



## Colorado ESC Annual Report 2021



*"We all came into this year ready to face a new wilderness all on our own. Not a single one of us is from Denver, and we are all from very different parts of the East Coast. We formed our fellowship of almost strangers, and embarked on a life changing journey. When February came, we faced what could've been the breaking of our fellowship. ...We knew the only way out was to continue to be in each other's lives and push through. Much like God promised David, we held true to our covenant to love through the pain and the transgressions.... We chose to face the remaining wilderness together,.... And now, I stand before these three people I love so dearly about to embark on my next*

*adventure... Our mission completed, we can now rest knowing we have done what we all set out to do over a year ago." Sophie Kitch-Peck, Colorado ESC 2020-21*

2021-22 was a challenging year for living in community and serving at a partner agency. Our corps members had formation and retreats on Zoom, or outside wearing masks, had to delay their spring retreat because of a blizzard, and endured many quarantines due to COVID-19 exposure at work places and because of travel.



Colorado ESC is eight years old and we are welcoming our 9th cohort in August of 2022. A new "fellowship" will form and face its own life changing challenges. Colorado ESC changes lives, and not just the lives of corps members, but lives of those who come in contact with corps members either at church, at their service sites, or as their formation leaders. We have learned much in the past 8 years and continue to expand our individual donor base and our "friendraising".

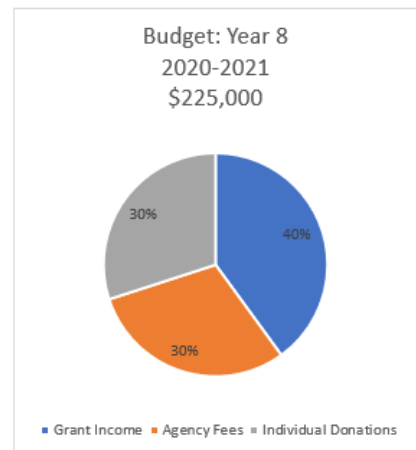
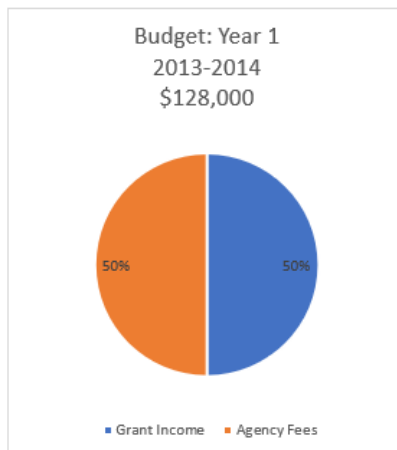
### Budget Comparisons

#### Year One

50% grant 50% agency fees - total budget \$128,000

#### Year Eight

30% individual donations, 30% agency fees and 40% grants - total budget \$ 225,000 better reflection of ACTUAL cost of running the program. ( support staff, increased corps member stipends, increased insurance costs, etc...)



## Diocesan/Community Engagement

In addition to serving during a pandemic at: St. Francis Center, Purple Door Coffee, Earthlinks and Metro Caring, Corps members:

- Built the Labyrinth at Cathedral Ridge
- Held a Q & A session at Diocesan Convention in fall 2020
- Made Advent Wreaths for members of St. Peter and St. Mary Church
- Created and organized worship music videos for online worship at St. Peter and St. Mary Church
- Led worship online and in person outdoors at Peter and Mary
- Participated in 2 online coffee hours with Holy Comforter in Broomfield and St. Paul's in Ft. Collins
- Volunteered on a regular basis with St. Clare's Ministries
- Created a four part workshop/ retreat that can be held in person or online based on the life and ministry of The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray
  - Wrote a micro grant funding a bicycle outreach ministry through St. Francis Center
  - Corps member was confirmed June 5, 2021 at regional confirmation



## Current Challenges

We will have had two years of lower enrollment because of COVID. This means less income for the program. Recruitment continues to be a challenge for service programs across the country including Americorps. The national ESC network is performing a comprehensive program and recruitment audit which will give us important strategic data for moving forward.



Despite these challenges, Colorado ESC remains a strong and vibrant program for the national Episcopal Service Corps network and for the communities we serve in Colorado. We hope to continue our ministry for many years in the post COVID world.

