



Colorado Youth for a Change (CYC) is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to solving our state's dropout crisis. CYC's work has helped change the lives of thousands of students and the community has realized an economic savings of millions of dollars as these youth pursue their educational goals and realize their potential.

Colorado Youth for a Change works in partnership with school districts in Colorado. We are extremely grateful for these relationships and the support the districts provide. Our work with school districts includes CYC's core programs: Dropout Outreach & Recovery, Intervention, and Futures Academy.

There are services provided by the CYC staff above and beyond the core programs. These services include organizational support, research and evaluation, communications, operations, and the services provided for students in our Most Vulnerable Populations.

CYC MVP SERVICES

CYC's work with Most Vulnerable Populations (MVP) of youth seeks to lessen the achievement gap for youth across all school districts who experience disproportionate barriers to their education because they are experiencing homelessness, identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ), are pregnant or parenting, or are involved in the corrections or foster care systems. These identified vulnerable populations often become disengaged in their education due to high mobility and lack of adult support. In 2014, among the nearly 2,000 students CYC served, 17% were involved in corrections, 6% were involved in the foster care system, 10% experienced homelessness, 12% were pregnant or parenting, and 10% identified as LGBTQ.

Over the years, it has become evident – through data analysis and information gathered from schools and CYC staff – that vulnerable student populations experience higher dropout rates than their peers. For example, homeless children are four times more likely to drop out of school, the graduation rate for these students is 49%, compared with a State average of 77%, and nearly one-third of LGBTQ students leave school before graduating. CYC's work with these vulnerable populations seeks to promote resiliency in these youth by addressing barriers that prevent educational stability including lack of housing, legal issues, and lack of family support.

Through the MVP services, CYC staff connect youth with appropriate resources to help them navigate the school system while giving them the tools to make informed choices and become their own best advocate. CYC maintains many partnerships with school districts, governmental agencies, and community organizations to help supplement the support CYC provides, including Urban Peak, The GLBT Center, Servicios de la Raza, Denver Department of Human Services, Bridging the Gap, Prax(us), Colorado 9 to 25, and Florence Crittenton High School.

In the 2014-15 school year, CYC identified 223 LGBTQ and homeless students and supported them in remaining enrolled, or reengaged them in an education program. 110 were out-of-school youth and 113 were supported through in-school support.

- 88 out of school LGBTQ and/or homeless youth were reenrolled in school
- 81% remained enrolled, graduated, or moved out of the area
- 101 (89%) of the in-school youth remain enrolled or graduated from school

Through our Intervention program and Futures Academy we supported an additional 111 students who experienced homelessness and/or identified as LGBTQ.

CYC needs a sustainable and focused Most Vulnerable Populations services to support students facing extraordinary barriers.



Join the CYC MVP VIP Society!

Your pledge by 12/31/2015 of a gift of \$1000 or recurring gift of \$100/month for one year will put you into the Society and support MVP and other additional services provided by CYC. In the Society you will receive:

- Recognition as a CYC MVP VIP
- Quarterly MVP newsletter
- Special invitation/recognition to CYC Events
- Exclusive invitation to Biannual MVP VIP Events
- MVP T-shirt and CYC Mug
- and more



For more information, contact Robert Ham at roberth@youthforachange.org or 303-928-9774. Thank you.