

Pathways to Programming: A Look Back at Washington and Colorado's Approach to the Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting Grant



Wednesday, October 2nd, 10:30 – noon
Tahoe Blue Event Center
Jessica Adams, Washington State Division of Child Support
Konul Karimova, Washington State University
Maggie Spain, Spearca Communications
Olivia Cornejo, Colorado Department of Human Services





Acknowledgements

- This project is funded by the Charting the Course for Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting demonstration grant from the Office of Child Support and Services (OCSS).
- Funding for this project was approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant Number 90FD0249. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.
- The Washington State Division of Child Support (DCS) has contracted with the IMPACT Research Lab at WSU to conduct the project's evaluation.
- The Parenting: It's a Life project is a partnership between Iowa State University, Iowa Child Support, and the Iowa Attorney General's Office
- Trailbuilding: A Youth-Produced Approach to Independence and the Life. As Told By Youth campaign are joint initiatives of the Colorado Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) and the Colorado Sexual Health Initiative (CoSHI).
- The Colorado project team includes DCSS, CoSHI, Connected Health Solutions / MyMediaLife, Spearca Communications, and the Center for Policy Research.



What to expect...

- Colorado's Approach of implementing EMRP grant
- Washington's Approach of implementing EMRP grant
- Common Themes across Implementation Sites
- Small Group Discussions and Sharing



Warm-up activity

Raise your hand if:

- You think your state offers sufficient youth programming or targeted youth work
- You have heard of any positive youth programming or engagement initiatives in your state
- Teen pregnancy is a significant issue in your state
- You believe your state provides adequate support for teen parents

3-4 minutes

The Evolution of Life. As Told By Youth



Who We Are



Olivia Cornejo
Division of Child Support Services
Colorado Department of Human Services
Outreach & Project Support Specialist



Maggie Spain
Spearca Communications
*Social Media Marketing Developers,
Designers, and Partner in Program Design*



Trailbuilding: A Youth-Produced Approach to Independence

- ACF Grant: Charting a Course for Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting
- Project Team



COLORADO
Child Support Services
Department of Human Services



CoSHI
Colorado Sexual Health Initiative

Project Approach and Timeline

- **Life of the Project:** 09/30/2020 - 9/30/2024.
- **Project Approach:** Teach young people about filmmaking and social media to help their peers break free from the cycle of poverty.
- **Four Phases of the Project:** The Group Level Intervention, Production, Post-Production, and Community Level Intervention.
- **Grounded in the Positive Youth Development Framework:** Assets, Agency, Contribution, Enabling Environment.



Curriculum

- **Core Components Approach:** papa, IR, MyMediaLife, CommunityPROMISE, and 2-Gen Model of Child Support Services.
- **February 2022 Curriculum Shoot.**



MyMediaLife provides targeted, interactive, cognitive-behavioral workshops producing high-quality digital products like short films, ads, promotional videos, posters, and other assets, shaped by the populations served. Participants also undergo transformative changes in attitudes and behaviors through this process.



Division of Youth Services: Community at Lookout Mountain

- The Restorative Justice Program at CALM recruited 12 young men to participate.
- **Group Level Intervention** took place June 13-June 16, 2022.
- The **shoot** took place on campus (with lots of supervision!) July 14-15, 2022.
- **Post-production** was an ongoing process over almost 9 months.
- The **premiere** was held April 26, 2023 at the CALM campus.



Division of Youth Services: Community at Lookout Mountain

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE PREMIERE OF

WHAT GOT US HERE

A short film
concepted, scripted,
and produced by young
men participating in
the Restorative Justice
Program at the
Colorado Division of
Youth Services Campus
at Lookout Mountain.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023
2:45 P.M.

THE CAMPUS AT LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN – AUDITORIUM
2901 FORD ST. – GOLDEN, CO 80401

What Got Us Here follows a young father committed to the Division of Youth Services who, after being shaken by the reveal of a lifelong secret, sets out to overcome the mistakes of his past.

This film was developed in partnership with the Colorado Division of Youth Services and the Colorado Division of Child Support Services, through the Trailbuilding: A Youth-Produced Approach to Independence / Life. As Told By Youth Project.

Arrival Instructions: Please arrive a few minutes early to allow for security check-in. Colorado Department of Human Services employees must bring their badges to the venue. All other attendees will need to provide their driver's license as identification. Cell phones and personal items must be stored in a car or a locker at the gatehouse.

RSVPs and questions to:
Maggie Spain at
maggie@spearcadenver.com



Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families grant #90FD0235-01-01.



What Got Us Here

What Got Us Here tells the story of intergenerational poverty fueled by gang violence through the characters Milo & Diego...

2 EXT. DIEGO'S STOOP - DAY 2

A young homey, MILO (16), hesitant and cautious sits beside the rough around the edges bull-like, DIEGO (17) smoking.

MILO
I wasn't trying to have kids right now... but is what it is... You know a fast way to get some money..?

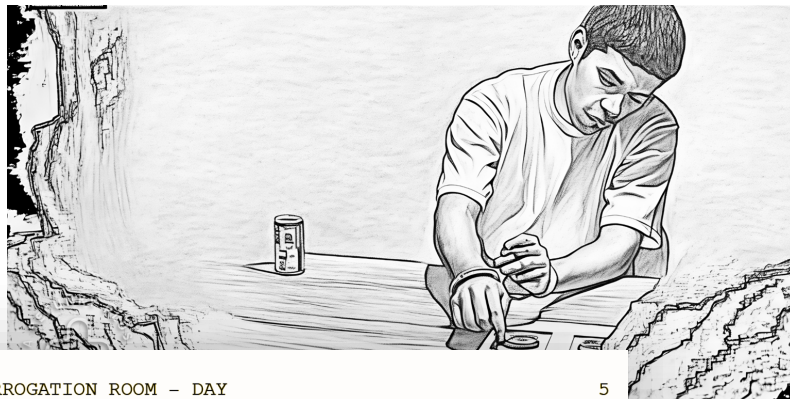
DIEGO
You wanna get put on the hood?
I'll get you some money.

Beat as Milo considers.

MILO
Whatever it takes to feed a kid.

Diego stares him down - "it's on."

CUT TO:



5 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY 5

DIEGO, handcuffed sits across two POLICE DETECTIVES. He SPILLS EVERYTHING, his MOUTH MOVING a mile a minute as

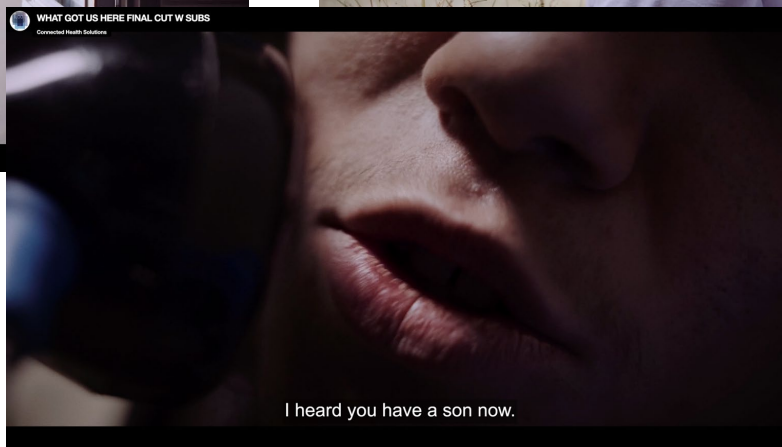
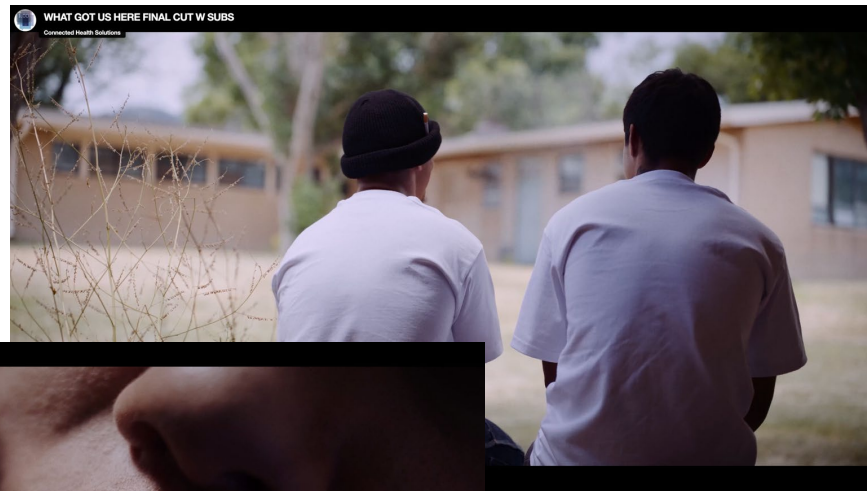
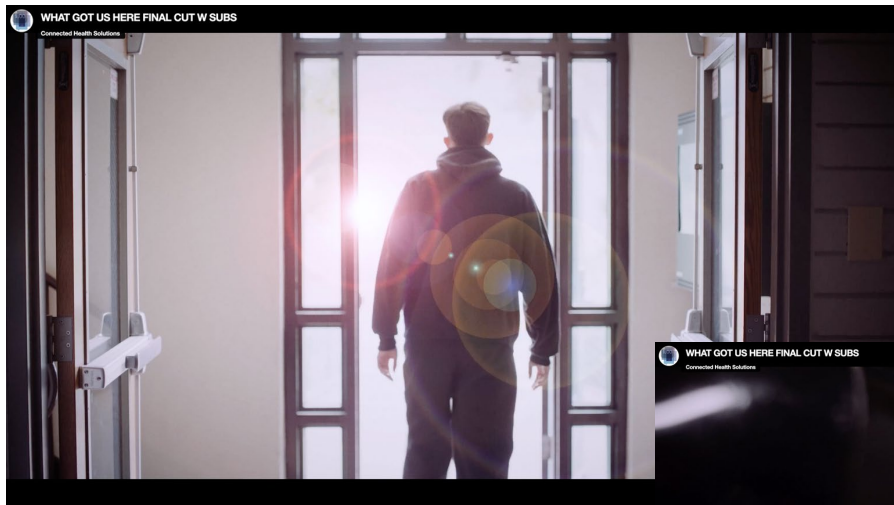
MUSIC IN: C Murder - Down for my N's

DIEGO finally points to a mugshot: MILO.

CUT TO:



Audio Interviews with DYS Participants



The Matthews House

Partnered with The Matthews House as our second project site.

- This Northern Colorado nonprofit helps youth and families in crisis achieve stability and overcome the effects of and contributors to poverty.

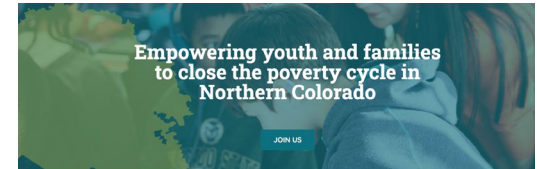
The Matthews House recruited 18 youth to participate.

Group Level Intervention took place in June 2023 in Fort Collins.

The shoot took place Aug. 2-3, 2023 at The Matthews House in Fort Collins.

Post-production was an ongoing process right up until the day of the premiere!

The Premiere on Oct. 26, 2023, was designed as a true Hollywood film premiere with a red carpet, reception, photographer, and live Q&A with youth producers following the film screening.



1 in 10 families in Northern Colorado Live At or Below Poverty Line

Poverty is about scarcity not about ambition. It is about having to lack of access to everyday needs, which is often out of one's control. This is more than just a roof over one's head or a warm meal at a table, it is an overall absence of social, emotional, and societal support.

We are here to fill in the cracks and secure the fault lines of insufficiency; we aim to equip individuals with the tools necessary to foster a stable and secure life.



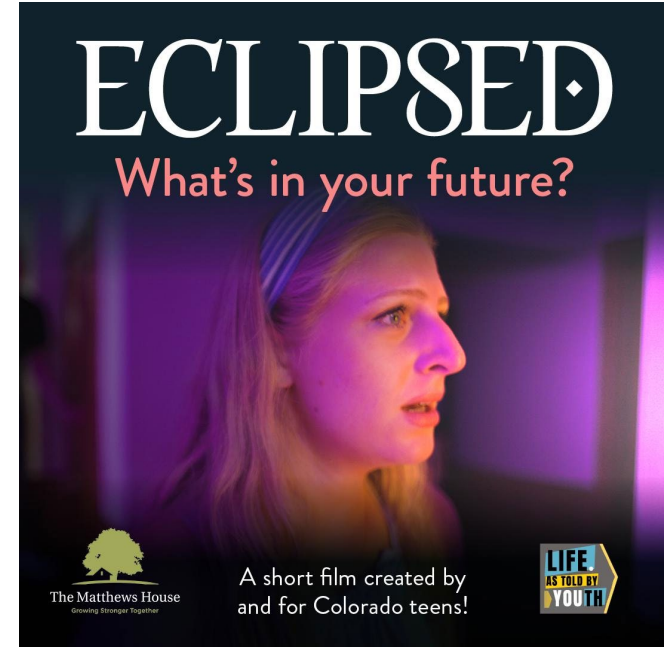


October 2023: Eclipsed Premiere

Eclipsed



- Interviews with The Matthews House participants



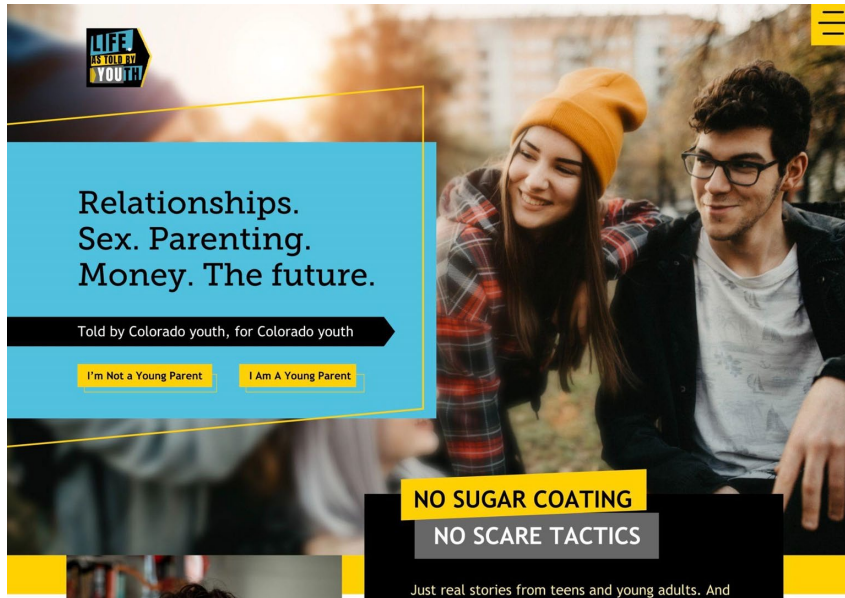
Life. As Told By Youth Campaign Development

- Name and logo created by Youth Advisory Board in 2022
- Life. As Told By Youth is the public-facing brand name for the Trailbuilding project / curriculum
- Always connected to DCSS and CoSHI as a joint initiative of the two divisions

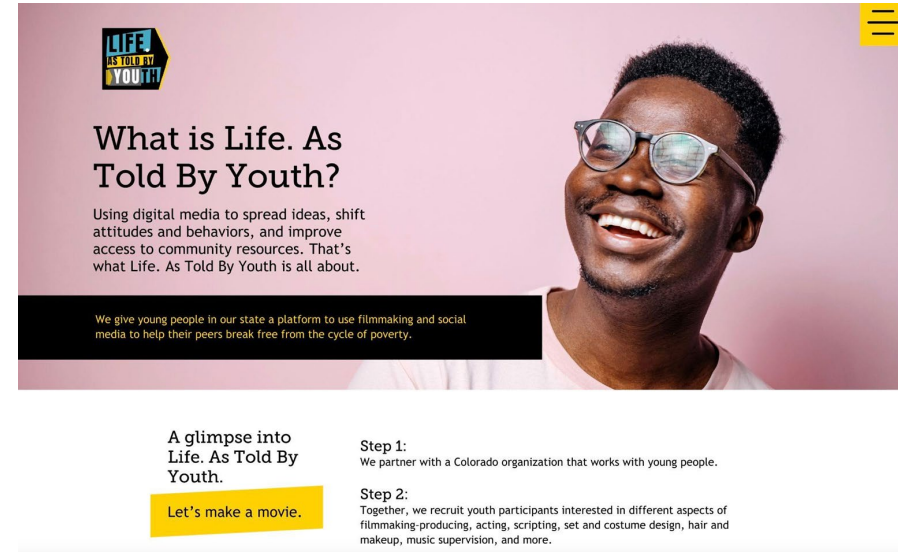


Life. As Told By Youth Website

LifeByYouth.com



Homepage



Interior Page



Life. As Told By Youth Social Media Campaign



[@lifebyyouthco](https://www.instagram.com/lifebyyouthco)



[@lifebyyouthco](https://www.youtube.com/lifebyyouthco)



[@lifebyyouthco](https://www.snapchat.com/add/lifebyyouthco)



Life. As Told By Youth Social Videos



Life. As Told By Youth Instagram Posts

Par-ent-age [noun]:

The identity and origin of one's parents.



Child support is not about the people who pay it or receive it.



It's about the child.



Toxic Relationships vs. Healthy Relationships

Conflict
Power and Control
Isolation
Threats
Physical and Emotional Abuse

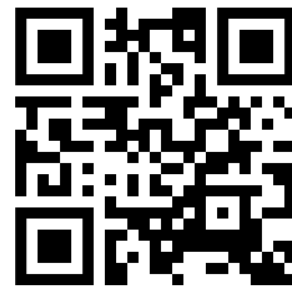


Respect
Honesty
Open Communication
Trust
Consent





Learn More



maggie@spearcadenver.com

olivia.cornejo@state.co.us

Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families grant #90FD0235-01-01

Washington & Parenting: It's a Life (PIAL)

Washington adapted Iowa State University's "Parenting: It's a Life" curriculum which included 10 modules that fell into two different categories

Intrapersonal Skill Building

- Module 1: Decisions and Goals
- Module 2: Peer pressure
- **Module 3: Healthy Relationships**
- Module 4: Risk and protective factors
- Module 5: Resiliency

Parenting with a Focus on Intrapersonal Skill Building

- **Module 6: Cost of raising a child**
- Module 7: Managing Money
- **Module 8: Establishing parentage**
- **Module 9: Co-parenting**
- **Module 10: Child Support**

The 5 in bold are identified as core, which required them to be delivered even if the full 10 module delivery was not administered

Adaptation of Parenting: It's a Life (PIAL) in Washington

What we did...

- Updated the cost of raising a child
- Revised module-specific scenarios to reflect more inclusive and gender diverse language
- Updated establishing parentage video and case studies
- Updated the child support video
- Added a Community Resource Database to introduce and familiarize youth with state and community resources



<https://gis.dshs.wa.gov/apps/local-perspective/index.html>

Partners and Organizations

Graduation, Reality And Dual-Role Skills (GRADS)

Graduation, Reality And Dual-role Skills (GRADS) is a program for pregnant teens and/or young parents that focus on work and family foundation skills of significance to these students. GRADS programs include student demonstration of skills leading to high school graduation and economic independence.

[Graduation, Reality And Dual-Role Skills \(GRADS\) | OSPI \(www.k12.wa.us\)](https://www.k12.wa.us/OSPI)



<https://www.dadsmove.org/>



<https://familyess.org/>



<https://www.spofi.org/>



<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HealthFamily/main.htm>

South King Healthcare Services, SPC

<https://southkinghealthcare.org/>

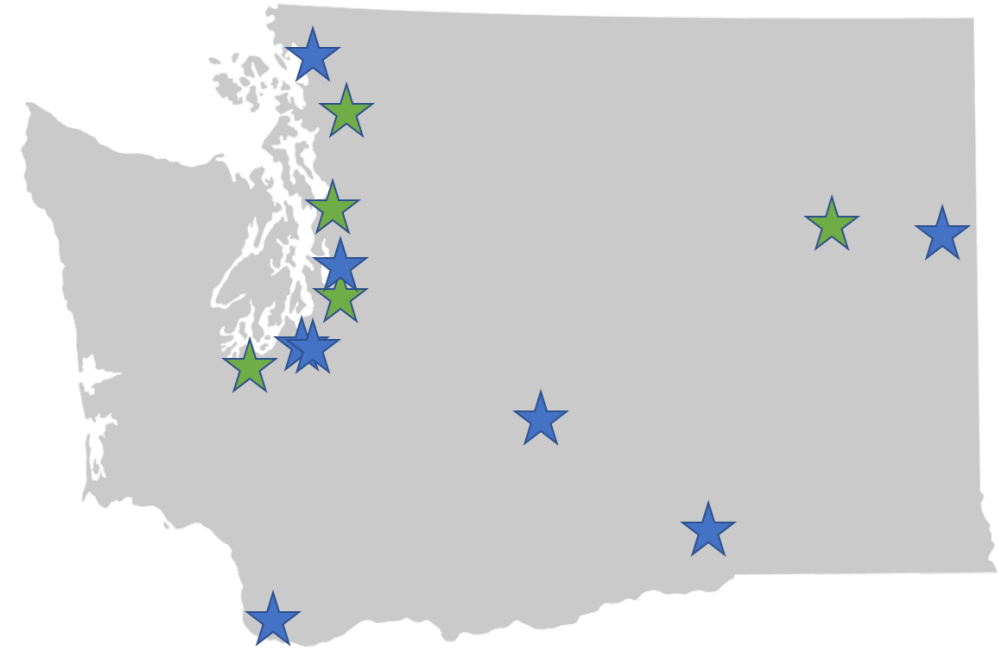
Implementation Sites

Schools

- 6 Life Skills Classes
- 5 GRADS Programs
- 4 Senior Transitions Classes
- 2 Open Door Programs

Communities

- 3 Young Parent Programs
- 3 Healthcare Programs
- 2 Learning Programs
- 2 Family Support Programs
- 1 After School Program



★ Child Support Facilitator

★ Fatherhood Facilitator

Audience check in

Any immediate questions or thoughts so far?



Evaluation Questions

- **Context**

- For whom does the program work?
- Under what conditions?

- **Mechanisms**

- How does the program work?

- **Outcomes**

- What is the impact ?



Data Collection Tools

Comprehensive PIAL pre-post youth assessment surveys*

PIAL post-module surveys*

PIAL fidelity surveys*

Implementation evaluation survey

Implementation evaluation interviews

*the survey is included in the curriculum

Program Facilitator and Site Staff Interviews

- 13 semi-structured interviews were conducted during 2023-2024
- Questions:
 - School and community context, participant characteristics
 - Participant engagement and interest in the curriculum
 - Support needed to deliver the program
 - Challenges, lessons learned and immediate success stories of the program
- Interview data analyzed using thematic analysis



Preliminary Evaluation Results

- Implementation Context and Participant Characteristics
- What Worked
- Success Stories and Short-term outcomes
- Opportunities for Improvement
- Challenges and Lessons Learned

What Worked



Value Addition, Ease of Adaptation and Integration into Existing Programs



Student Interest and Engagement in Specific Modules



Positive Relationships and Supportive Environments



Facilitator Confidence and Growth in Curriculum Delivery

What Worked



Clear Guidance and Strong Support for Facilitators and Site Staff



Collaborations and Strategic Partnerships



Desire for Implementation Sustainability

Success Stories and Short-Term Outcomes



Increased student engagement in seeking resources and information tailored to their needs



Positive shifts in students' attitudes and goal-setting behaviors



Enhanced student understanding of practical aspects of parenting due to the curriculum



Successful establishment and strengthening of partnerships with schools, promoting collaborative efforts for future initiatives

Opportunities for Improvement: Adaptation Needs

1

Adapting
Curriculum for
Older and High-
Need Youth

2

Changing
Curriculum Name

3

Updating and
Expanding the
Curriculum
Content

4

Adapting
Curriculum
Delivery to Time
Constraints

5

Adapting
Curriculum
Activities for
Varied Classroom
Sizes

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges with
Recruitment,
Attendance and
Engagement

Challenges with
Partnerships,
Curriculum
Preparation and
Delivery

Challenges with Grant
Restrictions



Some quotes from the interviews

“They were pretty **interested in the parentage part of the curriculum**. They didn’t understand birth certificates and all the legal ramifications of signing stuff to be a parent and how that all worked. That was probably the most interesting to them, I think, of all of the pieces of it. They didn’t seem to know a lot about how child support worked, all the legalese with that, so that was interesting to them as well.” *(Staff, School Site)*



Some quotes from the interviews

I would say, it's **strengthened our partnership** ... So, it strengthened that collaboration, and I think it built capacity for beyond this grant. Now, we have several folks in our community who know this curriculum and have access to it. And so that's been one of the conversations that I've been having: what are the possibilities to integrate this into the school beyond this pilot project?" (Staff, School Site)



Some quotes from the interviews

“I think that each student has a **different level of readiness** [to engage] and not every student is going to be at that same level. I do appreciate being able to come together and have conversations about things that they might not be thinking about, even if it is a little awkward for them just due to the nature of the subject material.” (Staff, School Site)



Some quotes from the interviews

“Having somebody who works in social work and is from the office, from the state, they have a level of respect or knowledge that is separate from the teacher. ... And also, it’s not as scary if you need to go into an office to file for food or assistance or have issues legally with child support. That might be **a bridge to allowing the students to feel a little more comfortable** reaching out for those kinds of things.” (Staff, GRADS Site)



Some quotes from the interviews

"The thing I would say that I wish about **funding** was that we could buy treats and snacks ... I had to leverage other funding in our organization, and I bought some things with my own money to bring to the students. Because especially in this population students often shared that they feel slighted, that they feel ripped off and that things aren't fair to them. And when I would bring in treats, they were so excited to eat them." (Staff, School Site)

Next Steps and Resources



Finalize implementation at the remaining sites

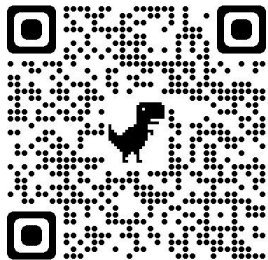


Finalize quantitative and qualitative youth data to understand the impact



Finalize the remaining deliverables including replication toolkit

Washington's project plan



Washington's implementation brief

Contact information

DCS Team

Grants Project Manager,
jessica.adams@dshs.wa.gov

WA Evaluation Team

Gitanjali Shrestha, PI, gshrestha@wsu.edu
Research Assistant, konul.karimova@wsu.edu

Common Themes Across Implementation Sites

- Adapting to audience
 - Interactive components
- Phased implementation
- Youth knowledge
 - Reported increased understanding and comfortability with topics
 - Creating a safe space, peer to peer learning/sharing
- Challenges and Lessons Learned
 - Participant recruitment, involvement, and recruitment
 - Partnerships – establishing relationships and delivery of curriculums, staff and youth turnover
 - Timelines – lengthier process than initially intended



Think, Pair, and Share

What does responsible parenting and success sequencing programming look like in your context?

10 minutes



We would love to hear your thoughts about this workshop. It only takes a few minutes!

You can rate workshops easily through the Conference App. On the event main menu, go to the agenda. Tap on [Workshop Title](#) to view the detail page, then tap the "Session Feedback" button.





Thank You!