

# Connections for Families

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PROGRAMS





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The Elbert County IOG offers oversight of all prevention programs. When applicable, the Elbert County IOG provides funding and/or staffing collaboration with other IOG partners such as but not limited to Centennial Mental Health, Advocates for Children, 18th Judicial District Colorado Youth Detention Continuum CYDC, Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), local schools and Connections for Families. Connections for Families prevention programs consist of evidence-based programs but not limited to, and all programs aim to serve at children and youth who meet the criteria of “at-risk” and who have been identified through the ISST meeting process. Participating organizations will offer funding and/or staff for the program. Each child/youth that participates in a program will meet one or more Performance Measure chosen for the SFY 2020-2021.

- RISC is an early intervention process designed to meet community needs (parents, teachers and/or community member) which are focused on the needs of the child(ren)/youth before proceeding with the juvenile court system; this may include but not limited to therapeutic, mentoring, family, and/or school support. RISC works with children/youth from age 6-17 years of age that may include one or all for the following concerns: school issues, disruptive/defiant behavior, homicidal/suicidal thoughts, mental health, family and/or substance abuse. The RISC case manager provides an assessment in which the child(ren)/youth are then referred to GPS/SRT.
- Alliance After School Support and Summer Program supports youth at risk ranging from 10-year-olds to 13 years of age, referrals come through the ISST meeting process, schools, and community agencies. In collaboration with Centennial Mental Health, Connections for Families and RISC, it strives to meet the needs of each student by offering homework support, mentorship, and group activities. The group activities include but not limited to therapeutic needs, life skills, self-esteem workshops, building peer relationships and mentorship.
- 6 Big Ones is an evidence-based program facilitated by Centennial Mental Health on decision-making program for teens from 13-year-old and up. This program offers 6 workshops with hand on demonstrations, video, and interactive discussion that will address the 6 “Big” areas of a teen's life: school, friends, parents, dating and sex,

addictions, and self-worth. Referrals for this program will come from the ISST meeting process, RISC and schools. Connections for Families offers oversight and an incentive for completing the 6-week program, the youth will receive a \$25 gift card.

- Connections for Families in collaboration with RISC and CMHC will be providing the Brain-Wise Program to children/youth, this program is designed for students that are elementary, middle and high school. This evidenced based program will serve multi-system children/youth. The curriculum is focused on helping the child/youth possess the critical thinking and decision-making skills necessary to analyze and respond to ever-more complex situations and to recognize, understand, and appropriately manage their emotions. The program teaches the child/youth how the brain works and uses approaches that combine positive self-development, life-skills, training, social and emotional learning, and critical thinking skills. It will help the child/youth learn how to control impulsive behavior, accurately identify choices, assess to consequences of actions, and make responsible decisions. This program may be used as a requirement or a prevented program.
- Connections for Families offers oversight and administration of the Second Chance program which is a web-based tobacco education program for middle and high school youth who have violated a tobacco policy at school or who has been ticketed in the community by law enforcement. This program is an interactive, and self-directed program intended to be used as an alternative to suspension. The program may also be helpful for teens that are experimenting with tobacco but have not violated tobacco policy. Second Chance is an educational program designed to help students think about the role that tobacco plays in their lives and move them towards quitting. Referrals come through the ISST meeting process, schools, RISC, law enforcement and municipal courts.
- Connections for Families provides funding and oversight with Elbert County School Districts in providing a best practice youth suicide prevention project designed to harness the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture, ultimately preventing suicide, bullying, and substance abuse. The mission of sources of strength is to prevent suicide by increasing help seeking behaviors and promoting connections between peers and caring adults. Sources of Strength moves beyond a singular focus on risk factors by utilizing an upstream approach for youth suicide prevention. This upstream model strengthens multiple sources of support (protective factors) around young individuals so that when times get hard they have strengths to rely on.
- The Alliance Program provides as Social/Emotional School Based prevented service in local schools once a month that will focus on self-esteem, character, values, resiliency, protective factors, diversity awareness, prevention of violence, substance abuse, gangs, self-defeating behaviors, anger management, peer pressure, problem solving and/or stress management.

- RESTORE program is provided by the 18th Judicial District CDYC and RISC. This program is for teens that may be at risk of substance use. A referral may be made through an ISST meeting, RISC Case Manager, school, probation, municipal court, law enforcement and/or child welfare. The group offers education and activities regarding to drug and alcohol use, family/peers, schools and activities, it gives opportunity for positive change while having support.
- The Tutoring/Academic Support Program helps students who need extra study support through the Alliance After School Support. The program is also available for students who are meet the criteria of chronic absence or truancy or who may have been suspended or expelled from school who need extra one-on-one support.
- Elizabeth School District and Colorado Access collaborated together in providing the a Spot Vision Screener - this program allows routine vision screens to all children undergoing evaluations for early intervention services, children who attend preschool, and special needs children. This service is provided in all Elbert County Schools.
- Connections for Families currently oversees the preventative program Botvin Life-skills evidence-based program facilitated by Centennial Mental Health Center (CMHC) by school-based professionals. CMHC provides a 9-week facilitator into Elbert County School from grade three to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST) is a research-validated substance abuse prevention program proven to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other risky behaviors
- The Messy in Between is an evidence-based principal program teaches how to take responsibility for every daily decision by connecting: Identity, Purpose, Core Values, Goal Achievement, Cognitive Behavioral Skills, and Resilience. This is a 9-week program in which will meet the needs for youth that are experiencing chronic absentee, students determined truant, and students who violate the Elizabeth and Elbert School District code of ethics. This program offers one-on-one coaching along with on-line engagement through videos and activities.