



Aurora Youth Options
aurorayouthoptions.org



Aurora Youth Options

AYO is making a difference

Aurora Youth Options is a proven success, and a much needed resource for the youth and families of our community.

- Since its inception in 2009, AYO has directly affected the lives of more than 700 young people each year.
- AYO is a part of the solution in the bigger picture to better our community for everyone.
- AYO has helped families and young people engage, interact, and become involved in each other's lives, in ways that may not have existed otherwise.
- AYO has been recognized by the City of Aurora, the Aurora Police Department, the school boards of both Aurora and Cherry Creek Public Schools, the Colorado Juvenile Council, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, The Denver Post, and Colorado Behavioral Health Council, to name only a few.
- If we can help change the life of one young person at a time, we will be a step closer to a better community.

Here's how you can help

If you can donate your time, your expertise, or even a monetary gift we would like to talk to you. If you own, are employed by, or know of a company that offers grants, endowments, or donations to youth-oriented programs, we would like to talk to you. If you know of, or are involved directly with a foundation or organization that supports programs such as AYO, we would like to talk to you. Please contact **Aurora Youth Options** at **303.617.2660**. To learn more about AYO, please visit our website at www.aurorayouthoptions.org.

Thank you.

Mission

Aurora Youth Options works with middle and high school aged youth and their families to navigate, connect, and provide positive, individualized resources to help youth thrive.

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Viewpoint Plaza Center
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www.aurorayouthoptions.org

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About Aurora Youth Options

AYO assesses the needs of Aurora middle school and high school youth. We connect youth with individualized resources to gain life skills as stepping stones for success in life.

- AYO assesses risk and protective factors and directs youth to community resources for continued support.
- AYO can provide limited financial assistance to help youth succeed with the programs and opportunities they are connected with.
- AYO will work with youth and their families to create a successful and enjoyable experience.

AYO Programs

FREE homework help and tutoring sessions.

- Aurora Central Library on Alameda Avenue, *(check website for day and times)*.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Library on Colfax Avenue, *(check website for day and times)*.
- Volunteer adults and peer tutors are on site to help with homework.
- Provides a safe environment for youth.
- The learning lab provides computer and Internet access.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities are available for youth and adults in all areas of AYO programs and services.

Mentor Program

Mentoring is an important component of AYO. The Mentor Program matches an adult mentor with a youth, based on interest and personality traits. Matches meet twice a month, supporting the youth in reaching their full potential and offering valuable life experiences.

In addition to caring adult mentors, youth are engaged in a life-skills-based learning lab and monthly community activities. Matches are supported with training, on-going coaching, free tickets, coupons and monthly events.

Youth, their families and mentors are encouraged to give back to Aurora by offering community service.

Teen and Family Leadership

AYO offers workshops for youth and their families to learn community facilitation skills. With these skills teens and families can support their circle of influence.

Workshops cover communication, conflict resolution, decision making and presentation skills.

How to get involved

In order to get involved in AYO, a youth must be nominated to our program. It's easy! A nomination can be made by anyone who interacts with youth, such as teachers, parents, coaches, counselors, and peers. A youth can also nominate themselves.

Let's Get Started!

- Fill out a nomination form and send it to a youth specialist. Forms can be found online at our AYO website: www.aurorayouthoptions.org

Don't Forget!

- AYO is for youth in Middle or High School.
- Youth must have an Aurora address or attend a school with an Aurora address.

Once nominated

The youth will take our youth survey which addresses risk and protective factors that help to match the youth with appropriate resources. Surveys can be completed at our "drop-in" nights at the AYO office *(check website for day and times)*.