



TURNING LIVES AROUND.

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am reaching out to you today on behalf of 180 Degrees in resounding support of HF2362 – Appropriations for Youth Intervention Programs.

Founded in 1973, 180 Degrees operates emergency shelter, supportive housing, and outreach programs for youth and adults experiencing crisis. 180 Degrees operates four core youth programs across Minnesota, serving over 230 youth annually through shelter and case management and more than 1,000 individuals through community-based outreach, case consultation, and resource connection. In addition to shelter and housing, 180 Degrees conducts extensive outreach and prevention services, ensuring individuals receive basic needs, case consultation, resources, and referrals that increase stability and prevent further crises.

Though not currently a YIP grantee, 180 Degrees recognizes the profound impact that these grants have concerning the youth we serve across the state of Minnesota. Having designated financial resources allows organizations like ours to expand our services and increase our capacity to serve youth who are vulnerable or experiencing crisis. With this in mind, 180 Degrees stands with the Youth Intervention Programs Association in advocating for these funds.

Continued funding for youth intervention programs is crucial for the viability of these vital, in-demand services. As such, I would like to express my full support for the appropriation of these additional funds.

DocuSigned by:

A11F458F344541F...
Dan Pfarr

President/CEO

8/13/2021

180DEGREES.ORG
651-968-8908

236 Clifton Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55403

1301 7th St East
St. Paul, MN 55106

**YOUTH SHELTER AND HOUSING
COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**



AMERICAN INDIAN OIC

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express American Indian OIC's fervent support of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Youth Intervention Program.

As a grantee partner of YIP, American Indian OIC is able to provide prerelease education and employment services to teens serving sentences in the Red Wing and Dakota County juvenile facilities. Our program implements best practices to ensure that these teens are prepared to reenter their home community with consistent connection to academics, employment, and family.

Funds from the Youth Intervention Program are crucial to our work. Because of public investment from programs like YIP, we were able to provide in-facility job training and case management to more than 150 teens over the past three years. The teens gain important social-emotional and career skills that help them 'stay on track' after being released from detention. In fact, the recidivism rate for American Indian OIC's reentry programs was just 7% last year- less than half the state's average recidivism rate. Upon their release, many teens in our program also begin working in their first job and improve their high school attendance. These successes are not American Indian OIC's alone and are due in large part to the investment of the Department of Public Safety and close partnership with state and local corrections systems.

American Indian OIC and the young people we serve could not successfully do this work on our own and we encourage your earnest support of the Department of Public Safety's Youth Intervention Program. The program leads to safer communities for all Minnesotans and better opportunities for our most at-risk young people.

Wopila Tanka,

Dr. Joe Hobot
Sunkmanitu Tanka Se Tokeya Hiyaye
(He Leads Like a Wolf)
President & CEO
American Indian OIC
joeh@aioic.org
612.341.3358





March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Banyan is a community development organization rooted in the Phillips neighborhood of South Minneapolis. Our mission is to develop youth, strengthen families, and create community. Youth access programs to help them succeed in school, build life skills, use their own assets, and develop healthy relationships. Families connect and access resources to thrive as individuals and support one another. A collaborative network of block leaders works together to create a strong and safe community.

YIP directly funds Banyan's middle school, high school, and college programs. During the school year, middle school youth attend after school programs where they receive academic support, career exploration, and social and emotional learning. Continuing into the summer, funding from YIP allows Banyan to provide hands-on and engaging summer programming which includes a week-long overnight camp. Banyan works in partnership with local high schools to support 9th to 12th grade youth in study skills, post-secondary choice, and more through one-on-one tutoring and mentorship. Continuing into post-secondary, YIP funding helps Banyan support youth in a variety of paths to find fulfilling careers.

Members of Banyan Community have directly benefitted from YIP grants, and from intervention programs and support received through YIP funds have experienced transformational experiences that have helped them become leaders in their community. We see the capacity this funding has to make lasting impact on communities throughout Minnesota, and implore Minnesota legislators to pass this bill, and fully fund Youth Intervention Programs. In this time of great uncertainty, investing in the lives of Minnesota children and youth seems the surest and most promising path forward.

With gratitude for all your work,

Carl Schlueter
Executive Director



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area, I would like to show my support for the Youth Intervention Programs Grant Bill, HF 2362. By passing this bill, you will help young people across Minnesota access resources and opportunities.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area is a current YIP grant holder, and we serve over 400 youth annually through out-of-school-time and summer programming across three sites. We help youth in four priority areas: academic success, health & wellbeing, character & leadership, and life & workforce readiness.

We've seen the difference YIP funding can make directly. The YIP grant helps support our largest site in Bemidji, which serves over 120 kids each day in grades 1-12. With YIP's generous funding we have been able to increase our staffing, which has allowed us to serve more children with high-quality youth development programming in an area with high poverty and high need.

YIP funding has a direct and positive impact on the lives of young people and their families, increasing their access to programs that provide academic help and other critical resources. Please vote to fully fund the YIP grant program.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kent

Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area



CENTRO
TYRONE GUZMAN

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members:

Centro Tyrone Guzman knows that youth are the future of our community. In order to ensure that Minnesota is filled with educated, prepared, diverse leaders tomorrow, we need to invest in our youth today. Our Raíces Youth Development Program does just that.

Raíces means “Roots” in Spanish. Each year, we engage more than 100 Latine youth in Minneapolis and surrounding communities in year-round, culturally grounded activities designed to build protective factors and reduce risk factors. Last year, we received requests from various schools in the Minneapolis Public School District to take our programming on-site to provide additional support to newly arrived immigrant students. As a result of the program, our youth feel proud of their culture and identity, hopeful for the future, and committed to making positive change in their community.

Without the YIP grant, we would not be able to do this work. YIP funds pay the dedicated Latine community leaders who serve as role models for these youth and coordinate the wide range of activities and experiences. The relationships these staff members build with our youth is why the program is so successful.

YIP funds are critical to the success of our Raíces Program and its lasting impact on Latine youth in Minnesota. I encourage your support for full funding of the YIP grant.

With gratitude,

Andrea Barcenas
Development Director
abarcenas@centromn.org
612-559-1446

CHANGE INC.

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to you today in support of the Youth Intervention Programs grant bill (HF 2362).

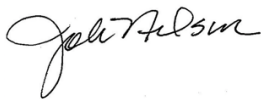
Change Inc. is the product of a merger of two community-based organizations, Guadalupe Alternative Programs and Change Inc., both originally founded to serve underserved individuals and address the challenges of systemic poverty and racism that prevent Twin Cities families from achieving their full potential. Change Inc., and the youth we serve, rely on funding from the Youth Intervention Program grant and want to express our ongoing support for its continuation.

We provide individualized education that attends to the social-emotional needs of students, including mental health services and basic needs resources such as meals, childcare, and transportation. Because the challenges facing our students and their families are continually shifting, Change Inc. works to adapt and create programs that respond to the moving needs of our participants. Currently, our work is divided into three key programs: GAP School, the Community & School Collaborative (CSC), and the Change Institute.

The young people we serve are directly impacted by our programming that comes from the Youth Intervention Programs Association. Our Community Leadership Development Training interns completed training courses through YIPA, including The Art and Science of Youth Work. Our staff members take part in YIPA trainings throughout the year as well. Members of our Student Board at GAP School will also take part in YIPA-organized advocacy.

This all requires adequate funding. With more funding for youth development programs, organizations like ours can continue to help young people reach their full potential. Thank you for continuing to back funding for Youth Intervention Programs so we can support more youth every day.

Sincerely,



Jody Nelson, Ed.D., LMFT
Senior Director of Change Insitute, Change Inc.

CHANGE
INSTITUTE

GAP
SCHOOL

COMMUNITY
& SCHOOL
COLLABORATIVE

GAP School and Admin Offices: 381 East Robie Street St. Paul, MN 55107
Northeast Minneapolis Office and Clinic: 1209 Tyler Street NE, Suite 170 Minneapolis, MN 55413
PHONE: 651-222-0757 FAX: 651-290-2703 | thechangeinc.org



It Takes A Community...

**CHISHOLM
KIDS PLUS**

3-18-2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Chisholm KIDS PLUS has been a recipient of the Youth Intervention Program grant since 2016. The Youth Intervention Program grant funding is crucial to our organization and allows us to offer substance abuse prevention programming to at-risk youth in Chisholm. Our organization has been working with youth and their families in Chisholm since 1998. Our YIP program funds comprehensive prevention education to all of our 8th grade students as well as supports our Youth Leadership initiative that brings prevention efforts to the school and community. Our community is very rural with high rates of youth substance abuse according to survey data. Resources in our community are very limited and the Youth Intervention Program grant has allowed us to fill a gap in the needs of our community. Without the YIP funding we would not have the adequate resources to support these youth and their families by offering education, intervention, and pro-social support. Our programs have been shown to delay the age of onset, decrease truancy, increase attendance, and lower the risk of 30 day substance use among participants. These services that YIP funding has provided to our organization is making a huge difference in the lives of young people in Chisholm.

Sincerely,

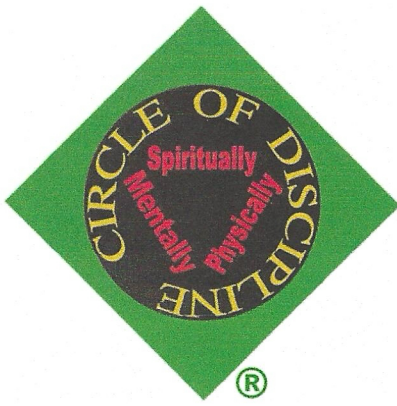
Cristina Griffiths

Cristina Griffiths

Executive Director

Chisholm KIDS PLUS

301 4th Street S.W. • Chisholm, MN 55719
(218) 254-5727 ext.3310
www.chisholmkidsplus.org



Circle of Discipline, Inc.

A community transforming challenges into strengths

801 SE 9th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55414

(612) 721-1549 office

www.circleofdiscipline.org

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members:

Addressing and preventing community violence is at the core of what Circle of Discipline (The Circle) does. Our organization was founded in 1993 and since then we have worked directly with young people and their families in South Minneapolis and beyond. Briefly, the Circle aims to empower underrepresented community members ages 11-24 by providing greater access to opportunities that increase the knowledge and practice of 360 degrees of physical, spiritual and mental wellness.

The Circle provides holistic programming that is intended to reduce incidents of youth violence and delinquent behavior by providing one-on-one mentoring and support, in addition to engagement and intervention activities. The Circle has three core programs: 360 Advocacy, Pursuit of Discipline Group (POD), and Lifestyles FIT. Each of these programs seeks to build resiliency, self-reliance, and leadership qualities in youth through physical fitness, academic intervention and support, and ongoing personal development that is intended to offer alternatives to community violence. The Circle's programming has had and continues to have a tremendous positive impact on the community they serve.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Youth Intervention Programs Grant (YIP) has supported our programming throughout the years. With their support, we have successfully reduced juvenile crime, violence, and truancy, successfully increased the academic success of the youth and young adults we serve and developed young disciplined, responsible leaders who understand the importance of giving back to their community and teaching others how to become healthy, productive, active citizens making the community a safer, healthier place for everyone.

Full funding for YIP is essential for The Circle and other organizations to expand programming that supports youth in need. Positive outlets and relationships are crucial, and without funding, more youth may seek belonging in negative spaces. It's time to do the right thing for our youth.

Thank you for your support,


Sankara Frazier
Executive Director

Mission

Our mission is to empower underrepresented community members by providing greater access to opportunities that increase knowledge of and practice toward 360° of physical, spiritual, and mental wellness.



3/18/2025

Dear Committee Members

Conflict Resolution Center's mission is to be unwavering in breaking down barriers and building bridges to honor each individual's voice and their right to equity by creating spaces for transforming conflict into opportunity and harms into healing. For 41 years, CRC has provided conflict resolution services in the community to individuals in schools, courts, between family members, landlords and tenants, victims and offenders, and organizations. CRC has locations in Duluth, and Minneapolis.

CRC youth programs engage youth holistically, supporting healing, empowerment, productive conflict resolution, positive decision-making, and connection in school and community. CRC restorative services deal directly with preventing escalation or violent reaction to conflict situations by helping individuals, families, and communities heal from past harms, repair relationships, learn productive conflict resolution skills, and promote caring and connection in families, neighborhoods and communities. The YIP grant has been instrumental in supporting our mission by funding essential resources and activities. This financial support has significantly enhanced our ability to make a positive impact on the lives of the young people we serve.

We strongly advocate for the full funding of HF 2362, as it is crucial for the continued success of our programs. Your support ensures that we can continue to provide valuable opportunities and resources to the youth in our community, helping them to achieve their full potential. Fully funding the YIP grant aligns with our shared goal of nurturing the next generation of leaders and responsible citizens. We are deeply grateful for your consideration and commitment to investing in the future of our youth.

In solidarity,

Nikki Beasley
Executive Director
Conflict Resolution Center



March 18th, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Cornerstone Advocacy Service provides comprehensive services for adults and youth who experience domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and crime. The Youth Intervention Programs grant has been a vital resource for Cornerstone's work with youth. Our staff members are embedded in middle and high schools where they provide one-on-one support to students by helping them navigate abusive situations, develop healthy coping skills, and create plans to reach their goals. We also provide prevention education in school classrooms where we teach and lead discussions on healthy relationships, productive communication, and bystander intervention. Additionally, Cornerstone staff facilitates support groups on healthy relationships where students can find support from their peers and learn about boundaries, consent, and how to avoid abusive behaviors.

The Youth Intervention Programs grant has made it possible for Cornerstone to continue this important work, especially as funding for our youth services is difficult to come by. Without this grant, our work and reach would be severely diminished.

Cornerstone fully supports the funding of the Youth Intervention Programs grant (HF 2362). Our work makes a difference in the lives of youth, and the YIP grant makes our work possible.

Sincerely,

Wilson Yang
School-Based Services Coordinator
Cornerstone Advocacy Service



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & DIVERSION • MEDIATION • HEALING CIRCLES OF SUPPORT • YOUTH DEVELOPMENT • RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Dispute Resolution Center is dedicated to restoring and empowering communities by promoting the constructive resolution of conflict through open communication and shared decision-making. Founded in 1982 as Minnesota's oldest community mediation program, DRC offers services in Civil, Family, and Community Mediation; Restorative Justice & Diversion; Restorative Practices & Training; and Youth Development.

DRC prioritizes keeping youth out of the criminal justice system through restorative alternatives. Our **GRO (Giving Real Opportunities)** and **ETHOS Diversion Programs**, along with **Youth Weekly Circles of Support**, address this need in St. Paul and beyond. GRO serves ages 10–17, while ETHOS supports young adults 18–24, diverting cases from traditional courts into restorative circles focused on accountability, healing, and harm repair. Instead of navigating a complex legal system that often silences victims, our approach promotes meaningful resolution and lasting change. The impact of our clients' harm on others, leaving victims feeling unheard and unhealed, is one we strive to transform.

YIP is essential in sustaining DRC's youth programs and staffing. As a longtime recipient, we've maintained quality staff and provided social-emotional learning, digital literacy, and career readiness skills for our weekly circles of support attendees. YIP funding allows us to offer workshops with guest facilitators, mentorship, and hands-on learning experiences. Funding also helps cover operational costs such as rent, marketing, and staffing, ensuring we can expand our reach. With continued support, we remain committed to empowering youth with guidance and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Without YIP funding, DRC wouldn't be a leading organization in diversion work. YIP enables us to expand programs that build self-awareness, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution skills—essential for navigating life's challenges. As demand grows, this support ensures we can reach marginalized youth, providing the resources they need to thrive.

Peace & Progress,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RH" followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Roslyn Harmon, Executive Director

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

844 Selby Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55104 | 651.292.7791 | disputeresolutioncenter.org



111 S Fourth Avenue E • Ely, MN 55731

Supporting Youth & Their Families since 1978

218-365-5254 • www.elycommunityresource.org

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members:

Ely Community Resource is a community-based non-profit providing youth programs that ensure all Ely youth have opportunities to thrive in school and in the community, regardless of their family's ability to provide them. We work during school hours to support academics and social/emotional needs of K-12th grade students. After school, we provide reading and homework help for all grades plus enrichment and social skills practice in age-appropriate small groups. In year-round OST, ECR facilitates a mentoring program, academic enrichment opportunities and challenges, as well as recreation activities. Our Family Resource Facilitator heads up our team support for students' basic needs and mental health referrals and connections. Their families receive help finding and furnishing housing, support for healthy lifestyle, counseling and coaching, as well as appropriate referrals for additional support mentally and physically. A small army of community volunteers help us provide additional meaningful relationships. Our small community includes significant economic diversity; all ECR programs are offered at no cost to make sure all can participate.

YIP funding has been cornerstone support for youth in our wrap-around programs for over 20 years. ECR's goals for providing support and opportunities for youth development that result in increased public safety matched YIP's purpose well. We benefitted from the support of Office of Justice staff and learned from other grantees' successes. The significant reduction in our funding in the last biennium was a major blow that has been difficult to overcome. It coincided with foundations also seeming to turn away from recognizing the challenges experienced by rural kids. Fully funding of the YIP grant is crucial.

All programs like ours are dependent on strong funding to provide the high-quality staff required to handle the challenges of today. Continuity is of the utmost importance. In the interest of public safety, we have a responsibility to continue providing that high-quality support for our youth.

Please support ongoing and increased funding for the Youth Intervention Program.

Sincerely,

Jill Swanson
Executive Director

March 18, 2025



Dear Committee Members,

Family Freedom Center provides no-cost, out-of-school programming for youth in Duluth's Central Hillside community. Our youth center offers a safe and supportive space where young people access academic support, mentorship, and skill-building opportunities designed to **disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline**. The reality in Duluth Public Schools is stark; BIPOC and low-income students experience disproportionate proficiency gaps, lower graduation rates, and higher disciplinary referrals. Without targeted intervention, these disparities continue to limit economic mobility and increase justice system involvement.

For several years, **the funding support we received through OJP YIP** has been critical in sustaining **preemptive programming** that reaches youth before they become entangled in these cycles. This support allows us to strengthen academic performance, build leadership skills, and expose young people to career pathways that offer a future beyond survival. As we look ahead, the need for early intervention continues to grow, and sustained investment in these efforts is essential to ensuring that youth in our community have access to opportunities that keep them engaged and thriving.

We urge you to fully fund OJP YIP to ensure that youth-serving organizations like ours can continue providing the interventions necessary to keep young people on a path to success. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Family Freedom Center and our programs, please feel free to reach out to me directly at Jacob@familyfreedomcenter.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Bell".

Jacob Aaron Bell
Executive Director
Family Freedom Center

ENGAGE, EMPOWER & EDUCATE

www.familyfreedomcenter.org

310 N 1st Ave W, Duluth, MN 55806

218.522.4445



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members:

Keystone Community Services provides year-round - after school, summer, work-readiness and youth employment programming - for low-income, at-risk St. Paul youth in grades K-12. We like to think of ourselves as a place where opportunity meets potential. These out-of-school hours are a critical opportunity for youth to get the extra support they need to stay on track academically, build positive peer relationships and develop their potential through new levels of responsibility in a job or community service.

To be frank, we couldn't deliver programming to 350 young people each year without YIP funding support. YIP funds have allowed us to hire key staff in our work readiness and youth employment training program and at our afterschool program in the West 7th neighborhood of St. Paul. These staff bring their skills and dedication with them everyday, working to help young people overcome barriers, make positive choices and develop skills they'll use their whole lives. Being a YIP grantee has also provided our staff with valuable professional development training that they can use to improve their work with youth participants.

Keystone deeply appreciates the work of the legislature on bringing bill HF-2362 this far and we wholeheartedly support the full funding of YIP grant to help us and so many other organizations continue the work. Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,

Keystone Youth Services Staff



14870 Granada Ave. #127
Apple Valley, MN 55124
www.kidsnkinship.org
(952) 892-6368

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Kids 'n Kinship is a dedicated youth mentoring program that pairs young individuals with caring adult mentors to foster meaningful and supportive relationships. Our mission is to empower youth by providing them with positive role models who can help guide them through life's challenges and opportunities. Through one-on-one mentoring sessions, group activities, and community engagement initiatives, we focus on enhancing vital social skills, boosting self-confidence, and promoting academic success. Our program not only nurtures personal growth but also encourages youth to develop a sense of belonging and responsibility within their communities.

The YIP grant plays a crucial role in supporting our agency's mission by providing essential funding that allows us to expand and enhance our mentoring programs. With the support of the YIP grant, we can recruit and train more volunteers, ensuring that each young person receives the attention and guidance they deserve. Additionally, these funds help us develop and implement new curriculum resources and activities that cater to the diverse needs of our youth. By enabling us to reach a larger audience and provide more comprehensive support, the YIP grant directly contributes to the positive outcomes we strive to achieve for the young people in our community. Given the significant impact that the YIP grant has on our ability to serve youth effectively, I strongly urge you to fully fund this vital program. By doing so, you will not only help sustain our mission but also empower countless young individuals to thrive, succeed, and become active, engaged members of our community.

Thank you for considering this important investment in our youth and their future.

In Partnership,

Alicia D. Crudup
Executive Director
Kids 'N Kinship



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Forest Lake, MN 55025
Phone: 651-464-3685 | Fax: 651-464-3687
www.lc4yf.org

3/18/2025

Dear Committee Members,

Our agency, supported by the YIP grant, is dedicated to preventing and intervening in high-risk behaviors among youth. We focus on helping students develop responsible decision-making skills, peer conflict resolution strategies, and positive relationships with caring adults. Our work takes place in Forest Lake Area Schools, primarily at Linwood Elementary, where Lakes Center staff diligently provide all 431 students with opportunities to build a sense of self, connection, and community care through diverse activities. Fifth and sixth-grade students participate in Lunch Clubs covering topics like health, internet safety, creative expression, book clubs, and career exploration. They also engage in student leadership groups that organize school events and foster community spirit, taking pride and ownership in their contributions. Additionally, sixth-grade students take part in community service projects, supporting their peers, community members, and the school forest. Recognizing the pressures faced by school systems, Lakes Center staff offer small group and individualized support to students working on enhancing their social, emotional, and behavioral skills.

The YIP grant is essential to making these transformative opportunities possible for the youth we serve. It helps provide access to unique opportunities and materials that enrich students' learning experiences in all areas of our program. This funding has allowed us to implement top-tier prevention curriculums on drug and alcohol awareness for fifth and sixth graders. After completing these programs, students consistently report a decreased likelihood of engaging in underage substance use, having learned about its effects. The grant has also enabled us to create STEAM challenges and social emotional lessons designed to build conflict resolution skills and decision making. In service groups where students practice creative expression, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving, we've been able to bring nearly every student-led idea to life, empowering them to see their ideas, hard work, and creativity make a real impact on their community.

I strongly advocate for the full funding of the YIP grant. As a former kindergarten teacher, I have witnessed firsthand the profound effects of equipping students with the tools, opportunities, and care they need to make positive and healthy life choices. When I share about our program with educators at other schools, their immediate response is, "When do we get that at our school? We need that." The YIP grant is needed. The work facilitated by agencies like ours supported through YIP funding is invaluable and cannot be lost. These programs change lives, strengthen communities, and deserve unwavering support.

Abbey Hinze

Enrichment Coordinator



McGREGOR ISD 4

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148 South 2nd Street • McGregor, MN 55760

www.mcgregor.k12.mn.us

PH: (218) 768-2111 FAX: (218) 768-3901

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Please support the interventions YIP funding provides to struggling young people. As coordinator of our school-based program **Futures by Design**, I oversee and provide direct services to 100 students a year ages 10 and older in our rural Minnesota district. YIP funds allow us to offer personal asset building and risk reduction interventions to students who are failing school courses, experimenting with drugs, having contact with the juvenile justice system, are homeless and/or do not have their daily food needs met. We work with students daily to meet needs for homework help and tutoring, drug education and cessation, skills for navigating a myriad of problems in legal and safe ways, connecting youth and families to resources for emergency needs and long term mental health treatment, and sometimes just a spot to sit and gather themselves.

The YIP grant and the matching dollars we contribute are the only way we can support the people in these roles: full-time Interventionist, part-time BARR Coordinator (Building Assets, Reducing Risks), All Stars Instruction (6th grade decision-making skills), BARR Mentors and Afterschool Mentors, Service Learning to build job skills and connections to life changing opportunities. Without the YIP grant, the matching cash and in-kind contribution will not support these people, programs and activities, leaving our youth most at-risk for problems behaviors without the supports they need.

Please fully fund the YIP grant, in rural communities like ours in Aitkin County, it is the single source of support for the essential help we offer at-risk youth.

Thank you!

Cheryl Meld
Master Youth Worker & Program Coordinator

SARAH PYLVANEN
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT /
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
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BOB STASKA
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BUSINESS MANAGER
Ext. 5123
sdalchow@isd4.org

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Mediation & Restorative Services

Creating Peaceful Solutions

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the full funding of the Youth Investment Program (YIP) grant in support of Mediation and Restorative Services (MARS). At MARS, we empower youth through mentorship, provide an oasis for open and constructive dialogue, and foster meaningful community engagement initiatives. By creating a safe and supportive environment, we enable young people to develop leadership skills, explore career pathways, and build the self-confidence they need to thrive.

The YIP grant is essential to advancing our efforts by providing the critical funding necessary to enhance our programs, improve service delivery, and expand our outreach initiatives. With this grant, we will be able to invest in key resources such as staff training, technology upgrades, and community partnerships, all of which will allow us to better serve our target population and further our mission. The financial support will empower us to implement innovative strategies, amplify program impact, and ensure the sustainability of our work, ultimately benefiting both our agency and the communities we serve.

We wholeheartedly support the full funding of this grant, as it is vital to the continued success and growth of our programs. The YIP grant will allow us to maximize our impact, reach more youth individuals in need, and create lasting positive change within our community. By investing in this grant, you are investing in a brighter, more equitable future for youth, and we are committed to using these resources to their fullest potential to help those who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of our mission.

Sincerely,

Kyra A. Gustafson
Program Operations Manager
Mediation and Restorative Services

MINNESOTA ALLIANCE WITH YOUTH

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Minnesota Alliance With Youth brings people together in service across generations to make our state a place where all young people can thrive. The Alliance's AmeriCorps Promise Fellow program provides schools and organizations with the support and "people power" to deliver a data informed, evidence-based model based on the early warning indicators of high school dropout. The program results in increased school attendance and academic engagement for off-track students in grades 6-12. Working with a team of school-based staff, AmeriCorps Promise Fellows engage in a variety of evidence-based interventions that fall into three categories: Caring Adults, Service and Service-Learning, and Out-Of-School Supports. These Interventions align with the National Dropout Prevention Center's Basic Core Strategies identified as most effective in reducing school dropout.

The YIP grant plays a crucial role in bolstering our AmeriCorps Promise Fellow program. This funding allows us to support Promise Fellows who work directly with youth, helping them navigate academic challenges and increase their school engagement, ultimately leading to on-time high school graduation. YIP support of our program means more students across Minnesota come to school more often, are more engaged, feel more connected to school, and graduate from high school prepared for their next step in life.

We strongly urge you to fully fund the YIP grant, as it is essential for sustaining initiatives that are vital to the future success of Minnesota's youth. Thank you for considering this important investment in our state's future.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Davnie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Davnie, Executive Director, Minnesota Alliance With Youth

Minnesota Alliance With Youth – 2550 University Ave W, Suite 200N, Saint Paul, MN 55414

www.mnyouth.net – info@mnyouth.net

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Marquise Bowie. And I am one of the founders of the MN Bam Mentoring Project, which stands for *Becoming a Man*. I grew up in a single parent home raised by my mom. I didn't have a positive male figure in my life, so I was misguided and ended up in the juvenile system as a teenager. I was looking for something to cling to and the gang and drug life answered the call and fulfilled my emptiness.



So my life is devoted to being what I needed at a young age. And that's working with broken young men like myself. Meeting them where they are and listening to their pain. As I sat in federal prison with a 175-month sentence. I read books, talked with the elders in and out of prison and dedicated myself to a life of service to help young people avoid the pitfalls that trapped me in a rollercoaster lifestyle.

When I joined YIPA a few years ago, it was learning from my younger self through the trainings that resonated with me. A lot of the work takes patience and most importantly funding. And if YIPA were to get more funding, that's gives us more resources and programs that we can create and pour into the youth we work with.

In closing, I support Paul and the YIP grant because the support that they've had for me is making a drastic change in the lives of the youth in the community. Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely,

Marquise Bowie



Moorhead Police Department

911 11th St N | PO Box 817
Moorhead, MN 56561
218.299.5120 | www.moorheadpolice.com



03/17/25

Dear Committee Members,

Our agency is very dependent on this YIP Grant. Our programs include Summer Youth Program, Change Starts with YOUth and Not a Number.

Our Summer Youth Program helps up to 200 kids connect more with our officers in a fun setting. For seven days they get to have lunch, listen to an educational topic, and do a recreational activity with police officers. This program creates an approachable setting for these kids to connect with the officers.

Change Starts with YOUth takes up to ten at-risk-youth to get a rare opportunity to form a bond with our School Resource Officers and Youth Services Coordinator that can benefit them throughout their years in school. This includes an educational speaker, lunch, and a recreational activity. They strive to show these youth that they care about their future and try to gain trust so they will feel comfortable coming to them in the future with problems.

Not a Number is a newer program we have started helping with. This program allows youth the opportunity to have lunch with Police and Rape & Abuse professionals and talk to them about human trafficking. This program is designed to provide youth with information and skills in a manner that inspires them to make safe choices.

With the funds from the grant the Moorhead Police Department is able to successfully run these programs and help our youth.

We greatly appreciate the funding we have had over the years to successfully run these programs. Without the grant we would be unable to continue this amazing work for these kids. We hope you consider us when deciding on this bill. Thank you,

Leighanna Secord
Community Policing Coordinator
Moorhead Police Department



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

North Homes Children and Family Services provides a comprehensive range of services to at-risk youth and their families across northern Minnesota. Our work encompasses prevention, intervention, and treatment, focusing on mental health, behavioral health, and family stability. We offer services such as outpatient therapy, crisis intervention, youth mentoring, and supportive housing, all aimed at empowering young people to achieve their full potential and build healthy, resilient lives.

Receiving a Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant through HF2362 would significantly enhance our ability to serve youth facing complex challenges. Specifically, these funds would allow us to expand our outreach and prevention programs, providing earlier intervention for youth at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system, or experiencing mental health crises. The grant would also support the development of innovative, culturally responsive programs tailored to the unique needs of our rural communities, ensuring that all youth have access to essential support services. This funding would allow us to increase staffing to meet the growing need for youth mental health services, and provide training for staff in evidence-based practices.

We strongly urge the committee to fully fund the Youth Intervention Programs grant as outlined in HF2362. This investment in our youth is an investment in the future of our communities, and will have a lasting positive impact on the lives of countless young people.

Sincerely,

Melissa Vatnsdal

Grants Manager
North Homes Children and Family Services

Northfield Union of Youth

PO Box 481
Northfield, MN 55057
(507) 663-0715
www.unionofyouth.org



**Providing power and
voice to Northfield youth**

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Northfield Union of Youth (NUY) operates The Key, the nation's longest-running youth-led youth center, where young people are not just participants but decision-makers. Through our youth board, volunteer opportunities, and leadership programs, we empower youth to take ownership of their future while providing a safe and supportive space.

The Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant is vital to our mission. With this funding, we offer food access, safe shelter, and critical support to young people facing homelessness, mental health challenges, and other barriers. YIP allows us to provide mentorship, crisis intervention, and essential resources—all within a trusted environment designed by and for youth. Without this support, many young people would lose access to the stability and guidance they need to thrive.

We strongly urge you to fully fund the YIP grant. Investing in youth intervention doesn't just change lives—it creates stronger, more resilient communities. The young people we serve today are the leaders of tomorrow, and they deserve every opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelli Podracky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kelli" being more prominent than the last name "Podracky".

Kelli Podracky
Executive Director



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Our agency is dedicated to empowering at-risk youth by offering comprehensive support and mentorship through the Little Brother/Little Sister Program. This initiative pairs young individuals with compassionate and responsible mentors, creating meaningful, enduring relationships. Our focus is on providing guidance and a nurturing environment for children from diverse backgrounds who may face challenges such as living in single-parent homes or being raised by extended family. By fostering these connections, we aim to build a reliable support system that encourages personal growth, resilience, and a sense of belonging in their communities.

The YIP grant plays a crucial role in expanding our agency's reach and impact by providing the necessary resources to host impactful events and workshops for our Little Brother/Little Sister Program. These activities are specifically designed to nurture the mentor-mentee relationship, offering both parties unique opportunities for personal and educational growth, that might otherwise be unavailable to them. With the support of the YIP grant, we can also provide training for mentors, ensuring they are well-equipped to guide their mentees through life's challenges. This comprehensive approach helps create a nurturing environment where at-risk youth can thrive, ultimately fostering a sense of belonging and community.

The advantages of the YIP grant are numerous, and reflecting on the faces of the children we serve reminds me of the personal struggles they endure. I am deeply grateful for the YIP grant funding, which allows me the privilege of coordinating this program. This funding ensures that these children have someone to rely on, someone who acts as a "watchdog" in their lives. Witnessing the growth of these friendships year after year reaffirms the positive impact we are making in shaping our youth, who are the future generation. *Fully funding this grant is not just an investment in our programs but an investment in the resilience and potential of each child. Your support ensures that we can continue to empower young lives, fostering a community where every child feels valued and inspired to reach their fullest potential. Together, we can build a brighter future, one mentorship at a time.*

Overall Benefits from the YIP Grant:

- Impacts the future generation
- Hope to youth feeling hopeless
- Keeping kids on track with life choices
- Fosters the development of essential life skills

Sincerely, Madeline Waage



3/18/2025

Dear Committee Members,

Pearl Crisis Center has been partnering with area middle and high schools to teach students about abusive behaviors, consent and sexual assault in a safe, classroom environment for more than 15 years. Along with the Safe Dates program, which provides this vital education to 600 to 800 Mille Lacs County youth each year, Pearl has also developed the Teens Against Dating Violence advocacy group that boasts 120 members ages 11 to 21. The Safe Dates program is data-driven, tried and tested curriculum that greatly increases students' knowledge on topics of dating abuse, consent and sexual assault. The YIP grant is directly responsible for funding the youth advocate at Pearl who administers the Safe Dates program and manages and operates the TADA group. The youth advocate also specializes in offering domestic violence and sexual assault services to clients ages 18 or younger. YIP funding has been transformative for Pearl and its community, greatly improving the lives of area youth. Further investments to the YIP grant prove Minnesota has its eye set toward a bright future.

Sincerely,

Lesley Toth
Youth Advocate
Pearl Crisis Center
320-982-2901
ltothpcc@gmail.com



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

[QUEERSPACE collective](#) is a Minnesota-based nonprofit dedicated to serving 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, and we strongly urge the committee to pass the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant. This funding is essential for organizations like ours to continue providing critical support that fosters the healthy development of vulnerable youth.

Our mission is to create space for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves. Our youth-centered approach not only reduces isolation and suicidal ideation but also fosters belonging, resilience, and empowerment. Our vision is for all 2SLGBTQIA+ youth to have a supportive community to help them develop a strong sense of pride in who they are, where they come from, and where they want to go.

Since our founding in 2021, we have supported over 5,800 youth and their families through intergenerational mentorship, group programming, and, most recently, the opening of our dedicated 2SLGBTQIA+ youth center in Minneapolis. The YIP grant would directly support this safe, inclusive space that ensures more young people have access to mentorship, resources, and affirming peers and adults.

The timing couldn't be more urgent: Queer youth are among the most vulnerable in our society, with over 85% experiencing harassment at school (GLSEN 2019) and thousands seriously considering suicide each year (The Trevor Project, 2021). Until now, the Twin Cities has lacked a dedicated 2SLGBTQIA+ youth center, leaving many without critical support.

Now, more than ever, we must show Queer youth that they are valued and protected. With the increasing rise of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation across the country, investing in their well-being is not just necessary, it is a commitment to their futures. We strongly urge the committee to support ongoing funding for the YIP grant and help ensure that all young people have access to the community and care they deserve.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Nicki Hangsleben

Nicki Hangsleben (she/they)
Executive Director & Founder
QUEERSPACE collective



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to advocate for increased funding for youth intervention programs, which play a critical role in fostering positive development and community engagement for young people.

RiseUp Red Wing is a not-for-profit organization in Red Wing that provides one-on-one mentoring for students in our Afterschool Program. We serve underrepresented youth seeking meaningful connections with caring adults and a stronger sense of belonging within their community.

Our mentoring program focuses on developing social-emotional skills in five key areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills. We are seeing a growing number of young people entering our program without positive connections to others in the community or access to programs that promote emotional well-being. Without these critical support systems, youth face limited opportunities and, too often, make choices that negatively impact their futures.

Youth intervention programs like RiseUp Red Wing have proven to be effective. According to our social-emotional competencies survey, **76% of youth participants reported feeling competent in all five social-emotional skill areas, and 94% demonstrated improvement in at least one area.** However, to sustain and expand these best practices, **adequate financial resources are essential.**

With additional youth intervention program funding, organizations like RiseUp Red Wing can **recruit more mentors, provide individualized support, and empower more young people to become engaged, contributing members of the community.** I urge you to prioritize funding for youth intervention programs in this budget session to ensure that young people have the resources they need to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Jenna Collins

Jenna Collins
Director of Programs
jenna@riseuppartenrship.org



5125 County Road 101
Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55345

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

For 55 years, Relate Counseling Center has been a leading non-profit provider of mental health care in Western Hennepin County. Our main office is in Minnetonka, but we have school-based programs in 53 schools across eight school districts. We provide direct services to thousands of individuals, including 1,100 youth in office and 3,000+ youth in schools, including chemical health education and prevention activities in four districts.

The need for mental health services for the youth in our community is greater than ever. With the funding received for the provision of these services through the Youth Intervention Program (YIP), we are able to help youth function at higher levels, achieve greater school success, experience less involvement with juvenile justice systems, and have less likelihood of experiencing long-term mental health issues.

We ask that you continue to fully fund the YIP grant so that Relate, along with the many other agencies receiving YIP funds in Minnesota, can continue to do the work to address the needs of the youth in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Twiton".

Joan Twiton
Executive Director



3/18/2025

Dear Committee Members,

Board of Directors

Nicholas Zerwas, President

Neal Huemoeller, Vice President

Nancy Leslie, Secretary

Michelle Anderson

Stacy Doyle

Hans Larson

Jenny Paripovich

David Vinje

Eric Kunkel

Shylla Webb

Cynthia (Cindy) Finke

Hannah-Ruth Patterson, LGSW
Executive Director
Rivers of Hope, Monticello

Rivers of Hope is the domestic violence center serving Wright and Sherburne Counties, providing support to individuals of all ages, including youth. For over 30 years, our robust youth program has been a vital part of the community, offering 1:1 advocacy to students experiencing family or teen dating violence directly in their schools. Our Youth Advocates provide a safe, trusted presence, offering support and guidance. In addition to advocacy, we educate young people through classroom presentations on healthy relationships, aiming to prevent future violence. Over the past year, we have supported more than 200 youth through direct advocacy, while since October 2024, over 2600 elementary students have learned about healthy friendships, and more than 2500 middle and high school students have seen a presentation on healthy relationships and teen dating violence.

We have two Youth Advocates in middle and high school and one in elementary school. Funds from YIP support the salaries of these staff. All three of them are active with presentations and maintain full caseloads. If we were unable to have three full-time youth advocates we would likely have to cut back on our prevention presentations and even some direct services to ensure our staff were able to manage their caseloads.

Rivers of Hope is in support of fully funding the YIP program. YIP is a reason our program has the impact it has on our community and youth throughout the state deserve access to support and services aimed at empowering them to thrive.

Respectfully,

HR Patterson

Hannah-Ruth Patterson
Executive Director
Rivers of Hope



STARS MENTORING PROGRAM

411 S 1st Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Phone: 507-383-5272 Email: director@starsforkids.org

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Our young people deserve every opportunity to succeed. With Success Through Adults Reaching Students (STARS) Mentoring Program, we are a one-of-a-kind program serving rural communities. STARS helps fill gaps in services for our young people to thrive in their journey to adulthood.

STARS empowers at-risk Freeborn and Faribault County youth to make positive life choices by providing guidance and support from a caring adult mentor. Mentors and mentees participate in fun shared activities monthly and discuss a variety of skills-building topics. For those who are mentoring, the relationship can build leadership and management skills, expand a mentor's professional network, and provide an empowering opportunity to give back to the communities.

Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in areas of personal growth and development. It is a proven strategy for preventing youth from engaging in alcohol and drug use, skipping school, and other delinquent behaviors. Young people participating in quality mentoring programs are also more likely to do better in school and have aspirations for college and careers, ultimately strengthening our communities.

Our rural communities are fortunate and thankful to receive support from the YIP grant funding; a matching grant. The funding provides the leverage needed to continue this critical mentoring program. STARS is in full support of the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant funding of \$3 million in new annual funding.

Respectfully sent,
Watsana Thiravong



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

United Way of Steele County, in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, MN Prairie County Alliance, the Owatonna Public Schools, Medford Public Schools, Blooming Prairie Public Schools, Sphero, and numerous other interested parties, joined together in 2022 to address the truancy crisis in Steele County. High percentages of our youth were missing over 100 days of school coming out of COVID, and the current systems in place were not working. Together, we created U.P.L.I.F.T. (United Partnership for Leadership, Inspiration, Focus, and Transformation) to reverse the truancy trend by hyper-focusing on our 9th graders.

With the Youth Intervention Project (YIP) Grant, we were able to hire a Youth Support Coordinator and launch this pilot program. We have already found significant success with this initiative, particularly within our BIPOC communities. Additional funding would allow organizations like ours to develop and implement solutions that can be duplicated across Greater Minnesota and other rural communities nationwide. Research shows that punitive consequences are no longer effective in terms of long-term in addressing truancy. YIP funding enables communities to develop and implement programming that works, increases student engagement, and helps our youth reach graduation and beyond.

We strongly support fully funding of the YIP Grant, as it is an investment in our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Duncan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Annette Duncan, President

United Way of Steele County



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I write today in support of fully funding the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grant.

Urban Boatbuilders is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota, dedicated to empowering youth through hands-on woodworking and boatbuilding. By engaging young people in the craft of building wooden boats, the organization teaches valuable technical skills, teamwork, and leadership while fostering personal growth and career readiness. Through apprenticeship programs and school partnerships, Urban Boatbuilders provides a supportive environment where youth develop confidence, resilience, and a strong work ethic, preparing them for future success.

Youth Intervention Program funding has enabled Urban Boatbuilders to expand the number of young people served through the apprenticeship program each year. Through YIP funding, 16 additional youth have been able to participate in the intensive paid employment training program. As a result of the program, 99% of graduates have been placed in education and training programs or directly into a well-paying job.

I strongly support the full funding of the Youth Intervention Program grant to ensure that young people across Minnesota have the support and opportunities to learn, grow, and blossom into capable, successful adults and citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your support

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Hosmer", written in a cursive style.

Marc Hosmer
Executive Director



March 17, 2025



VOYAGEUR
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

Dear Committee Members:

Voyageur Outward Bound School delivers programs to support the social-emotional wellbeing, growth, and future of students. This proven curriculum is delivered in the outdoors, using nature as classroom. Students participate in a deliberately designed social emotional progression that combines physical skills like canoeing, hiking, rock climbing with activity-based skill development in teamwork, compassion, learning interest, self-regulation, self-awareness and more.

Thanks to the YIP grant, Voyageur Outward Bound is able to bring these one-of-a-kind programs to students in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The programs give students historically excluded from experiencing Voyageur Outward programs and the outdoors an opportunity to adventure, explore, learn, and grow. **Over 400 students participate in a series of one day programs called INSIGHT as a result of the YIP grant each year – or 19,200 hours of programming. Over the course of the school year, each student has 48 hours of dedicated curriculum grounded in the Domains of Thriving Social Emotional Rubric.** This curriculum teaches social emotional skills in a safe space and include the following focus areas: Learning Interest, Self-Awareness, Self-Regulation, Perseverance, Group Relationships, Assertiveness, Social Responsibility, Teamwork, through physical engagement, courage, belonging, and reflection. Every student is better going Outward Bound and our community is better as a result – the whole program comes full circle when students take their learnings – Outward – and are *Outward Bound*.

Whether it be at Lake of the Isles, Lebanon Hills, or Minnehaha Falls, student success grows when they have the opportunity to participate in nature and connect through hands-on learning and practice what they are learning in real-time and real-life. In fact, 70% of VOBS alumni state they are better leaders today because of going Outward Bound.

Because of YIP, students discovered and persevered, as individuals, and as *crew*. In 2024, **100%** of Twin Cities students surveyed agreed:

- *I have gained confidence to try new things.*
- *I am more aware of how to support those around me.*
- *I feel more connected to people in my group.*

It is imperative to continue these important programs and we value and need ongoing and increased support to meet demand. Your consideration, votes, and support changes the world, the community, and the future.

Thanks you for your consideration,

Stacey A Minnick
Director of Development

Watonwan County Youth Development

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Watonwan County has been a recipient of the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grant since its inception, and it has played a pivotal role in supporting youth development in our rural community. Over the years, this grant has allowed us to work with hundreds of students. Our flagship program has always been the Teen Court program, which provides a second chance to first-time offenders of petty crimes. Additionally, it offers youth throughout the county the opportunity to serve as Teen Court jurors. It is student-led and the program benefits both the offenders and the jurors, making it a true win-win for everyone involved.

As the Youth Development Coordinator, I can confidently say that Teen Court is a valuable program for our young people. Without the YIP grant, we would be unable to continue offering this innovative and impactful program. I strongly encourage the committee to fully fund this grant, as it is a vital source of support for Watonwan County's youth development efforts. Thank you for your continued support, both now and in the past.

Sincerely,

Shawna Asendorf

Youth Development Coordinator



March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) is a 501c3, non-profit, workforce development entity based in Rochester, Minnesota with offices in 10 counties across Southeast Minnesota and serves as the Workforce Development Board for Southeast Minnesota. We operate the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth and Young Adult program and Minnesota Youth Program (MYP), serving youth who face barriers to employment and education. We are committed to providing career exploration, job training, and employment opportunities, ensuring young people gain the skills and experience needed for successful futures.

Our Youth and Young Adult program operates under 12 funding streams, many of which require intensive enrollment processes that can delay immediate assistance. The YIP grant is instrumental in bridging the gap, allowing us to provide timely support when urgent needs arise. This funding serves as a critical entry point for many young people, enabling them to access immediate resources while transitioning into more comprehensive workforce development programs.

WDI strongly supports the full funding of the YIP grant to continue providing essential services to youth and young adults. This investment is crucial in ensuring equitable access to career development opportunities, helping young people overcome barriers and build pathways to success.

Sincerely,

Megan Horton
Youth Services Director
Workforce Development, Inc.



youth
service
bureau

*Helping youth and families learn the skills they need to be more successful
at home, in school and throughout the community.*

www.ysb.net

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Youth Service Bureau, Inc. is a nonprofit organization operating in Stillwater, Woodbury, and Cottage Grove, and their surrounding communities, since 1977. We provide a variety of effective early intervention services for youth and families – including counseling, diversion, chemical health supports, youth & family education, and a military family support program.

The YIP grant via OJP at the State of MN supports all of our services and also allows YSB to offer a generous sliding-fee-scale for families in need, and it allows us to offer interpreter services at no cost to families when those are needed. Our YIP grant represents about 6% of our organization's annual operating budget which may seem insignificant, but it truly is not. We are well diversified in our funding sources and yet we still need every dollar we receive to deliver services to our clients.

Please support full funding of the YIP grant – those dollars are put to good use by organizations working with youth. Early intervention and prevention services are effective – and reduces costs to the community down the road.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael Huntley, M.A., LP
Executive Director
Youth Service Bureau, Inc.

March 18, 2025

Katie Rehani
YWCA Minneapolis
2121 E Lake St
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Dear Committee Members,

YWCA Minneapolis provides free out-of-school time programs to over 1,100 youth each year. Our comprehensive programs serve k-12 youth at over 25 locations, including YWCA Midtown. While each program has a unique delivery model, the common strategies across all YWCA Minneapolis youth programs are safety, community and leadership, future-orientation, enrichment, and health.

The Youth Intervention Programs Grant provides organizations sustainable funding, ensuring that we can continue to provide high quality programs to youth in the community. An investment in youth programs is an investment in public safety, career and future readiness, and community connection. I urge you to pass the bill in support of Youth Intervention Programs.

Very truly yours,



Katie Rehani
Vice President of Girls & Youth

YWCA Midtown
2121 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-215-4333

**Children's Center
at Downtown**
1130 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-215-4189

**Children's Center
at Ecolab**
80 West 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-250-3540

**Children's Center at Hubbs
Center for Lifelong Learning**
1030 University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-744-7525

**Children's Center
South Minneapolis**
2400 Park Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-355-5520

ywcamppls.org