



# ASPIRE



## What is ASPIRE?



A six state consortium implementing the Department of Education's PROMISE Initiative (Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income), advancing the self-sufficiency of youth receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and their families.

Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah will partner to recruit and enroll 2,000 youth, ages 14 to 16, who receive SSI. 1,000 youth will be randomly assigned to Usual Services and 1,000 will be randomly assigned to ASPIRE Services.

## ***Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment***

The goal of this experimental design is to compare youth and families who access current services, with youth who receive enhanced services. Everyone will receive information to improve their overall family income. The youth will be randomly assigned to either the ASPIRE Services group or the Usual Services group.

***ASPIRE will develop a set of coordinated interventions, services, and supports to help empower youth and families to dream, imagine, and strive for a better life.***



### **Usual Services**

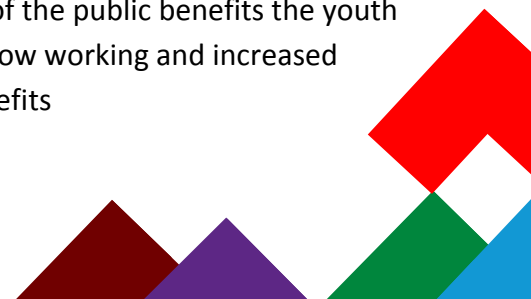
The youth and their families assigned to the Usual Services group will access current services in the typical manner existing in each state. They will be provided resources to explore and pursue further education and employment.

### **ASPIRE Services**





The youth and families assigned to the ASPIRE Services group will receive interventions to improve their educational and employment outcomes.

ASPIRE interventions include:

-  Training and information for parents and families, including advocacy, community resources, educational opportunities, and more
-  An individualized explanation of the public benefits the youth and family are receiving, and how working and increased earnings will impact those benefits



**ASPIRE Services**, continued:

-  Financial management education and training to assist families in understanding their values and available resources to move from poverty to self-sufficiency
-  Case management services provided to the youth and family to assist them in navigating these complicated systems, and interacting with school personnel, vocational rehabilitation counselors, and all other community services
-  Paid employment opportunity for the youth
-  Self-determination training for the youth and families

**Colorado is responsible to enroll 400 youth and families by September 30, 2015. The *ASPIRE Colorado* team will:**

- **Conduct outreach to allied agencies, community partners and stakeholders to explain ASPIRE and encourage enhanced communication with youth and families about the project**
- **Recruit youth and families with direct mailings, community meetings and one to one conversations**

**Partners, agencies and organizations are encouraged to join the effort to reach out to youth and families who may be eligible for ASPIRE.**

**Examples of activities include:**

- **Host informational meetings with ASPIRE staff for families, constituencies and staff**
- **Refer youth and families to *ASPIRE Colorado***
- **Distribute *ASPIRE Colorado* information to listserv and newsletter recipients**
- **Explore the ASPIRE website: [www.aspirewest.org](http://www.aspirewest.org)**
- **Like ASPIREWEST on Facebook**
- **Follow ASPIRE on Twitter**

**For further information, contact the *ASPIRE Colorado* team at (303) 866-3364. Visit [www.aspirewest.org](http://www.aspirewest.org) to learn more.**

ASPIRE is a project of the U.S. Department of Education and is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs through the PROMISE initiative (Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income, # H418P130009). ASPIRE includes the states of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation is the lead agency for ASPIRE. The Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is the lead agency in Colorado.



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[www.aspirewest.org](http://www.aspirewest.org)