



“Everybody should have the information, the resources, and the access to be able to make the best decision for themselves and their families.”

JUANA ROSA CAVERO
DIRECTOR, REPROCOLLAB

Image courtesy of ReproCollab.org

Donor Spotlight: ReproCollab

At the intersection of access, education, and advocacy, you'll find ReproCollab, a proud supporter of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM).

Led by Director Juana Rosa Caverio, ReproCollab is shaking up traditional grantmaking practices with their intentional, community-centered approach that focuses on populations that have historically carried the burden of racial, economic, and social inequalities. ReproCollab provides grant funding for proven and emerging approaches that advance sexual and reproductive health equity and well-being across Colorado.

“Everybody should have the information, the resources, and the access to be able to make the best decision for themselves and for their families,” shared Caverio. “We know that it is important that we ask our community, ‘where are we now with reproductive equity?’ rather than assuming.”

ReproCollab's ability to fully champion and address community-identified needs is due in part to The Kitchen Table, the organization's advisory committee. The Kitchen Table is comprised of community leaders who bring vastly diverse perspectives and professional expertise, centered in a reproductive justice approach.

“[Members of] The Kitchen Table identify the primary priorities because they have their ear to the ground,” Caverio explains.

“And one of the big things that comes up is our education strategy.”

This education strategy focuses on enhancing & ensuring access to comprehensive, culturally relevant, and high-quality sexual health education for youth across Colorado. While math and literacy are core pillars in everyone's education journey, sex education lays a critical foundation for making informed and empowered decisions. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with funding from ReproCollab, PPRM's Responsible Sex Education Institute (RSEI) became an example of this strategy in practice: by adapting our proven programming to meet the new virtual environment, RSEI helped ensure that children across the state didn't miss a beat on their sexual health education journey.

“We came together during the pandemic and said, ‘yes, math and literacy are important, but we cannot forget about sexual health education.’ We're going to ensure that at a minimum, this doesn't get lost for communities,” said Caverio. “That commitment is something I'm proud of.”

And we can't help but share in Juana Rosa's pride – supporters and partners like ReproCollab make our work possible. By adapting to meet communities where they are, we can continue to ensure individuals have the skills they need to make healthy decisions about their bodies and relationships throughout their lifetime.



Meeting the Moment

Over the last three years, we've had to face a series of unprecedented challenges: 2020 brought on a world-altering pandemic; 2021 was marked by the passage of Senate Bill 8 in Texas, and with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, the United States reproductive health landscape was thrown into chaos. And now, in 2023, we're still seeing the harsh toll the last three years are taking on our patients, providers, and our health care infrastructure more broadly.

Imagine driving 500 miles, leaving your cell phone at home (for fear that someone might track your location), juggling childcare and time away from work, and not being able to use your health insurance – all for a simple medical procedure. Today, this is a reality for many of our patients, creating new sources of stress, isolation, and fear.

Enter PPRM. Regardless of the circumstances, we are always able to meet patients where they are. We adapt. We adjust. And we expand our services to ensure every single patient receives the care and resources they need and deserve.

Our Patient Navigation program helps patients feel welcomed, connected, and secure in these moments of uncertainty. Launched in 2021, PPRM's Patient Navigation program helps to alleviate barriers to abortion care by providing practical, logistical, and financial support, including travel expenses such as airfare, gas, rental car or ride-share costs, lodging, childcare, and meals; logistical travel coordination; referrals for social or emotional support; and any additional information about upcoming patient appointments. In 2022, this program navigated more than 1,500 patients with care and compassion, and this number shows no sign of slowing.

Now, the same opponents who have restricted and criminalized abortion patients and providers for decades, are spearheading attacks on gender-affirming care. As health care providers, educators, and advocates, we are proudly committed to providing the full spectrum of sexual and reproductive health care – including gender affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals – because we know the critical importance of bodily autonomy for everyone. Moving forward, PPRM's Virtual Care Center will continue to increase its Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy (GAHT) appointment offerings. No longer bound to traditional in-person health center appointments, GAHT patients can now schedule telehealth visits to access crucial gender-affirming services from the comfort and safety of their own communities. Beyond sexual and reproductive health, our patients often see PPRM as their primary care provider and look to us to provide access to other care and resources they need.

Amid the ongoing health crisis and amplified by a myriad of factors including abortion stigma, racist structures and policies, and threats to bodily autonomy, PPRM recognized that one of the most important ways we can support our patients is to integrate a behavioral health component to help increase access to treatment for depression, anxiety, and other acute patient needs. We are proud to share that all PPRM visits (in-person or via telehealth) now include depression screening to identify patients who need referrals for specialty behavioral health services.





ADVOCACY AND ACTION

Colorado

Our reproductive, public health outreach, and advocacy program, Raíz (meaning root/source), is making waves in Northern Colorado. This program, created by and for Latine communities, is breaking down systemic barriers and building trust through ongoing Listening Circle events. Facilitated by trusted bilingual adult and youth leaders from the Fort Collins area, attendees enter a welcoming, community-centered space to engage in in-depth discussions regarding their sexual and reproductive health care and rights.

"When organizing in the Latine community, we must always take an intersectional approach to our work," shares Kathia Garcia, Northern Colorado's Raíz campaign organizer. "Our team created these listening circles to have an opportunity to meet with community members. They paint and articulate a more complete picture of the current place the Latine community is when it comes to access, education, and opportunity."

New Mexico

New Mexico's 2023 legislative session was a testament to the power of partnership and advocacy in action. Over the 60-day session, our New Mexico Public Affairs team and coalition partners (including Bold Futures, Progress Now, ACLU New Mexico, Tewa Women United, Equality New Mexico, and Strong Families New Mexico) came together to pass all three of our priority bills that will go into effect later this year:

- ***The Reproductive & Gender-Affirming Health Care Freedom Act (HB 7)***: Prohibits public bodies, including municipalities, from enacting local abortion bans and discriminating against or interfering with people's ability to access reproductive or gender-affirming care.
- ***The Reproductive & Gender-Affirming Health Care Protection Act (SB 13)***: Protects providers of abortion, reproductive health care, and

gender-affirming care from civil or criminal liability and investigations, as well as from discrimination and information sharing by the licensing boards.

- ***STI Prevention, Treatment, and Cost Sharing Elimination (SB 132)***: Ensures free STI testing, treatment, and prevention, including HIV, for state regulated health plans.

In addition to these priority bills, PPRM supported legislative initiatives including voter rights expansion, inclusion of menstrual products in school bathrooms, breast exam coverage, and more.

Southern Nevada

Nearly 30% of the Las Vegas Valley is considered a food desert or is otherwise experiencing food apartheid – a discriminatory and historically political system that impacts food access and control. This means community members, patients, and program participants are food insecure and lack access to nutritious, culturally relevant foods.

Ensuring that everyone has the right to live healthy, full lives in a safe and sustainable community is a key pillar of reproductive justice and is integral to PPRM's values. To meet this community-identified problem head-on, our Southern Nevada staff partnered with the Obodo Collective to host a gardening series throughout the Spring, teaching individuals the fundamentals of gardening and agriculture. This cross-generational event equipped attendees with the tools and knowledge to begin growing their own foods, shining a light on one of many intersections at play in the reproductive health space.

Wyoming

As the Equality State continues to introduce and pass an explosion of anti-trans and anti-abortion legislation, PPRM is there to uplift our partners on the ground. Working in collaboration with ACLU-Wyoming, Better Wyoming, Chelsea's Fund, and Pro Choice Wyoming, PPRM is using our strong network of advocates, our trusted brand, and our supporters to amplify vital digital and social media messaging to increase the visibility of these ongoing legal battles. While the legal landscape is uncertain, PPRM remains committed to providing essential health care to patients across the state.

Pictured left: Advocates from PPRM, Bold Futures, and ACLU-NM gather with our champion legislators to celebrate the final passage of House Bill 7, which ensures all New Mexicans, no matter where they live in the state, have the same right to access reproductive and gender-affirming care as their neighbors





Image from RSEI's 'Navigating Tech Use' lesson.

Teens and Tech: What parents need to know

Walk by any young person or group of teens “hanging out” and chances are you’ll see tops of heads and faces illuminated by a screen’s glow. According to a recent report, U.S. teens spend more than eight hours a day on screens (*Common Sense*, 2021). Online disinformation and misinformation abound, and the topics of sex and sexual health are no exception.

Talking to youth about technology may seem intimidating or overwhelming. The apps that youth use change at a very fast rate. What is popular one minute may be obsolete or gone the next. Since it can be extremely hard to keep up with what kids are using these days, ongoing communication around tech use is important.

At the Responsible Sex Education Institute, we aim to engage parents and families as the primary sexuality educators of their child(ren). One recurring question our educators are hearing from parents and youth-serving adults is, “how do I talk to youth about technology related to sex and sexual health?”

Our parent program, Navigating Tech Use provides tips and information about technology related to topics such as sexting and social media, all through the lens of how to keep youth safe while providing medically accurate information. This program experienced a huge boon during the pandemic, and we have been able to deliver more parent programming since 2020, than in the previous 10 years combined! This workshop

is offered as a 1.5-hour facilitator-led session or a self-paced lesson available on the program website.

And it’s not just parents asking our educators questions about these topics. A recurring theme for students who participate in our programming is body image. Students want to know if their body looks “normal.” The online images young people see daily can create a great deal of pressure to have their bodies or certain body parts (cue the penis) look a particular way.

Young people need help understanding the difference between online/fantasy life and real life. To this end, there are practice scenarios in Navigating Tech Use to help parents practice talking about body image, as well as cyberbullying, sexting, and online pornography. According to RSEI Educators, most kids see pornographic images or videos online for the first time between the ages of 8 to 11. It may be an accident, or they may just be curious. Parents need to be prepared to support youth to responsibly navigate technology as it relates to sexual health and decision-making.

What our youth do online can affect their personal safety as well as their relationships with the people in their life. Responsible Sex Education Institute programming, such as Navigating Tech Use, gives youth and their parents the tools and resources for accessing medically accurate information about sexual health and sexuality in our increasingly virtual world. Learn more at responsiblesexed.institute.org.



EVENTS



Pictured top: Toast of the Town honoree, Julianna Koob, speaks after receiving her award.

Pictured bottom: Toast attendees Rep. Linda Serrato and Marshall Martinez pose after the event.

Toast of the Town

Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico's (PPVNM) first fundraiser of 2023 was a shining example of community coming together to make lasting impact. On February 23, supporters, partners, and activists gathered in Santa Fe to discuss the landscape of abortion access both in New Mexico and across the nation. In addition to raising over \$38,000 for the important work of PPVNM, State Representative Linda Serrato and PPVNM lobbyist Julianna Koob were honored for their incredible work, as well as Representative Gail Chasey for her many years championing reproductive health care within the state legislature.

Show your support and mark your calendars for these upcoming events

Upcoming PPRM Events:

- **Cocktails for a Cause**
August 23 | Jackson, WY
Learn more and register at pprm.org/cocktails
- **Party on Purpose!**
September 27 | Las Vegas, NV
More details to follow

Upcoming PPRM Action Fund Events:

- **Champions of Choice**
August 3 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Denver, CO
Learn more and register at pprm.org/champs
- **The Rosé Resistance**
September 14 | Albuquerque, NM
More details to follow



Support the political work of our PPRM Action Fund which advocates for access and works hard to protect our legislatures' pro-reproductive health care majorities. Sustaining gifts are critical to

fortifying our region's status as a safe haven of abortion care for all. As we see states around the country enacting abortion bans and attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, we are grateful for you standing with us!

Become a member of the PPRM Action Fund Winner's Circle today! Visit ppact.org/RMAF.

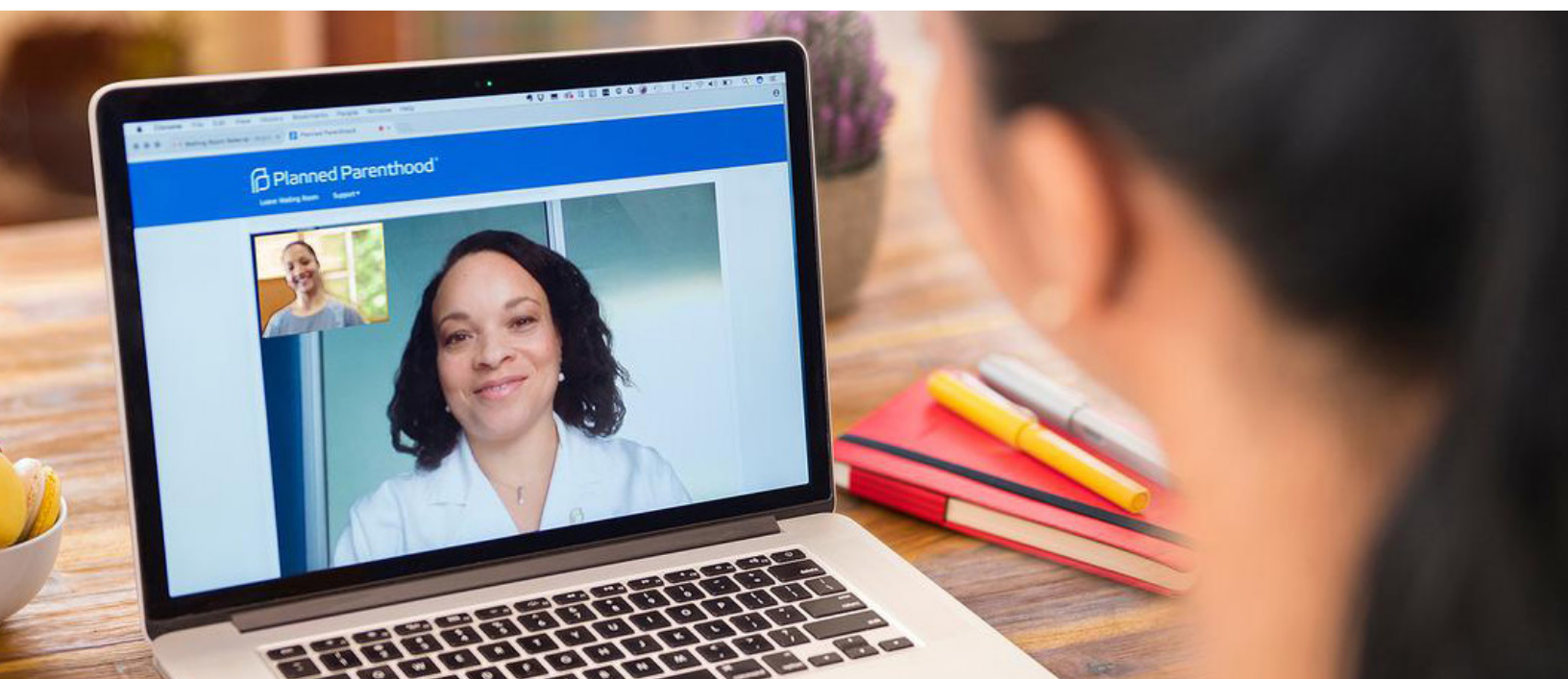


7155 EAST 38TH AVENUE
DENVER, COLORADO 80207

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 793
Denver, Colorado

Want Less Mail?

The Donor Dialogue newsletter is available via email. If you would prefer an electronic version of this newsletter, please send your email address to info.development@pprm.org.



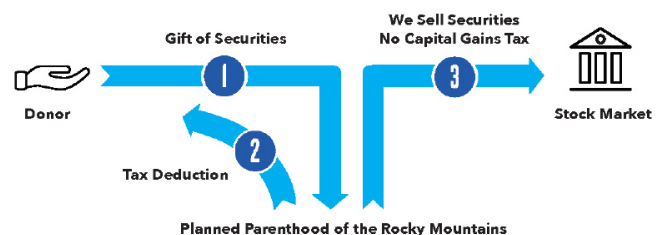
Easy ways to support Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

Visit pprm.org/MoreWaysToGive to learn more about giving opportunities like corporate matching, auto donations, gifts via Donor Advised Funds, hosting your own fundraiser, and more!

Give today! Visit wearepp.org/PPRM to make an immediate impact.

Planned Giving

Email info.development@pprm.org to learn more about the impact of planned and estate giving.



@PPRockyMountains



/PPoftheRockyMountains



/PlannedParenthoodofSouthernNevada