Project Description
Wilderness Workshop	Carbondale	\$17,105	Wilderness Workshop launched their Defiende Nuestra Tierra Program (Defend our Land) in 2018 to better engage and build power within the Latinx community in our region, and work together to close the outdoor equity gap while promoting a culture of environmental activism and conservation. They offer relevant youth and family-oriented programs to the Latinx youth and families, connecting participants with the outdoors and opportunities to take action to protect public lands. Their programs will connect Latinx families with the outdoors by offering free, bilingual, and family friendly events on public lands in the Western Slope region.
Women's Wilderness	Boulder	\$100,000	Funds will support Women's Wilderness Outdoor G.I.R.L.S (Immigrant Refugee Leadership Series) program, which improves participants' mental and physical health through increased connection with the outdoors. Outdoor G.I.R.L.S. is an after school program for immigrant, refugee and newcomer girls ages 9-18. The program layers socioemotional skills learning with outdoor recreation experiences, such as nature immersion, hiking, and indoor and outdoor rock climbing. Sessions are led by a combination of certified female outdoor guides, community leaders, and local youth mentors who hold similar identities as the girls. Outdoor G.I.R.L.S. leverages the power of connection to the outdoors and play to support the physical and mental health, social connectivity and leadership development of girls.
Young Masterminds Initiative	Aurora	\$95,000	Young Masterminds Initiative's Camping to Connect program uses outdoor recreation and nature immersion to address the diverse issues faced by young men of color. Addressing the gap where minorities make up 31% of Colorado's population but are underrepresented in outdoor activities, their program offers nature-based journeys led by mentors who represent the communities they serve. These outings include environmental education and leadership training, aiming to break down barriers and cultivating a conservation mindset.
Youth Club of Trinidad	Trinidad	\$40,000	Youth Club of Trinidad serves youth that are often excluded from outdoor recreation who come from low income, disadvantaged families. About 70% of the youth they serve are low income, 30% have various disabilities and challenges, and most of their youth are ethnically diverse. Funding will support the club's summer camp, where youth participate in activities such as fishing, hiking, and visiting ranches and state parks in an inclusive and welcoming environment.



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