

Colorado Nonprofit Development Center Board Meeting  
 Partner Project Portfolio Report  
 August 2023

**ACTIVE PROJECTS: 73**

2023	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
<b>New Partners</b>	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	4				12
<b>Closed Partners</b>	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	1				9

**NEW PROJECTS (since last board meeting)**

- Project Libe
- Colorado Poets Laureate Anthology
- Temple Arts
- JEDI Coalition of Larimer County
- Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU)
- Backpack Dreams

**CLOSED PROJECTS (since last board meeting)**

- Access Mode – Partner since August 2022. Short-term sponsorship. From application, they planned to get secure their own tax-exempt status and in the meantime be under CNDC so they could access grant funds.
- Center for Bright Kids – Partner since May 2009. Formed a tax-exempt entity to operate a school. We had insurance challenges with a school.
- First2Lead – Partners since May 2022. Closed due to lack of fundraising.

**SAMPLING OF PARTNER PROJECT UPDATES**

**African Leadership Group** is hosting Arik Impact 2023 to celebrate the impact African immigrants have in the state of Colorado. This is the 8th Annual Afrik Impact celebration, featuring a Youth Empowerment Event July 28th, a Community Cultural Event & Concert August 5th, an Education Forum August 10th, a Business Summit August 17th and concluding with a Gala, Saturday, August 26. The theme this year is ***“Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”***.

**High Rockies Harm Reduction** is shifting from a rented, set location to become a fully mobile service provider. This will allow them to bring their services and support to local communities in their region, including Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, and others. As a reminder, they provide safe syringe exchange, testing for HIV, Narcan and Narcan use training, peer support groups, and referrals to other service providers.

**Harm Reduction Action Center** – Received \$495,000 from the Opioid Abatement Funds (Settlement Funds) to be used for the eventual purchase of a building.

**Golden Triangle Creative District** – Hosting COLORCON on August 26<sup>th</sup>, an artistic mural event located in the Golden Triangle community that celebrates art and diversity by re-imagining spaces/alleyways as iconic destinations and making art accessible to all. Built by the community for the community.



**Partner Project Spotlight: Defend Our Protectors**  
**Partner Project Since: January 2023**

**Vision & Mission:** To serve as an advocate for military justice and provide resources and support for indigent defendants.

**History:** In December 2005, the Army National Guard and Docupak, a private company, launched the Guard Recruiting Assistant Program (G-RAP) in five states. The concept was simple: utilize the energy, commitment, and enthusiasm of off-duty soldiers to identify potential new recruits. Recruiting Assistants (RAs) were offered \$2,000 for each recruit (and up to \$8500 for those qualified as an officer) who joined the Army National Guard. Within a year, G-RAP had expanded to all 50 states and four U.S. Territories. Within seven years, G-RAP produced record numbers, signing more than 139,000 new recruits.

In early 2012, G-RAP was suspended due to reports of fraud reported by the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID). The Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) considered it fraud if RAs simply did not follow the guidelines. There were 60 changes made to the G-RAP guidelines in seven years. Many of Docupak's contractors say that they were not made aware of these changes.

More high-profile instances of fraud included RAs sharing bank account information with recruitment officers or collusion between recruitment officers and RAs. The soldiers that Defend Our Protectors are working with fall into the category of either not following the rules or being paid for nominating soldiers who do not remember the name of their RA, eight to ten years later.

As of January 2016, 114 of the 109,000 recruiting assistants have been charged. The amount of criminal fraud identified is \$2.3 million and the estimated cost of the CID investigation is \$40 million. The G-RAP investigation has led to suicide, divorce, bankruptcy, incarceration, homelessness, and despair.

**Impact and Outreach:** Defend Our Protectors advocates for significant and material change in how the Army Criminal Investigation Division and other Military Law Enforcement Organizations are allowed to operate. This organization provides resources and support for individuals whose lives and careers are caught in the intersection between civilian law and the military justice system.

Financial contributions to Defend Our Protectors support outreach efforts to identify individuals in need and provide information and background to determine the level of need. Defend Our Protectors may provide financial support for legal assistance to destitute individuals. The organization will also seek to build a coalition of civilian attorneys with military background to target additional areas of need.

**Defend Our Protectors Project Director:** Liz Ullman – The G-Rap scandal was brought to Liz's attention via a family friend enmeshed in the G-RAP scandal. As a result, Liz has become a fierce advocate for change within the Army's justice system. She is committed to holding the Army's Criminal Investigation Division accountable for the countless lives negatively impacted by the false fraud allegations. Liz has worked tirelessly to bring this issue to light in an effort to save the lives and livelihood of the wrongfully accused.