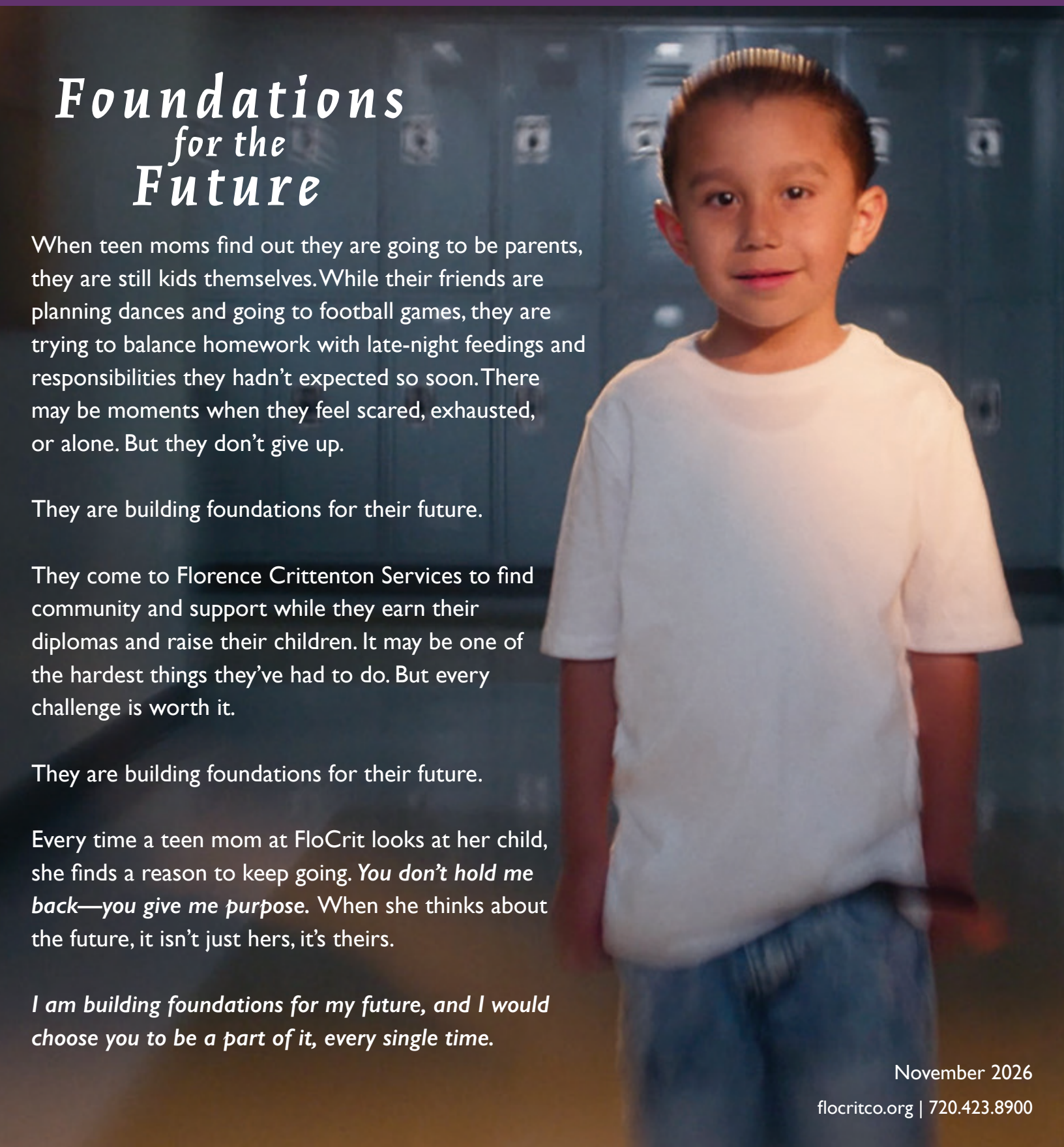
Florence Crittenton Services

PathFinder

Educating, Preparing, and Empowering Teen Mothers and Their Children



Foundations for the Future

When teen moms find out they are going to be parents, they are still kids themselves. While their friends are planning dances and going to football games, they are trying to balance homework with late-night feedings and responsibilities they hadn't expected so soon. There may be moments when they feel scared, exhausted, or alone. But they don't give up.

They are building foundations for their future.

They come to Florence Crittenton Services to find community and support while they earn their diplomas and raise their children. It may be one of the hardest things they've had to do. But every challenge is worth it.

They are building foundations for their future.

Every time a teen mom at FloCrit looks at her child, she finds a reason to keep going. ***You don't hold me back—you give me purpose.*** When she thinks about the future, it isn't just hers, it's theirs.

I am building foundations for my future, and I would choose you to be a part of it, every single time.

November 2026

flocritco.org | 720.423.8900



Hello FloCrit Community,

Since the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) freeze was implemented in February 2025, childcare funding has dramatically declined. Our 4-Star Colorado Shines Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center has gone from serving approximately 92 families receiving CCAP assistance to just 27 families today.

The young families we serve are focused on completing their high school education and pursuing post-secondary goals. The loss of CCAP funding has had a significant impact on our campus community as well as those who leave us after their graduation. While we are grateful for funding sources such as Universal PreK, Preschool Services Funding, Denver Preschool Program, and Early Head Start), which support our services, we remain concerned about the long-term impact the CCAP shortfall will have on sustainability.

Our ECE Center hires and retains highly qualified early childhood educators. CCAP revenue has historically helped support professional development and competitive wages and benefits for the dedicated ECE professionals who care for and educate our children each day.

As a result, strengthening our fundraising efforts has become one of our highest priorities. FloCrit would like to invite you to take advantage of Colorado's childcare tax credits and help us bridge the growing gap between the cost of providing high-quality early childhood education and the funding available to support it.

Children without access to quality early childhood care and education are at greater risk for school readiness challenges, poorer health outcomes, and social-emotional and behavioral concerns. By investing in early childhood education, we are not only supporting children today but also strengthening families, educational achievement, and community well-being for generations to come.

With the support of our donors, young parents can continue their education while their children receive a safe, nurturing, and high-quality early learning experience. Together, we can help break cycles of poverty and create brighter futures for two generations at a time.

MonaLisa Valenzuela

MonaLisa Valenzuela
Director of the Early Childhood Education Center

Why FloCrit Moms Love the ECE Center



Mi cosa favorita del ECE es cómo cuidan a los niños y cómo nos dan regalitos.
- Camila



How good they are with communication.
- Anna*



My favorite thing about the ECE is the many activities they do during the day.
- Emily

Guardería gratis.
- Sofía*



My favorite thing about the ECE is watching the kids grow.
- Esther



I like how patient they are with the kids. They're very understanding about a lot of things.
- Natalie

*Name changed for privacy

Support the ECE Center. Make a donation today.

Learn More

The CCAP funding freeze has created an urgent affordability crisis for pregnant and parenting students served by FloCrit.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the CCAP funding freeze, how it is impacting young families at FloCrit, and how you can help.



Housing Updates

Housing Stability Creates Foundations for the Future

"Housing is the main foundation for stability that a lot of our families need to be able to succeed with education and to be able to participate in the services that we have here. As long as they have stability, they're out of survival mode, and they can be more grounded, more centered, and start to think about what their future is going to look like." This, as Lead Housing Specialist Maira Magallanes says, is why housing is such a key part of FloCrit's program. The Housing team provides a number of different services to teen families to help them find and maintain that housing stability. As cold weather approaches here in Denver, Maira and her team see an increase in specific services: requests for rental assistance, emergency shelter vouchers, air mattresses, and space heaters, to name a few.

As temperatures outside drop, the need for warm and stable housing increases and the consequences of losing housing become increasingly serious, especially with the length of wait lists for family shelters. "A lot of our families are landscapers or construction workers, and we're going to see them have less work," Maira explains. "We're seeing that impact now as they lose seasonal jobs and then get behind on rent and utilities." When a teen parent comes to the Housing staff at risk of losing their housing for this reason, FloCrit is able to provide rental assistance. Between July and October, the Housing team provided 28 families with rent assistance, and that number will only increase throughout the winter.

Rental assistance is one vital piece of support for teen families needing stability. One pregnant, young mom was living with her mother, who lost their housing. Thankfully, her father offered her, her partner, and their child space in his small studio apartment in Broomfield. However, this wasn't sustainable. She struggled to attend school and became disengaged with FloCrit's in-person programming. After six months, the Housing team was able to get them into their own apartment only 10 minutes from FloCrit through a Youth Housing Stability Program grant, and paid their first month's rent, security deposit, and rent for the following month. The family put their savings into a rainy-day fund. Today, the young mom feels much more stable, is re-engaged with services and school, and her children are re-enrolled in the ECE Center.

As the cost of housing in Denver continues to increase, some teen families end up couch surfing or living in their cars. In situations like these, the Housing team is able to provide things like air mattresses, space heaters, blankets, and sleeping bags. When temperatures drop below 32°, they will give teen families living in their cars a hotel voucher. In the case of couch surfing, "there have been situations where we have provided some rental assistance for the family who is hosting," says Maira. "They can also access the Housing Basic Needs store to take supplies to the household as a way to contribute." The team works hard to provide as many different creative ways to bring some sort of stability, no matter the living situation.

When a teen mom comes into the Housing office, she meets staff who are rooting for her, not judging her, and ready to help. We often hear from teen parents that a little bit of weight is lifted off their shoulders. She has found her community. And that is what we aspire to build at FloCrit—sense of community, belonging, and a foundation for the future.

Housing Stats

July-October 2026

57 families served

28 families received rent assistance

12 families placed into stable housing

100% housing voucher retention

1 housing voucher recovered

Support the Housing program. Make a donation today.



Clinical Updates

Building Connection Through Therapy

"Everybody deserves somebody that's there for them, is non-biased, and can really hear them out," says Bilingual Clinical Services Manager Laura Rivera. "Everybody should have the access to mental health services to help them go through life. Every person should be able to have a trusted connection and build a rapport with a trusted person."

The Clinical team at FloCrit offers consultations for counseling, individual and group therapy for teens and adults, and play therapy for children ages 3-10. All of the therapists on staff speak Spanish, which Laura believes is a vital part of building trust and rapport with Latine and Spanish-speaking clients. Between July and October of this year, the Clinical team has already received 42 referrals to therapy, the highest number since the program started. Therapists work closely with Family Advocates and high school staff to connect with students interested in therapy. FloCrit's community-based, trauma-informed space encourages that interaction, collaboration, and connection.

For Laura, every connection matters when it comes to building trust in the clinical space. One of her clients, a student at the high school whom Laura had been encouraging to start therapy, came to her after witnessing a traumatic incident with her child's father. When she started having PTSD nightmares, she realized she needed help. Her own father, who connected with Laura when they toured FloCrit, encouraged his daughter to talk to her. "She really wanted to have a relationship with her child's father, hoping that, in return, he would be more involved as a father," says Laura. "But after the accident, he got meaner."

Clinical Stats
July-October 2026

42 referrals to therapy
34 group therapy sessions
145 individual therapy sessions
28 play therapy sessions

Support the Clinical program. Make a donation today.

In those first sessions, Laura provided support while encouraging the student to share things out loud. "We really processed the traumatic experience," Laura explains. "She doesn't bring it up anymore or have those nightmares." She has started to date someone new, and is realizing that she does deserve great things, she deserves to feel safe, and deserves to be treated well. She is navigating co-parenting with a person who no longer has control of her, and now she and Laura work on continuing to hold strong boundaries.

"When I ask students why they want to continue therapy, they say they want to be able to speak things out loud without being judged, build awareness, do something different for themselves and their child, and break generational curses," Laura says. "And that really starts with mental health." A therapeutic relationship teaches teen parents how to have hard conversations, which teaches them the skills to have similar types of conversations in their lives, building foundations for the future.



Give on December 8.
Impact teen mothers and their children all year.

Make a Colorado Gives Day donation.