

January 30, 2023



To: Proof Alliance

Re: FASD Prevention Grants

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

On behalf of Wayside Recovery Center, please accept this **letter of support for an increase in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Prevention Grants to make prevention services available to more people in more communities.**

In Minnesota, 13.1% of pregnancies are exposed to alcohol. And across the Nation it is estimated that one in 20 children have an FASD. It's more common than autism. It has lifelong implications. And with the right supports and resources, it's 100% preventable.

I write to you as the Interim CEO at Wayside Recovery Center, a gender-specific treatment facility for women experiencing addiction and trauma. We specialize in providing treatment to women who are pregnant and supporting them to deliver healthy babies. With FASD education, prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE) screening, trained doulas, peer support and case management, we are proud to report that 100% of the babies born at Wayside last year were born toxin-free. This critical work is made possible by prevention grant dollars, yet we know there are more women and children in our community waiting to receive care.

Our organization is a grantee recipient of FASD Prevention Grants for fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) prevention programs that support pregnant and parenting women with histories of alcohol use disorders. This grant program provides evidence-based and culturally appropriate recovery support services. The program not only supports women during pregnancy but prevents future alcohol-exposed pregnancies by providing wraparound services to increase stability and maintain recovery.

An expansion of FASD Prevention Grants from a base of \$750k/year to \$1.25 million per year would provide additional grants to additional partners in Minnesota. This would provide access to services/resources in additional geographical regions of Minnesota and increase our reach in underserved communities. We urge the committee to support this vital legislation.

Thank you for your efforts and for your work on behalf of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa M. Evans".

Teresa Evans
Interim CEO
Wayside Recovery Center