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Mile High Youth Corps Partners with the City of Lakewood in Energy & Water Conservation Efforts

DENVER – August 3, 2018 – Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC), one of Denver's most long-standing youth and workforce nonprofits will partner with the City of Lakewood to deliver water and energy saving measures at no costs to Lakewood's most vulnerable residents. This partnership is funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Plan Grants program.

MHYP's Energy & Water Conservation program engages young adults (Corpsmembers) for a year of service providing energy and water efficiency measures to low-income households and nonprofit facilities. The program pairs technical skills in conservation with career readiness training in topics including leadership development, communication, and interview skills as well as an AmeriCorps Education Award to be used towards post-secondary education.

MHYP will partner with the City of Lakewood to provide 350 homes with energy and water conservation services over the next 18 months to install Ultra-High-Efficiency Toilets, bathroom and kitchen sink aerators and low-flow showerheads. In addition to these retrofits, Corpsmembers provide client education to engage conversation about behavioral changes and ways to be environmental stewards in the home. The City of Lakewood will support the partnership through marketing and outreach efforts to the community, educating Lakewood residents on the opportunity.

Through various outreach efforts including neighborhood canvassing, direct mail, phone banks and client referral programs, MHYP will reach out to at least 3,500 residents receiving low-income supportive services and/or report annual household income of less than 80% area median income (AMI).

Andrew Halpern, Project Manager: Energy and Water Conservation at MHYP remarked, "This partnership shows the opportunity that can arise to influence and make a triple-impact on our communities, our environment, and the development of our young

people when we bring together local governments, state agencies, and non-profit organizations such as MHYC. I'm confident the ripples of this wave service will be felt for years to come – both by the corpsmembers as they continue in their education and careers as well as the clients we will serve.”

MHYC Energy and Water Conservation Program Impact

Since 2008, Mile High Youth Corps' Energy & Water Conservation team provided energy-efficiency/retrofit measures in 40,000 homes, providing a total annual savings of \$2,434,000 and energy savings of 13,576,000 kWh. Over the same period, Corpsmembers helped eliminate 69 million pounds of CO², which is equivalent to removing 4,628 cars off the road for a year. The total annual water conserved over the 10-year history of the program is 422,900,000 gallons.

About Mile High Youth Corps

Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization established in 1992 to give youth ages 16 to 24 a chance to earn an income and learn hands-on job skills while serving in their communities. In its first year, 20 youth served Denver neighborhoods through a single 10-week program. Today, MHYC engages more than 200 youth (called Corpsmembers) every year through several comprehensive programs that integrate paid work experience on community service projects with leadership development, career and college exploration, and education. During our 26 year history, Mile High Youth Corps has grown from a small, seasonal, neighborhood-based organization to a comprehensive, year-round, regional program serving 22 counties from two regional offices in Metro Denver and the Southern Front Range of Colorado. Our mission is to help youth make a difference in themselves and their community through meaningful service opportunities and educational experiences.

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