Pivotal Ventures, founded in 2015 by Melinda French Gates, expands opportunity and equality in the United States through high-impact investments, partnerships, and advocacy. We work to remove barriers that hold people back, including the lack of accessible, high-quality mental health services to support young people and the people who care for them.

America’s Youth Mental Health Crisis
Too many young people in America aren’t getting the mental health care services they need. Even before the pandemic, millions of young people were experiencing depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges. Yet, according to a 2023 report from Mental Health America, 60% of youth with major depression do not receive treatment.

In particular, young people of color and LGBTQ+ youth are being failed by today’s mental health care system. In addition to navigating adolescence, they are dealing with the trauma of systemic racism and discrimination. At the same time, they face some of the highest barriers to accessing culturally sensitive mental health care services that reflect their needs and experiences.

Every young person deserves the chance to thrive—and solutions exist to help make that possible. But we need to get those solutions to more young people and their caregivers.

Read more about our strategy →

Visit pivotalventures.org to learn more about our work, sign up for email updates, and follow us on social.
OUR STRATEGY

Leveraging philanthropic and investment funds, Pivotal supports organizations working to improve the wellbeing of young people, equipping them and their caregivers with resources to address the challenges of adolescence. Our work is centered on meeting the needs of young people of color and LGBTQ+ youth ages 10–18. We fund partners working in four key areas:

Schools as a resource to find and receive care.
When a young person needs help, caregivers face a significant burden in finding the right type of provider, managing wait lists and appointments, and coordinating across health and education services.
Pivotal supports organizations working with schools to provide mental health resources, including support for care coordination to help caregivers find, afford, and keep their child in care.

Equitable access to mental health care.
Many culturally relevant mental health solutions for young people of color and LGBTQ+ youth are unaffordable because they are not covered by Medicaid or insurance due to outdated definitions of care.
We fund organizations that provide care to these populations, as well as organizations that work with policymakers to make care more affordable for families.

Healthy engagement with technology.
Young people are immersed in a world of ever-present technology that adults frequently misunderstand, and they often lack practical tools to navigate the challenges of digital life.
Pivotal supports organizations that are developing evidence-backed solutions for healthier digital experiences, including resources for youth on social media, lesson plans for educators, and parent toolkits.

Market innovation for youth mental health.
Many of the most promising start-ups in the youth mental health sector are using new revenue pathways in the health and education sectors, but these approaches are often overlooked by traditional investors.
Pivotal provides support to early-stage companies to help them refine their business models, scale their products to school and health settings, and attract additional capital.

FEATURED PARTNERS DRIVING IMPACT

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