A CHECKLIST FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDERS:

WAYS TO INCORPORATE POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES INTO PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT YOUTH IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL:

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDERS CAN INCORPORATE POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES INTO PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT YOUTH IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL BY:

☐ Participating in positive youth development training opportunities such as youth-adult partnership trainings so they may effectively partner with young people to make funding decisions that will affect their lives.

☐ Refraining from labeling youth as "at-risk." Instead, funding programs that support population-based, primary prevention programs that incorporate positive youth development principles.

☐ Incorporating positive youth development principles and strategies into grant and funding guidance (e.g., request for proposals or applications) that affect youth and young adults. This may include encouraging organizations to develop youth-adult partnerships or may focus on cultivating youth and families' strengths, by including these within the needs assessment.

☐ Ensuring that funding opportunities cover longer grant cycles, acknowledging that no strategy is going to demonstrate dramatic outcomes in only one year, and allowing for longitudinal evaluation.

☐ Supporting a broad range of expenses, including technology, software, training, technical assistance, participant transportation and staff time so that programs can increase their coordination and collaboration with youth, families and other youth-serving organizations.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDERS CAN SUPPORT YOUTH IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL BY INCREASING FLEXIBLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

☐ Positive, fun options and supportive environments for all youth to engage in as a primary prevention, and youth development strategy such as safe and engaging places for youth to socialize at night and on the weekends.

☐ Necessary resources to support youth and family engagement, such as stipends or hourly fees for youth or family consultation, transportation reimbursement, food expenses; staff time for outreach, coordination, communication and training development.

☐ Training and technical assistance for the implementation of positive youth development principles and practices.

☐ Low student-adult ratios in classrooms, after-school programs and community-based organizations, so that adults can devote the necessary time to build supportive relationships with youth.

☐ Programmatic and/or communitywide cultural events, trainings and conversations to address cultural responsiveness, including responses to racism and other forms of oppression.

☐ Local and culturally appropriate behavioral health services that are affordable and accessible for all youth (e.g. universal screenings).

☐ Local community-school coordinators who could expand the traditional school day and/or year by partnering with community organizations, which could provide before and after school programming on their campuses.

☐ Creative strategies to address the lack of transportation access that disenfranchises youth across the state from engaging in positive, community opportunities.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDERS CAN SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE CURRENT GRANTEES TO:

☐ Actively involve and share decision-making with youth and families in planning, implementing and evaluating youth-serving programs.

☐ Provide programmatic and/or communitywide cultural events, trainings and conversations to address cultural responsiveness, including responses to racism and other forms of oppression.

A CHECKLIST FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDERS:

WAYS TO INCORPORATE POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES INTO PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT YOUTH IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL:

❏ Coordinate and collaborate with other youth programs to increase efficiency and produce better outcomes for youth, their families and communities.

❏ Participate in positive youth development training and technical assistance opportunities.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDERS CAN IMPROVE THEIR FUNDING APPLICATION AND REPORTING PROCESSES BY:

❏ Simplifying and standardizing their planning and reporting processes to help increase the capacity (e.g., time and staff) of programs to incorporate positive youth development practices into their work.

❏ Posting all funding announcements/opportunities specific to positive youth development on a centralized Web-based system.

❏ Providing more technical assistance during the grant application process, including providing feedback on grant proposals that were not selected for funding, so the organization can improve its work.

❏ Supporting new organizations and innovative practices to develop evidence and research to support emerging and promising practices.

To learn more about Positive Youth Development, visit www.healthyyouthcolorado.org