

Colorado State University

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Fort Collins, CO 80524
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Grant Award, Year One: \$300,000

Award Year: 2006

Organizational Description:

In 1989, Colorado State University helped develop the Even Start Family Centered Learning project, which became the Community Organizing to Reach Empowerment (CORE) Center in 2002. Through partnerships with Colorado State University, Poudre School District, and local community organizations, the CORE Center provides educational programs and support services to youth and families from diverse, high-need backgrounds to: 1) improve and stabilize physical living conditions; 2) increase the level of safety in the neighborhoods and the well-being of the family; and 3) increase educational and economic opportunities that lead to self-sufficiency. In addition to providing direct services, the CORE Center also works as a capacity builder with a mission "to serve as a community-based learning site for other community organizations."

Name of CEY Initiative Project:

Fort Collins Communities Empowering Youth Collaborative (FCCEYC)

Project Description:

Colorado State University will build the capacity of faith and community-based organizations to provide enhanced social services to address gang activity, youth violence, and child abuse and neglect. FCCEYC will 1) conduct initial research to assess organizations' current capacity building needs in the areas of leadership development, organizational development, program development, and community engagement; 2) develop action plans and specific strategies to meet goals; 3) reflect on the impact and outcomes of training programs and activities; 4) and evaluate the effectiveness, appropriateness, and outcomes of capacity building. Specific capacity building activities will include retreats, workshops, in-service activities, and technical assistance support.

In addition, FCCEYC will address the needs of neighborhoods in the Fort Collins' North College Corridor by: 1) developing an effective collaborative with organizations with demonstrated success in leadership and effective programs; 2) strengthening the knowledge and skills of the lead organization and key partners; 3) increasing skilled leadership and program personnel; 4) forging new collaborations between key faith-based groups, local organizations, and neighborhood residents; and 5) implementing a systematic plan for service provision based on research strategies and tactics with measurable outcomes.

Partners: Healthier Communities Coalition; Larimer County Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program; Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at Colorado State University; Vineyard Church of Fort Collins