

Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) Letters of Support

April 28, 2023

Dear Member of the Public Safety & Judiciary Conference Committee,

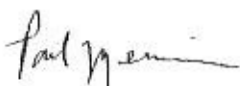
The Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA) has 234 MN organizational members, only 32% are YIP grant recipients, 68% are not. 62% of YIP grantees are in the Twin Cities metro area and 38% are in greater MN.

We sent an email asking members for a letter of support for on-going YIP grant funding and the 64 random members that submitted one are listed below. Of these, 70% serve the Twin Cities metro area and 30% serve greater MN; 56% are current YIP grantees and 44% are not. We've provided copies for you.

- 180 Degrees Support for YIP
- Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center Support for YIP
- Alexandria House Support for YIP
- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency Support for YIP
- Athletes Committed to Educating Students (ACES) Support for YIP
- Banyan Community Support for YIP
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Twin Cities Support YIP
- Bolder Options Support for YIP
- Boys and Girls Club of Central MN Support for YIP
- Centro Tyrone Guzman Support for YIP
- Change Inc. Support for YIP
- Circle of Discipline Support for YIP
- CommonBond Communities Support for YIP
- Communities in Schools Twin Cities Support for YIP
- Cornerstone Support for YIP
- Dakota County Attorney's Office Support for YIP
- Division of Indian Work Support for YIP
- EastSide Neighborhood Services Support for YIP
- Elpis Enterprise Letter of Support
- Ey Community Resource Support for YIP
- Esperanza United Support for YIP
- Evergreen Youth & Family Services Support for YIP
- Family Enhancement Center Support for YIP
- Hmong Americal Partnership (HAP) Support for YIP
- Kids 'n Kinship Support for YIP
- La Oportunidad Support for YIP
- Lakeland Mental Health Center Support for YIP
- Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project (LARJP) Support for YIP
- Lakes Center for Youth & Families Support for YIP
- Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health & Well-being Support for YIP
- Life House Support for YIP
- Little Sand Group Home Support for YIP
- Lutheran Social Services Support for YIP
- Minneapolis American Indian Center Support for YIP
- Minnesota Alliance With Youth Support for YIP
- Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health (MACMH) Support for YIP
- Minnesota Community Care Support for YIP
- Minnesota Transition Charter School Support for YIP
- Moorhead Police Department Support for YIP
- MoveFwd Support for YIP
- North Homes Children and Family Services Support for YIP
- Northeast Youth and Family Services (NYFS) Support for YIP
- Northwest Community Action Support for YIP
- Opportunity Neighborhood Support for YIP
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center Support for YIP
- QUEERSPACE collective Support for YIP
- Relate Counseling Center Support for YIP
- Restorative Justice Community Action Support for YIP
- RiseUp Redwing Support for YIP
- Rivers of Hope Support for YIP
- Ross Resources Support for YIP
- Somali American Social Service Association Support for YIPA
- South Central Workforce Council Support for YIP
- Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Support for YIP
- Stars Mentoring Program Support for YIP
- The Bridge for Youth Support for YIP
- The Minneapolis BAM (Becoming A Man) Project Support for YIP
- Tubman Support for YIP
- Voyageur Outward Bound School Support for YIP
- Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment Support for YIP
- Workforce Development Inc. Support for YIP
- YMCA of the North Support for YIP
- Youth First Community of Promise Support for YIP
- YWCA Minneapolis Support for YIP

Collectively, as an association we encourage you to adequately fund the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant with increased base funding.

Sincerely,



Paul Meunier

Executive Director of YIPA

763-434-4190 (office) | 612-616-5669 (mobile) | paul@yipa.org



TURNING LIVES AROUND.

April 19, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

My name is Dan Pfarr, and I am the Chief Executive Officer at 180 Degrees. I am writing to you to ask for your continued support for the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grant in your budget. With your support we will change the lives of vulnerable youth throughout the state.

For fifty years, 180 Degrees has provided critical housing and support for 1,400 vulnerable youth, families, and adults across the state of Minnesota. The funding in the YIP grant will support the work of 180 Degrees and help with the expansion of our services across Minnesota.

Outreach and mobile case management services connect youth with resources when they experience interactions with law enforcement in our two rural service areas. (St. Cloud and Rochester regions) The interventions we provide keep youth out of the juvenile justice system and encourage/support high school graduations, family interventions, access to mental health and chemical health supports.

Respectfully, please support the ongoing funding of the YIP grant. By continuing to fund the YIP grant we will be able to expand helping these youth who seek interventions and services and help those who are most vulnerable. These youth are counting on us. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to reach out to me directly via email or a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dan Pfarr'.

Dan Pfarr
Chief Executive Officer
180 Degrees

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**



Ain Dah Yung Center

1089 Portland Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104

651.227.4184

adycenter.org

April 19, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

Re: Support for ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant

On behalf of Ain Dah Yung Center, I would like to express our resounding support to increase funding for prevention, intervention, and barrier reduction services for youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

For over 40 years, ADYC has and will continue to provide culturally responsive housing and wrap-around services to help American Indian youth in the Twin Cities imagine a hopeful, safe, and independent future. ADYC has received numerous awards demonstrating its reputation as an advocate and innovator of best practices for serving homeless Indigenous youth. Our success is a result of our culturally responsive approach: our staff speak the languages, sing the songs, and practice the traditions of our peoples and combine this knowledge with case management expertise to create holistic solutions-based approaches that address the whole person, family, and community.

At ADYC, Culture is Prevention. We intentionally prioritize American Indian culture and traditions in our delivery of services through trauma-informed, strengths-based, and person-first approaches. As we help our youth understand historical trauma and replace a sense of blame and shame with a positive cultural acquisition, we are also able to help them find healthy ways to respond to stress and trauma, and most importantly—heal.

Without adequate funding ADYC will not have the capacity to serve over 100 youth each year in our residential programs, over 80 youth victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, and thousands of youth connections through street outreach. The youth served through prevention programs are the most difficult to serve and have experienced the most horrific traumas in our society. I urge the committee to VOTE for additional youth intervention funding.

Miigwech, Pidamayaye, Pilamayeye (thank you),

Sheri Riemers
Executive Director

April 18, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

Alexandra House is a non-profit agency in Anoka County that envisions a world where violence is unacceptable.

Children and young adults are not spared from the realities and impact of domestic and sexual violence. They are witnessing and experiencing it in their homes, in their first romantic relationships, and in their circle of friends. This crucial time for exploration and growth is marred by the trauma and confusion that violence brings, oftentimes having residual effects for years to come. Difficulty sleeping, anxiety, failing grades, inability to concentrate, loss of interests, angry outbursts, and unexplained or persistent injuries are just some of the signs of violence in the life of a young person.

Stopping the cycle of violence must include working with young people. They hold the potential to see a future free of violence realized. Alexandra House offers various services to help youth start talking about healthy relationships in all forms and to offer intervention services for victims of childhood trauma.

Alexandra House Youth Services staff provides these prevention and intervention programs in six school districts (25 schools) in Anoka County. Our staff have college degrees in trauma-informed fields such as Social Work, Psychology, and Education. All our curriculum is evidence-based and overseen by a Minnesota-licensed teacher.

75%
of program participants
said our Youth Services
program helped them plan
ahead and make good
choices.

With additional youth intervention program funding, organizations like Alexandra House can continue to provide (and expand) these valuable services and reach even more young people in our community.

Sincerely,

Connie Moore
Connie Moore
Executive Director

Noah Shepard
Noah Shepard
Youth Services Supervisor



- ✓ 251 youth and parents were reached by the Youth Services program.
- ✓ 114 students received 1-1 advocacy and support.
- ✓ 40 youth participated in summer prevention-based programming.
- ✓ 183 classroom presentations about healthy relationships were conducted.

3,740⁺

HIGH SCHOOLERS REACHED BY A
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS
PRESENTATION



ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

To The Members of the Public Safety and Judiciary Committee:

AEOA serves young people, ages 14 up to age 24, who are currently or have been in out-of-home placement, and youth who are homeless and/or at-risk. Services are provided through several programs including Free at Last (FAL), Youthbuild, Living Independently from Experience (LIFE) Transitional Housing, as well as homeless youth outreach and case management. Our youth programming has developed a reputation of excellence for youth needing independent living skills and housing in Itasca and Koochiching Counties.

The common objective of our youth-serving programs is to help young people achieve the skills necessary to become successful adults. Our philosophy of service focuses on the strengths and potential of youth and overcoming their weaknesses, problems, or barriers. The youth that we serve typically do not have any support put in place and are on their own. The needs of finding shelter, food, a job, completing their education, mental health services, etc. are daunting, and our ever-inflating economy makes it extremely difficult for our youth to succeed. Our youth need supporting individuals to navigate the system as well as financial support to stay afloat while doing so.

If new ongoing funding for the YIP grant was passed and our programs were to receive more funding, it would be a tremendous opportunity to allow AEOA to expand our wrap around service programming. We would be able to help more youth and provide more long-term housing for youth. We would also like to add a mental health practitioner on our staff.

Sincerely,

T. Maras

Tawnya Maras
Youth Services Manager

702 Third Ave South, Virginia, Minnesota 55792-2797
(218) 749-2912 · (800) 662-5711 · FAX: (218)749-2944

Equal Opportunity Employer and Affirmative Action Agency

April 20th, 2023



Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

Athletes Committed to Educating Students (ACES) is a nonprofit that provides out-of-school time programming to students in the middle grades focused on math and social-emotional learning through the lens of sports. Since our founding in 1994, ACES has supported math and social-emotional learning for more than 6,000 Minnesota middle schoolers. Our unique approach strengthens academic outcomes and develops skills like teamwork, perseverance, and confidence for students in Grades 4-8 at nine Minnesota sites.

The core of ACES programming is centered on its research-based, innovative curriculum. To maximize student learning, engagement, and attendance, ACES developed a hands-on curriculum based on state academic standards, focusing on the intersection of sports, math, and social-emotional learning.

Youth who fall behind by one or more grade levels are less likely to be prepared for high school and, as a result, less prepared to lead successful and productive lives as adults. A recent study showed that only 13% of students who failed a math course in sixth grade graduated on time, 6% graduated one year late; the remaining 81% had not graduated by the time the study ended. To help keep ACES students on a path to higher education, employment opportunities, and a stable adult life, ACES sets up all youth to be successful and confident learners, regardless of their racial or socio-economic background. This leads to contributing, responsible, and productive adult members of society.

A longitudinal study performed by the University of Minnesota determined that frequent ACES participants had higher high school attendance rates, higher reading proficiency scores, higher graduation rates (including on-time graduation), and better school engagement (continued enrollment). One notable indicator of impact is that the proportion of ACES 8th graders maintaining enrollment in Minneapolis and Saint Paul schools for 9th grade was significantly higher (95%) than that of their non-ACES peers (73%).

We know that the work that ACES does with young people is making a difference. To continue this work, ACES relies on continued funding from the YIP grant and strongly supports the ongoing funding of this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Saunders', written in a cursive style.

Christina Saunders
Executive Director



4/20/2023

RE: EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR ONGOING FUNDING FOR THE YIP GRANT

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

Banyan is a community development organization whose mission is to develop youth, strengthen families, and create community in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. Banyan offers youth programming year-round to address inequities in academic opportunities that disproportionately impact low-income students and particularly students of color. The effectiveness of our programs is revealed by the 98% high school graduation rate of Banyan youth and how parents are drawn to Banyan because we are viewed as a safe place where their children can grow and thrive. To further support and reinforce youth development, parents receive adult education programming to elevate their knowledge and confidence, while community outreach and gatherings strengthen the neighborhood by building trust and connection.

We wholeheartedly support additional **YIP funding** to continue to provide financial support for the youth of Minnesota. This funding is especially important now as we increase social and emotional support for our youth and resources for families after two years of disruption and unrest. For many youth, these unprecedented challenges have resulted in mental health impacts, learning loss, and high incidences of anxiety and depression. Additionally, increased community violence and social injustice amplified the emotional toll. We've been able to work with our youth in navigating the emergence of interpersonal relationships again, increasing focus and time for homework help and study skills, and social and emotional learning, but more support is needed.

Our youth are resilient and adapting, however, as we intensify our programming support for youth, the need for additional funding is necessary for us to be successful. Next fall, we will have about 170 youth and 100 families participating in our programs. Our youth attend after school and summer programming and enrichment to help close the opportunity gap and enhance social and emotional skills. Our families are strengthened by bringing parents and children together and by helping parents advocate for their children. Banyan youth thrive and ultimately succeed as adults because whole families and the larger community become connected and engaged. All our year-round wrap-around support services are provided at no cost to families, which is why **ongoing funding for the YIP grant** is vitally needed to continue to grow and support the work of organizations like ours.

Thank you for your support of our youth and for supporting **ongoing YIP funding**. If you have any questions, please contact me at any time at 612-722-8512 or carl@banyancommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Carl Schlueter / Executive Director



Big Brothers Big Sisters.

TWIN CITIES

3110 Washington Avenue N.
Minneapolis, MN 55411-1649

BigsTwinCities.org
651.789.2400 Main Office
651.789.2499 Fax

April 20, 2023

Members, Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

Dear Members,

On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities, we write in support of on-going funding for the Minnesota Department of Safety Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grants.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities (BBBS) is a mentoring organization that serves more than 2,500 young people each year who represent a diversity of backgrounds and identities. BBBS offers 1:1 mentoring in the community, school-based mentoring programs, career and future readiness for teens, and programs in partnership with many community-based organizations.

A recent Search Institute report on decades of research confirms that mentoring has a strong positive impact on young people. Youth who have stable, high-quality relationships with adults at school and in the community are more likely to stay in school, improve educational outcomes, experience fewer behavior problems, and be more resilient when confronted by persistent challenges.

And the reality is that many young people are struggling as we face the long-term impacts of the pandemic. Students in Minnesota self-report experiencing greater struggles with mental health, such as depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. The pandemic has also impacted learning, with math and reading proficiency in the Twin Cities dropping substantially during the pandemic and little recovery since. These trends affected young people across all racial, ethnic and income groups.

On-going funding for YIP means that BBBS and other programs that serve young people can expand their offerings and provide more opportunities for young people to get the services and support they need.

As members of the non-profit community focused on helping young people thrive throughout their journey to adulthood, we ask for your support at this critical time for on-going, stable funding for the YIP grants program.

Sincerely,

Patrick Sukhum
CEO

Princess Awa-ada Kisob
VP of Programs



April 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

We are so grateful for the YIP's support over the years. YIP has supported us in having a long-term impact with measurable outcomes. With your support last year, Bolder Options youth increased their decision-making skills with the lifelong learning events that we hosted. 87.5% of youth who graduated at the end of the year agreed they had accomplished at least one goal they set for themselves, and 75% of our graduating youth agreed or mostly agreed that they make good decisions. YIP also helped us accomplish our goals of maintaining relationships between positive, caring adults and youth and increasing the youth's school attendance. At the heart of the Bolder Options experience is the commitment made by each pair to complete the three physical challenges, where mentors help model how to set and incrementally work towards challenging goals. Our staff is available to address challenges in the mentoring relationships and frequently provides referrals to youth and their families to access housing, food, healthcare, and other community resources through our partnering agencies and organizations.

Being around for 30 years means that we're starting to see generations of folks come through the program. A recent story of our long-term commitment and impact is when we ran into Chaleiah a couple of weeks ago. She recognized Bolder Options immediately because her younger brothers have been active in our program and alumni program for years. Chaleiah is currently an AmeriCorps Fellow with the Foundation for Essential Needs but was looking for additional ways to impact her community. After seeing the impact Bolder Options mentorship has had on her brothers, Chaleiah decided to become a mentor herself! She's in the process of applying, and we're excited about the prospect of keeping the Bolder Options connection with her family!

This is just one example of the thousands of lives we can impact thanks to supporters like YIP. We are in support of new ongoing funding for the YIP grant so Bolder Options can make an even bigger impact.

Thank you, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Darrell Thompson
President



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

April 18, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

Since 1974, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota has provided hope and opportunity to tens of thousands of young people in our community. Our mission is to do whatever it takes to empower all youth to reach their full potential. We have three traditional Clubs, 12 school-based KIDSTOP sites, and 1 middle school outreach site to serve youth in kindergarten through 12th grade. We also have 1 pre-school wrap-around program. Club programs provide safe places for youth with trained, caring youth development professionals. We are open Monday – Friday after school and during the summer so youth can develop skills, make lasting connections and achieve great futures.

Our priority outcome areas are Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles and Good Character & Citizenship. To achieve those outcomes, Boys & Girls Club offers a number of nationally tested and proven programs, activities and services in the areas of education, the arts, sports, fitness & recreation, health & wellness, character & leadership development and workforce readiness.

In 2022, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota served 3,869 registered members and saw an average daily attendance of 986. We served 70,901 meals and 130,862 snacks.

According to our survey data:

- 96% of youth say that Club staff care about them and their future
- 95% of youth say they feel accepted for who they are at the Club
- 84% are planning to attend some college after high school
- 90% believe they can stand up for what is right, even if their friends disagree

54% of Club alumni say that the Club literally saved their lives. Many local Club alumni say that their Club experience better prepared them for life. Our 2006 Youth of the Year Stephany O. received a full scholarship to attend the University of St. Thomas. She is now married with a small child, and she works in marketing in the Twin Cities with Health Partners. Stephany also serves on Boys & Girls Club's marketing committee. Stephany is just one of many amazing success stories that prove that Great Futures Start Here!

On behalf of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota, I would like submit our statement of support for ongoing funding for the YIP (Youth Intervention Programs) grant. Funding to support youth programs is desperately needed across the State of Minnesota to positively impact the lives of youth and build a more successful future for the next generation of innovators, educators, builders, creators, government workers and for careers that haven't even been dreamt of today.

Thank you for your commitment to our great state and for your commitment to improving the lives of young people. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at mswingle@bgcmn.org or 320-257-5121.

Sincerely,

Mary Swingle
President/CEO



CENTRO
TYRONE GUZMAN

April 19, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

On behalf of Centro Tyrone Guzman, we are grateful for the opportunity to write this letter to request your support for ongoing funding for the YIP grant.

Centro Tyrone Guzman's Raíces Youth Development Program provides year-round, culturally-centered programming for Latine youth in grades 6-12 in South Minneapolis. In a typical year, Raíces serves more than 100 youth with the goal to promote healthy behaviors, strengthen families, and support youth to achieve a successful future. Just recently, we surveyed Raíces youth participants, and 89% said that as a young Latine in Minnesota, they feel proud of their culture and other identities they carry. In addition, 68% said that the program has helped them accept and take personal responsibility for their actions.

Raíces has relied on the consistent support of YIP for more than a decade. From social entrepreneurship to college preparation to sexual health education, Raíces provides early intervention programming for Latine youth and families who experience a variety of risk factors, such as housing instability, substance abuse, domestic violence, and barriers created by systemic racism. Raíces engages youth in a range of activities designed to help them embrace their culture and identity as assets, while working to strengthen protective factors within a bicultural context.

Centro Tyrone Guzman is so grateful for YIP, and we support ongoing funding for the YIP grant. Please don't hesitate to contact either of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Roxana Linares
Executive Director
rlinares@centromn.org

CHANGE INC.

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

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.

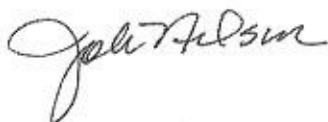
We provide individualized education that attends to the social-emotional needs of students, including mental health services and basic needs resources such as meals, childcare, and transportation. Because the challenges facing our students and their families are continually shifting, Change Inc. works 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. From November 2022 through April 2023, our 14 Community Leadership Development Training interns completed a total of 231 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 be visiting the Minnesota state capitol soon to 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

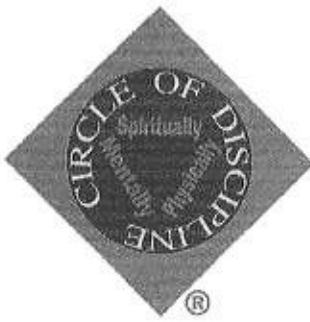
Executive Director, Change Inc.

CHANGE
INSTITUTE

GAP
SCHOOL

COMMUNITY
& SCHOOL
COLLABORATIVE

GAP School and Admin Offices: 381 East Robie Street St. Paul, MN 55107
Community School Clinic: 1229 Tyler Street NE, Suite 200 Minneapolis, MN 55413
PHONE: 651-222-0757 FAX: 651-290-2703 | thechangeinc.org



Circle of Discipline, Inc.

801 SE 9th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 721-1549 office
circlempls@gmail.com
www.circleofdiscipline.org

April 19, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

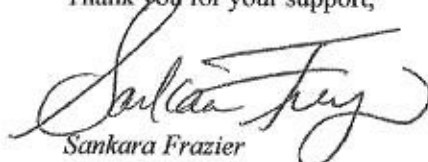
Located in Minneapolis' Marcy Holmes Neighborhood, our organization, the Circle of Discipline (The Circle) is a nonprofit organization that provides programming and services to youth ages 8-24 years old and their families. The Circle's programs and processes are designed to reduce truancy and youth involvement in delinquent behavior and to enhance learning and personal development through group and individual support. The Circle's mission is to empower unrepresented community members by increasing access to opportunities that increase their knowledge and practice of 360 degrees of physical, spiritual, and mental wellness.

The Circle accomplishes its work through three core programs: 360 Advocacy, Pursuit of Discipline Group (POD), and Lifestyles FIT. The programs help at-risk youth increase their decision-making and conflict-resolution skills, develop, and maintain relationships with positive, caring adults, and reduce their participation in illegal activities. The Circle's programming has had and continues to have a tremendous positive impact on the community they serve.

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. Our programs serviced over 233 youth and their families in 2022. We hope to continue to serve our youth and families, but we need your support. Demand for our core programs and additional programming has increased, causing an increase in the cost of our operations.

An increase in YIP funding would allow us and other YIP funded organizations to continue expanding our programming to better serve our youth in need. The expansion of our Circle programs, with your support, would lead to youth having an increased connection to their home community, a reduction in youth involvement in community violence, increased positive adult relationships or mentorships, and youth access to non-traditional programming including art, music, fitness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

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.



1080 Montreal Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116-2694

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

I am writing on behalf of CommonBond Communities, a St. Paul-based nonprofit affordable housing and services provider, whose mission is to build stable homes, strong futures, and vibrant communities. CommonBond offers on-site, after-school Teen Programs for youth in grades 7-12 that support academic achievement, social-emotional skill-building, community engagement and leadership, and fostering future/post-secondary success.

CommonBond receives grant funds from Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Youth Intervention Program (YIP) to support our Teen Programs. These programs serve teens from low- to extremely-low income families, approximately 85% of whom are Black/African American or youth of color. Many are First- or Second-Generation Americans whose families came to the U.S. as immigrants or refugees. YIP supports CommonBond teens who may not otherwise have access to high-quality, out-of-school programming.

CommonBond firmly supports ongoing stable funding of the YIP grant. This investment in Minnesota's future leaders will ensure historically underserved youth receive support and opportunities to prepare them for future success. Ongoing funding will ensure that we, along with other youth-serving organizations, can serve a greater number of youth and work towards safer and healthier communities for all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the ongoing funding of the YIP grant. Please feel free to reach me at the email below with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas Adams, Executive Vice President
Housing and Services
CommonBond Communities
Thomas.Adams@commonbond.org

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

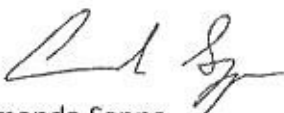
Communities In Schools of the Twin Cities (CISTC) is a non-profit organization located in Saint Paul. The mission of CISTC is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. We embed a trained clinician, or Site Coordinator, in Twin Cities school communities to provide integrated support services, case management, and culturally appropriate interventions for students who are off-track in their attendance, behavior, or grades. CISTC creates pathways for students to access community resources needed to help close the opportunity gap and form long-term, trusting relationships with caring adults.

We believe students are best able to identify what obstacles are hindering their success, and they play a significant role in determining the support services they receive. Each student works with a Site Coordinator to identify their needs, what factors are negatively impacting their ability to achieve, and what supports might help overcome these barriers. Despite ongoing impacts of the pandemic on learning, mental and physical health, and interpersonal relationships, CISTC witnessed the success of students who received our targeted support through the following outcomes last school year:

- 94% of students met or made progress towards their academic goals
- 83% of students improved their attendance
- 100% of students met their behavior and social-emotional learning goals
- 93% of seniors graduated
- 99% of students stayed in school all year

Communities In Schools of the Twin Cities is committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of the challenges they may face, have what they need to succeed in school and beyond. Funding through the state's Youth Intervention Program grant has been a crucial component to our success. I implore you to support ongoing funding for this grant so that we, and other youth serving organizations across our great state, can continue positively impacting youth for years to come.

Sincerely,



Amanda Sappa

CEO and President, Communities In Schools of the Twin Cities



CORNERSTONE
REBUILDING LIVES, RESTORING HOPE

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

Cornerstone Advocacy Service is a non-profit organization providing support to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We have a variety of services, including our Day One Crisis Line, housing and financial support, emergency shelter, therapy, and much more. The Youth Intervention Programs grant supports our work with youth in schools, which provides violence prevention education and one-on-one services to middle and high school students. These youth learn about and find assistance on healthy ways to communicate, cope with stress, express anger, and how to have healthy relationships. All youth need education and guidance on these subjects, especially as they begin to explore relationships and find their place in society.

This work is also essential for ensuring community members of the future lead healthy and happy lives. In fact, 94% of youth who attended our violence prevention presentations increased their knowledge on how to access help for themselves and others, 95% of youth increased their knowledge about violence prevention and intervention, and 97% of youth reported that they will make healthier decisions around relationships, bullying, and anger expression.

I have also included quotes from students when surveyed about what's changed the most in their life since working with Cornerstone.

"My relationships have gotten healthier."

"I feel less ashamed about being vulnerable."

"I have found healthy coping mechanisms by talking out my issues with someone I can trust."

"It helped me be a good person to myself."

The Youth Intervention Programs grant is essential for the continued success of Cornerstone's work in schools. Without the YIP grant, many youth would lose support and education around violence prevention, healthy coping strategies, and healthy relationships. Ongoing funding is greatly needed and would allow Cornerstone, along with other impactful services funded through the YIP grant, to focus on supporting and uplifting youth. Please invest in our youth by investing in ongoing funding for the YIP grant.

Sincerely,

Wilson Yang
School Based Services Coordinator
Cornerstone Advocacy Service

OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY
KATHRYN M. KEENA
COUNTY ATTORNEY



Dakota County Judicial Center
1560 Highway 55
Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2392
Email: attorney@co.dakota.mn.us

Telephone: 651-438-4438
Facsimile: 651-438-4479 (Civil Division)
Facsimile: 651-438-4500 (Criminal Division)
Facsimile: 651-438-4499 (Administration Division)
Facsimile: 651-438-4500 (JPSA Division)

April 21, 2023

Re: Support for Ongoing Base Funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) Grant

Dear Public Safety Committee Members:

As Dakota County Attorney, I would like to express my emphatic support for ongoing base funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) Grant to increase funding for prevention services, intervention services, and barrier reduction services relating to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system. This support is critical for the organizations serving youth.

At the heart of our work is for youth to be productive members of society, including those who have violated the law. As part of the juvenile justice process, we are proud to help make a difference in the lives of youth who have not always made good choices.

The demand for youth services throughout our partnering agencies has increased dramatically, as has the cost of operations. An increase in YIP funding would allow these groups to continue serving youth as well as expand services to more youth in need, resulting in positive outcomes including, but not limited to:

- Increase in child mentoring programs;
- Increase in self-determination and build on strengths to realize their potential;
- Increase in ability to develop positive, healthy relationships; and
- Increase in conflict resolution and decision-making skills through therapy.

Thank you for support which will allow us to help more youth in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Keena

Kathryn M. Keena
Dakota County Attorney

/mh



1001 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
Phone: 612-722-8722
Fax: 612-276-1534
diw-mn.org

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

I am the Executive Director of the Division of Indian Work, the oldest social service agency for American Indians in Minneapolis. Our mission is to support and strengthen urban American Indian people through culturally based education, traditional healing approaches, and leadership development. I am writing to express my support for ongoing funding of the YIP grant, which ensures the continuation of programming aiding today's youth in navigating hardships.

Our YIP funding supports our Youth Leadership Development Program. Our goals for this program are to increase numbers of youth attending and engaging in school; increase numbers of youth graduating; prevent/delay use of alcohol, commercial tobacco, and other drugs; address the high rates of American Indian teen pregnancies; connect youth more closely to their tribal traditions and practices; provide support to young women and opportunities for them to become involved in their community.

We currently serve one hundred youth and plan to expand our programs as we work to rebuild after the pandemic. This YIP funding helps staff our program and is essential to achieving our goals for our young people.

Sincerely,

Louise Matson

White Earth Band of Ojibwe

Executive Director



April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

East Side Neighborhood Services provides a wide range of services to youth, families, and elder adults – from addressing food insecurity and creating job training programs for the future to providing positive youth development opportunities throughout the community. In 2016 ESNS received its first Youth Intervention Program grant to provide Creative Arts Therapy services to youth and families. Since then, we have served 168 youth through weekly therapy and over 2000 youth through therapeutic groups in our Out-of-School Time (OST) programs.

The YIP grant has been foundational in offering this unique, multi-faceted program to meet the mental health needs of our participants. Unfortunately, it is one of few reliable sources of youth development funding (public or private) across the state. ***We strongly urge you to support increased and on-going funding*** that ensures programs like ours can continue to provide prevention, intervention, and barrier reduction services to youth in our communities. These types of investments are a source of transformative change for our youth and communities!

Our Creative Arts Therapy services utilize arts and drama therapies as direct interventions to treat the mental health of our youth. Numerous studies show that the mental health trends in our communities are going the wrong way and mental health needs are at an all-time high – especially for our youth. We are seeing these same trends among our programs as families face long waiting lists with other providers. YIP funding ensures we can provide our Creative Arts Therapy services free-of-charge, and meet with youth at school, at home, or in the community, further reducing barriers for families.

We and the youth in our communities thank you for your ongoing support!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Walz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small red mark at the end.

Lindsay Walz

Sr. Director of Youth & Families
Email: lwalz@esns.org



April 19, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Elpis Enterprises, a nonprofit organization in Ramsey County working with young people between 16 and 24 years of age experiencing unstable housing, urges you to support ongoing funding of the Youth Intervention Program. This includes adding to its base funding. We see every day in our work how young people can develop positive connections to the community with appropriate support and guidance. We also see the impact when those connections are not there. We see young people working hard to make the right choices but they see what is going on in their neighborhoods and struggle to see a brighter future. Throughout the state, programs do not have the resources to meet the increasing number of youth needing support and guidance.

Elpis see the positive impact of youth intervention programs. As a youth intervention program, Elpis' approach focuses on helping young people to not just enter the workforce but to launch a career path that will allow them to be financially self-sufficient and feel valued and fulfilled as an individual.

For Elpis, Youth Intervention Program funding would allow us to work with more youth and for a longer time. How do we know what Elpis offers works? At Elpis, after completing our program,

- 80% or more of trainees each year are continuing in school and/or have gained employment.
- A significantly larger number of trainees report that compared to when they first began at Elpis, they feel more supported in their goals and have more adults in their lives that they can turn to discuss and problem solve when faced with a challenge.

We also know the longer we work with a young person, the better the outcome. For those who we work with for six or more months (500 or more hours), their outcomes include employment that matches their career interests with earnings significantly above minimum wage.

It takes time and significant staff resources to provide the level of support our trainees typically need to 'connect the dots' and make the right choices. However, our work is just one component of youth intervention. Other youth intervention programs, such as mental health services, restorative justice, and out-of-school time programs, are needed. What they offer is beyond our mission, expertise, or the hours we operate but what many of our trainees need to succeed at Elpis. Elpis does not operate in a silo.

It is not just youth service providers that want more quality youth intervention programs. Increasing the Youth Intervention Program funds benefits businesses across Minnesota that need valuable employees. And individuals across Minnesota want more youth intervention in their communities. For too many, the toll of violence and drugs on youth and young adults is personal and part of their daily life. A vote to increase Youth Intervention Program funds, including increasing its base funding, is the right vote.

Sincerely,

Paul Ramsour
Executive Director



April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

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 recreation activities. Our Family Resource Facilitator heads up our team support for basic needs and mental health referrals and connections. Partnerships with mental health agencies, Ely Schools, and the City are strong. Community volunteers help us provide additional meaningful relationships.

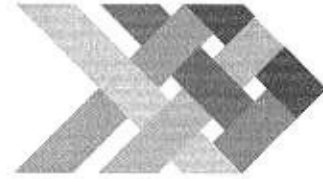
As you are aware, so many youths of today have significant need for extra adult support to assist them in making up for lost opportunities, academic set-backs, and emotional trauma inflicted by isolation and uncertainty related to COVID 19. It's significant that referrals and requests for mentors have tripled. As their problem-solving capacity and "attitudes about life" develop during their school career—in today's often very negative world—these young people need opportunities to be challenged, supported through mistakes made, and recognized for their worth today and their future importance.

Our staff and volunteers work with and truly know most of the students in our Ely Schools. Our focus group of 80 students receive credit recovery help, homework help parents are unable to provide, food insecurity attention, mental health support, and training in social skills that help them thrive. 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. In aggregate, 89% of goals are achieved.

Programs like ours are dependent on strong funding to provide the high quality staff required to handle the challenges of today. The YIP grant has been a cornerstone for ECR. As costs continue to rise and Rescue money sunsets, continuity and consistency logically becomes more difficult. In the interest of public safety, we have a responsibility to continue providing that support for our youth. Please support ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Program.

Sincerely,

Julie Hignell
Executive Director



ESPERANZA UNITED

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference
Committee:

Esperanza United was founded in 1982 in Minnesota to provide emergency shelter and support services for Latin@ women and children experiencing domestic and sexual violence. In 2009, we launched a national resource center that provides training and technical assistance, research, and national policy advocacy, all focused on addressing and preventing gender-based violence in Latin@ communities. Our organization works directly with Latin@ survivors of domestic and sexual violence seeking services and safety. Locally, Esperanza United has expanded our services to offer critical, innovative services and support, ranging from family advocacy and shelter services to leadership development and community engagement opportunities for Latin@ youth, women, men, and gender non-conforming folks in the seven-county metro areas. Utilizing the whole family approach, we are building a culture of healthy relationships that honors the diverse realities of Latin@ communities.

"Amig@s" is our local initiative that engages with the Latin@ community, providing intervention and prevention programs to people of all genders and ages. For example, through our Prevention and Social Change initiatives, **800 Latin@+** youth and adults are building new peer relationships, gaining confidence in their roles as community leaders, encouraging action to promote healthy relationships and challenge social norms that perpetuate violence in its many different forms.

This work is fulfilling, but not easy, especially when statistics from our own research demonstrates that **one in three young people experience dating violence**. As we continue to work with community, we face challenges around restricted funding that does not allow us to fill the gaps and barriers that Latin@ youth experience every day. For example, currently, we are not able to provide the much-needed wraparound services that provide Latin@ youth opportunities for development, leadership, healing, housing and financial stability. With your support and the ongoing support of the YIP grant, Esperanza United and other nonprofits and community programs will continue to expand our responses and promote initiatives that will empower the new generation of youth in the Twin Cities.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this letter. We know that together we can keep making an impact in our community.

Sincerely,

Patricia J Tototzintle, President and CEO



Evergreen
Youth & Family Services
Strengthening Youth, Preserving Families.

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

I am writing this letter to show my support for ongoing funding for the YIP grant, which will continue to provide some of the most vulnerable youth in northern Minnesota with the mental health support they so desperately need.

Evergreen Youth & Family Services is a community-based organization nestled in northern Minnesota in Beltrami County. We've been serving youth experiencing homelessness, runaways, and families in crisis for 46 years in this highly remote and rural region that stretches from Bemidji to isolated and small towns up north, and across three American Indian Reservations: Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth. Many people in our area are faced with persistent poverty, a lack of transportation, a lack of living wage jobs, a lack of affordable and safe housing, and so many more disparities. Because of these factors and others, we see the struggle youth and families have with substance abuse, suicide, sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and mental health challenges.

At Evergreen we serve youth ages 9-24 with our continuum of services from two locations: Evergreen Drop-In Center (16-24) and Evergreen Youth Shelter (ages 9-17). We provide food, clothing, a safe place to take a shower, independent living skills, emergency shelter stays, housing support, family support services, mental health support and so much more. Many of the youth we see struggle with mental health issues and urgently need our help in this area. The YIP grant assists us in giving these vulnerable youth access to mental health therapy provided by our onsite mental health therapists, and support for families through our family support services. In 2022, our mental health program held over 800 sessions, and family support program held over 600 sessions. Youth and families participated in their sessions in person and/or virtually, and in one-on-one or group sessions. At our shelter, 77% of the youth were experiencing mental health issues (EBD, FAS, FAE, SED, ADD), 43% suicidal ideation, 75% depression, along with other challenges.

The need for mental health services and funding is so great in northern Minnesota and the youth are counting on you to make sure that the funding continues to be there when they are faced with mental health challenges. Please support ongoing funding for the YIP grant.

Sincerely,

Ebony Warren
Executive Director
Evergreen Youth & Family Services



April 19, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

Family Enhancement Center (FEC) is celebrating 30 years of creating lasting solutions to prevent and treat child abuse and trauma. FEC has accomplished this mission through expert community engagement and education along with trauma informed psychotherapy and skill building for youth.

During those 30 years:

- 3,000 youth received psychotherapy and skill building to address Mental health concerns, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.
- 2,000 families received parent education, coaching or modeling.
- FEC developed a Survivor Support program for youth affected by trauma, including:
 - Healing Motion (FEC's group program designed for female identified youth ages who have experienced sexual trauma). This group provides education for safety and stopping the cycle of abuse, emotional support, body-based coping skills and mindfulness-based interventions.
 - Drumbeat (FEC's group program for young men who have experienced trauma). This group integrates a curriculum focused on teaching responsible behavior with younger children, education on the victim-offender cycle, coping skills and emotional support.
- FEC developed many community building initiatives that brought families together for mutual support and resulted in lifelong friendships.

With support from previous Youth Intervention Grant Funding, FEC developed a collaboration with Johns Hopkins University to prevent youth sexual assault, have developed more collaborative relationships with other community organizations, and created and piloted Youth Intervention & Empowerment Curriculum. When a youth who participated in the curriculum was asked who are you and what can you be? She stated *"I can be an influential person where people look up to me."* Witnessing our youth believe in themselves and their abilities to make positive contributions to the world around them has been an extraordinary journey. We couldn't have done it without Youth Intervention Grant Funding and because of that I hope that you will vote for providing more Youth Intervention Funding during this budget session.

Sincerely,

Skye Johnson

Skye Johnson
YIP Program Manager/ Psychotherapist
Family Enhancement Center



PHONE
612.827.3028



EMAIL
info@mnpreventabuse.org



ADDRESS
4826 Chicago Avenue
South #105
Minneapolis, MN 55417



April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Hmong American Partnership (HAP); a nonprofit agency based in St. Paul's East Side that offers wrap-around services to over 18 different refugee and immigrant populations, including Hmong, Karen, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian and Lao. We also serve a growing East African (primarily Somali) population. We leverage the skills, experiences, and cultural assets of our 100+ staff - among whom 90% identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color) and primarily Southeast Asian (SEA), and 84% speak a language other than English - to serve our clients and communities with an unparalleled degree of cultural responsiveness. HAP is recognized as a thought leader and change agent in addressing health and socio-economic disparities for SEA communities.

HAP ascribes to the core tenants of youth work and workers matter, and strongly believes adequate funding is necessary to properly cultivate tomorrow's leaders. Our current College and Career Readiness program provides career exploration and college readiness, job skills training and certification, and mentoring to at-risk Hmong, Karen, and Karenni middle and high school students. This program provides preventive services that prepare youth for academic achievement, workplace readiness, and success as an adult. Youth in our program are strongly encouraged to include their families in their education and career discovery process and explore how their community can support them in accomplishing their postsecondary goals. Since 2019 HAP has served over 476 SEA, low-income youth and have seen 129 youth complete a job skills training program.

Other program successes include:

- 80% of participants have improved relationships with their parents.
- 100% of participants and parents agree that youth are reducing risk factors for illegal activities.
- 80% of parents agreed their children were able to identify and connect with positive role models in their lives
- 80% of parents indicated that their children were more self-confident; and
- 80% of parents think that their children are more connected to their cultural heritage.

The extraordinary stressors impacting urban youth in recent years are even more profoundly felt by those in the immigrant and refugee communities we serve. Although the complexity of engaging our youth continues to increase, we remain steadfast in honoring our commitment to compassionately support our young people and meet their needs. The Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grant is essential to our provision of youth-centered services and HAP's youth programs. We support a strong investment in YIP as an investment in the power and potential of our collective future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "myer", written over a light blue circular stamp.

May yer "mine-za" Thao

President & CEO

Email: mavyert@hmong.org

April 19, 2023



Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference,

Kids 'n Kinship provides community and school-based mentoring to children and youth 5 to 16 who are in need of an additional supportive relationship with an adult. Our vision is to build a stronger community through youth mentorships. We serve 71 youth who are matched with mentors and another 41 youth who are waiting to be matched. Additionally, we support 79 mentors.

The youth we serve are all located in Dakota County in the towns of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville and Rosemount. The youth we serve come from predominantly low income, single guardian households. Social workers/social services, school staff, and guardians can all refer children to receive additional adult support in way of mentoring if their child is struggling in school, has family system issues, or needs additional social emotional support they currently do not have.

Specific outcomes show that:

- 91% of the youth are reducing their isolation through consistent visits with their mentor.
- 94% of the youth have established a positive relationship with their mentor.
- 96% reported no serious incidents or behavior during the time they were matched with a mentor or a reduction of risky behavior.
- In addition, 13% reported seeing an increase in their ability to make positive decisions, and 77% maintaining a similar proficiency. Similarly, 12% reported seeing improved conflict resolution skills, and 77% maintaining that proficiency.

Kids 'n Kinship is witness to the power youth mentoring has on the lives of youth and families we are privileged to work with. We are writing to support continued and strengthened youth funding for the YIP Grant whose funds provide a stable source of funding to allow us to see out this vital work in the lives of youth of Dakota County!

Jan Belmore
(she, her, hers) Director

Jan Belmore

Jerod Petersen, LGSW
(He, Him, His) Program
Coordinator

Jerod Petersen

La Oportunidad, Inc.

Championing the development of Latino individuals
and families to create a strong, peaceful community

April 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

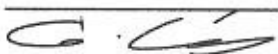
La Oportunidad (which means Opportunity) is a Latino nonprofit in Minneapolis. Our mission is to Champion the development of Latino individuals and families to create a strong, peaceful community. Our Youth Programs' goal is to close the achievement gap through a comprehensive approach which includes providing students with the education, life-long skills development, tools, and connections needed to lead and succeed in the 21st century. These programs support and empower under-represented, low-income Latino immigrant youth so that they can reach their full potential. In partnership with school districts, community members and individuals, our youth programs serve over 300 low-income Latino immigrant youth each year through its various program components. We have worked successfully with schools, families, and the community to close educational achievement gaps and eliminate cycles of violence and poverty. Through bilingual, culturally competent school-based programs Latino youth gain a plan of action to pursue higher education, an introduction to career pathways, work-readiness skills.

In the past two years, we have been impacted by an increased demand for our youth services, as our Latino community is rapidly growing, especially among its youth population (as documented in the most recent, 2020, census count). Our programs serve Twin Cities low-income Hispanic/Latino immigrants. In Minnesota, the 2020 census reported a Hispanic/Latino population of 345,640; the population grew from 143,382 in 2000 to 345,640 (6.1%) in 2020. A 141% growth in the past 20 years! In 2021, the Minneapolis-St. Paul total population was 761,847, 28% of this population (over 213,000) is Hispanic/Latino; 34% of Hispanic families live in poverty (more than double the poverty rate for all Minnesotans). The underlying conditions leading to that statistic are complex and connected to a host of social, racial, and economic factors. Latinos are one of Minnesota's fastest growing ethnic groups; 37% of the Hispanic population in Minnesota is under 18 years old, which is 14% higher than the percentage of the state population under 18.

Our Youth Programs area researched-based and have a record track of success. Some of their most recent (2022) outcomes include, participants...

- Increased participation in their education and life goals (2022: 85%)
- Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests (2022: 84%)
- Identified required education and skills needed to pursue their career path (2022: 84%)
- Developed a basic plan to fulfill their short and long-term educational and career goals (2022: 85%)
- Identified a mentor who can support them (2022: 85%)
- Increased capacity for leadership and/or ability to make a positive contribution to their community (2022: 93%).

In order to meet the increased demand for our youth programs, we need additional funding. Therefore, on behalf of our organization I fully support an increase on youth intervention funding during this budget session.



Most Sincerely, Eloisa Echavez, Executive Director



2021 E Hennepin Ave, Suite 405
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413
Tel: 612-872-6165
www.oportunidad.org



Help Today for a Better Tomorrow

4/20/23

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

On behalf of Lakeland Mental Health Center (LMHC), I am writing to express my support for ongoing funding of the YIP grant. YIP's programs help assist in ensuring the continued programming of youth services.

Lakeland Mental Health Center (LMHC) is a 501C3 3 non-profit, that provides a variety of behavioral health services in Minnesota. LMHC has been providing services to our communities since 1949. Each year, LMHC provides services to over 8,000 individuals who are suffering from a variety of mental health diagnosis, who are just experiencing symptoms or who are in need of other services that we offer. LMHC has offices in Alexandria, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Glenwood and Moorhead. LMHC also has satellite offices in Perham and Parkers Prairie. LMHC's services take place in the office, school or around the community depending on the service being delivered. LMHC's mission is to provide high quality, accessible, behavioral healthcare to individuals, families and communities.

LMHC believes the funding for YIP is crucial for the youth served across our communities, as well as everywhere in the state. Many youth have financial, physical, and familial barriers to participate in traditional outpatient mental health services, and the YIP grant allows providers to provide free support to all students, removing said barriers as well as promoting healthy relationships with peers.

Thank you for supporting the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) through grant funding. We hope that these funds are continued in the years to come to help assist in the treatment of our youth. Maintaining and sustaining youth programs in our state is essential for the treatment of mental health of our youth.

Donna Baker, CEO

Lakeland Mental Health Center (LMHC)

980 South Tower Rd
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: (218) 736-6987
Fax: (218) 736-6980

1010 32nd Ave S
Moorhead, MN 56560
Phone: (218) 233-7524
Fax: (218) 233-8627

928 8th St SE
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: (218) 847-1576
Fax: (218) 847-1578

14 6th Avenue NW
Glenwood, MN 56334
Phone: (320) 634-3446
Fax: (320) 634-0384

702 34th Ave East
Alexandria, MN 56308
Phone: (320) 752-2400
Fax: (320) 752-8047

Lakeland Mental Health Center
www.lmhc.org

24 hr. Emergency/Crisis 1-800-223-4512



REPAIR THE HARM - BUILD THE COMMUNITY

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project (LARJP) is a Non-Profit Court Diversion program that offers youth ages 8-25 an opportunity to be held accountable, make reparations and bring closure and healing into their life and the lives of those impacted. This program is designed to bring together the person who caused the harm, the person harmed or victim, a member of the community and law enforcement in a safe, judgement-free space where everyone feels welcome to share their truth, experiences and how they have been impacted by the crime. Over the past several years LARJP has been growing, expanding or identifying expansion opportunities that will allow our organization to keep recidivism below 15%, help youth navigate some of the most difficult times of their life while also holding them accountable for their actions, understanding the weight of their decisions and break free from the labels and stigmas that plague people who have involvement with the criminal justice system. These funding decisions surrounding youth work in Minnesota are imperative and will determine the health of each of our communities future and if funding is provided, the many youth programs like ours will be able to continue to do the much needed work and have the ability to focus on expanding programming, investing more time in our communities most valuable and fragile resource, the youth of our State. We have applied many times to receive funding and just a few short years ago due to the lack of funding almost had to close our doors and its decisions like this funding bill that will determine the continued success of our program, level of impact and level of support that we will be able to offer.

I applaud those who are considering this funding for Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grant as it funds the necessary and impactful programs like LARJP and am open to any discussion, questions or feedback, but can say without a doubt that every dollar that YIP is awarded in funding will have a direct impact on the future of our community, state and country!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Andrews", is written over a light gray background.

Brian Andrews
Executive Director
Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project
218-820-1128
2011 South 6th Street Suite A
Brainerd, MN 56401



lakes center
FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

Guiding Successful Futures

20 Lake St. N. Suite 103
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Phone: (651) 464-3685 • Fax: (651) 464-3687
www.lc4yf.org

April 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

On behalf of Lakes Center for Youth and Families and the clients/participants we serve, I strongly support ongoing support for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant to increase funding for prevention services, intervention services, and barrier reduction services relating to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

The description of this proposed legislation is aligned with the mission of Lakes Center (Youth Service Bureau) when established in 1976 and continues today. Our staff helps youth who are involved in higher-risk behavior or potentially higher-risk behavior understand that they are responsible for the outcomes of their decisions and empower them to make better choices. By using programs designed to reduce problem behaviors, our intervention programs help individuals gain vital development skills that lead to healthier relationships, better decision making, and a deeper connectedness with family and community.

We have four components of intervention programming:

- Partnering with the justice system and law enforcement, staff serve as a step prior to formally engaging with the justice system by engaging parents/guardians and youth to develop healthy, positive decision-making skills and interrupt harmful behavior patterns. In 2022, 188 youth were served through 383 sessions.
- Partnering with local elementary schools, staff provide after school and summer programming, at no cost, with the curriculum focused on positive decision making. In 2022, 121 youth were serviced through 1,108 sessions.
- Partnering with one elementary school, a full time staff member works with staff and students in the prevention and intervention of potentially disruptive and harmful behavior in a myriad of ways by tailoring solutions to real time situations. 300 youth (duplicate count) were served in individual, group and classrooms settings.
- Partnering with local law enforcement and community leaders, staff plan and implement a one to two day Safety Camp for elementary aged students. 50 youth were served.

Ongoing and increased support is needed to maintain and expand our intervention programming to support the youth and families of our community, along with the many programs conducting important work throughout the state. And, as a state, we save money and increase support for youth and families by intervening early and consistently through high quality prevention/intervention programming. Please support ongoing support for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant.

Linda M. Madsen, PhD
Executive Director



LEE CARLSON CENTER™
For Mental Health & Well-Being

4/20/23

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

On behalf of Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well-being, I am writing to express my support for ongoing funding of the YIP grant, which ensures the continuation of programming aiding today's youth in navigating hardships.

Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well-being, a 501 © 3 non-profit, is the primary provider of outpatient mental health services in Anoka County and surrounding area. We year we offer hope and healing to more than 6,000 individuals and their family members struggling with a variety of emotional health concerns. A beacon of hope and healing for over 40 years, our mission is to provide exceptional and affordable mental health services to families, children, youth, and adults.

Funding for YIP is crucial for the youth served in Lee Carlson Center's partnered schools. Many students have financial, physical, and familial barriers to participate in traditional outpatient mental health services, and the YIP grant allows us to provide free support to all students, removing said barriers as well as promoting healthy relationships with peers.

Our program offers support groups as well as individual skills for youth experiencing challenges such as disruption in homelife like an incarcerated or non-present parent, homelessness, bullying, traumatic histories, social anxiety, etc. The continued funding helps our program to survive and provides a safe space for these youth to navigate challenges and build the skills necessary to rise above past and present circumstances for a hopeful future. Through our programming 94% of clients state they are better able to manage their emotions, and 95% state they would recommend our programming to others.

Thank you for supporting ongoing funding of the YIP grant, which gives us the means to support more youth in our community on their journey to becoming happy, healthy, and whole adults.

Sincerely,

Susan Fullerton
Chief Executive Officer



LIFE HOUSE

April 21, 2023

102 W. 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802

OFFICE (218) 722-7431
FAX (218) 722-0850

LIFEHOUSEDULUTH.ORG

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

Established in 1991 and located in the heart of Downtown Duluth, Life House, Inc. is a grassroots organization serving homeless and at-risk youth ages 14-24 throughout the greater Duluth area. Our *lifeline* model is comprised of four cornerstone program suites with corresponding developmental objectives: Youth Drop-in Center (**Connect**), Community & Residential Housing (**Stabilize**), Mental Health & Wellness (MHWP) (**Heal**), and Futures Education & Employment (**Thrive**).

With the support of the Youth Intervention Program grant, Life House's Life Hacks program serves at-risk teens who are living in poverty, unstably housed or homeless, have experienced family conflict, have engaged in illicit survival behaviors, and/or struggle with substance abuse or mental illness. We disproportionately works with underserved populations particularly Indigenous, Black, and youth of mixed race as well as LGBTQ+ individuals. Life House also works closely with partner agencies, schools, child welfare authorities, law enforcement, and community leaders/elders who refer youth to the program.

Youth Intervention Prevention funding enables Life House to engage youth in activities designed to build developmental relationships with trustworthy, caring adults while enhancing interpersonal and independent living skills that are critical to school, work, and life success. The funding supports a full-time Coordinator who is responsible for program development, implementation of a quarterly calendar of classes and activities, and monitoring youth progress on self-identified goals. The program is offered after-school between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday primarily at our main campus located in downtown Duluth.

In addition to basic life skills, Life House teens often face critical academic and job skill deficits which are compounded by the trauma of homelessness, neglect, abandonment and exploitation – experiences contributing to substance abuse and mental illness. This programming also helps ensure youth do not 'slip through the cracks'. Rather than simply scheduling an appointment for some future date, the Program Coordinator makes a warm handoff by introducing youth to these programs. Staff in these areas are experts in their field: the MHWP team includes two licensed independent social workers, a licensed alcohol and drug counselor, and two certified peer recovery specialists; the Futures team comprises a licensed teacher, vocational rehabilitation specialist, and employment case manager. After making the initial connection, the Program Coordinator monitors attendance and regularly checks in with youth to encourage regular participation and forward momentum on Independent Living Plans.

Funding through the Office of Justice Programs-YIP is a critical resource for programs like ours, and ongoing funding is paramount to the success of the organizations and youth across Minnesota who benefit from it.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jordon Eunison-Chisti
Executive Director

Here today. Here tomorrow.

Little Sand GROUP HOME
CONTINUOUS SERVICE SINCE 1976



"A-Place of Refuge"

PHONE: (218) 566-2342

FAX: (218) 566-2341

www.littlesandgrouphome.com

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

For nearly 50-years, Little Sand Group Homes has provided residential treatment and care to female youth ages 11-21 in a rural setting in northern Minnesota. Having served thousands of youths to date, we are committed to providing a safe, supportive, nurturing and empowering environment for our residents to address their individual struggles and overcome the challenges they have had to face in their young lives. The youth we serve have experienced extensive trauma, abuse, and/or loss and deserve a place to heal from their pain and learn how to move forward in their lives in a healthy and productive manner. We offer a live-in houseparent group home level of care with contracted therapeutic, psychological and psychiatric staff as additional support. We work together with ISD 118 in providing educational services to our residents, including an alternative school setting on-site at Little Sand that exclusively serves Little Sand residents until such time they are able to transition to the mainstream setting.

Our outcome data reports success in the following tracked areas: transitioning to a lower level of care, school success, substance abuse, law-aiding, and placement goal completion.

On behalf of Little Sand Group Home, we would like to submit our statement of support for continued funding for the YIP (Youth Interventions Program) grant. Funding for youth is a crucial need if we are going to provide the level of services and quality of care required to sufficiently and meaningfully impact their young lives. Little Sand has past residents that have returned to work for our agency, residents who contact us when they are in need or when they have happy life events they want to share. The connections they make with the staff are long-lasting and the program's impact can be far-reaching. Investing in programs that facilitate growth and healing, as well as foster strong and healthy relationships between youth and caring adults, is a powerful tool in maximizing our youth's potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Pepin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Pepin
Executive Director
Little Sand Group Homes



April 27, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's comments on the Judiciary and Public Safety omnibus bill. LSS is a provider of essential services across all 87 counties with more than 2,500 employees who serve one in 63 Minnesotans every year. We are committed to innovative, person-centered service delivery that promotes resilience and long-term stability for people in all stages of life.

We strongly support increased investment in Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) which support youth facing the highest risks for involvement in the juvenile justice system. YIP funding supports the LSS STEAM Freedom School, an intensive, six-week summer program with a focus on positive decision-making, goal setting, and finding solutions to real-life problems. In the summer of 2022, YIP funding helped support 30 Freedom School scholars in a high intensity reading curriculum and STEAM learning activities. During the summer months youth face increased vulnerability to reading slumps, high-risk behaviors, peer pressure, and lack of structured and positive activities. YIP funding helps LSS keep youth engaged as learners and as positive community members.

We are thankful for continued investments in supporting youth statewide. Unfortunately, due to several factors, the need is much greater than currently available resources. Increasing investment in YIP will support a continuum of services that improve access to service, build community connection, and remove barriers to health and well-being. LSS and other service providers would be able to strengthen services for youth that build on their assets and connect them with supportive adults.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity. Please contact Erin Sutton, LSS' Senior Director of Advocacy, at erin.sutton@lssmn.org if we may provide further information on this deeply important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen P. Kingsley".

Karen Kingsley
Sr. Director
LSS Youth and Family Services



MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER

1530 East Franklin Avenue * Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Phone: (612) 871-4555 or 879-1700 * Fax: (612) 879-1795

Website: www.maicnet.org

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

I am writing in support of ongoing funding of the YIP grant. The Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC) has been a youth service provider for more than thirty (30) years. Our Youth Services includes a Boys & Girls Club through the Native Services division of the National Boys & Girls Club, a resiliency building curriculum for school age youth through the Ginew/Golden Eagle Project, American Indian cultural activities, teachings and events, as well as educational support and health/wellness activities. Located in the heart of the urban American Indian community in south Minneapolis, we provide support to the families of the youth through resource and referrals to internal MAIC programs, as well as external sources. A grant through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Youth Intervention Program (YIP), has been a consistent funding source for our Youth Services, allowing MAIC to provide seamless services to our young people.

The urban American Indian youth are resilient, and programs like the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) meet youth where they are and provide support and guidance to help young people succeed. Our urban American Indian youth have been impacted by historical trauma. Urban American Indian youth have suffered the loss of cultural teachings and the loss of Indigenous languages due to the Indian Relocation Act of 1956 and the forced removal of their ancestors from their homes to boarding schools. Indigenous languages and cultural practices and teachings were not passed down through generations, and as a result, youth may struggle with identity. Our urban American Indian youth need access to their cultural teachings, languages, practices. Youth are also in need of programs that provide both prevention and intervention services. They see the impacts of homelessness, drugs and alcohol, violence and gun violence in the community. Serving more than 100 youth annually, MAIC's Youth Services Program has been vital in prevention and intervention.

Ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grants is vital to the health, cultural wellness, education and future for our urban American Indian youth. Youth programs are safe spaces for youth to learn and grow, and more are needed. I am in full support of ongoing funding for the YIP grant.

Miigwech/Thank you

Mary LaGarde
Executive Director



April 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

On behalf of Minnesota Alliance With Youth, I would like to offer my enthusiastic support of the Youth Intervention Project funds, and encourage you to generously fund this program during your deliberations.

Minnesota Alliance With Youth works in partnership with youth to ensure that ALL young people have equitable educational opportunities that foster their individual assets, honor their voices, and prepare them to reach their goals. Our AmeriCorps Promise Fellow program, a YIPA partner, places individuals in schools and community organizations across the state to implement prevention-oriented interventions and supports addressing student dropout by targeting students in grades 6-12 who show the early warning signs of school disengagement. Our cost-effective program creates real results for middle and high school students. A recent study showed that students that participated in the program attended an additional week, or roughly five days of school, relative to students that did not participate in the program.

Programs like our AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, and many other youth-serving programs across the state, rely on the support of the Youth Intervention Program funds to get results for underserved students in Minnesota. I urge you to include ongoing funding for the YIP grant in the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus bill this year.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erich Mische".

Erich Mische, Executive Director
Minnesota Alliance With Youth

Minnesota Alliance With Youth
1400 Van Buren Street, Suite #200-223 Minneapolis, MN 55413
www.mnyouth.net

April 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health (MACMH) is a flourishing, statewide organization widely known and respected for over thirty years for its training and programming provided to professionals, parents, and youth across Minnesota. To coordinate these activities, MACMH has created a functional infrastructure that employs eager, skilled, committed staff and volunteers. Similar to Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA), MACMH knows the following concerns are impacting the communities we serve:

1. Improved access to mental health services: Young people often face barriers to accessing mental health services, such as lack of insurance, stigma, and limited availability.
2. Prevention and early intervention (PEI): PEI programs can help young people learn to manage their mental health needs before they become more serious.
3. Trauma-informed care: Many young people have experienced trauma that may impact their mental health. Trauma-informed care helps them to better cope with and heal from these experiences.
4. Support for LGBTQ+ youth: LGBTQ+ youth often face unique challenges when it comes to mental health, such as higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.
5. Cultural competency and sensitivity: Mental health services must be tailored to meet the needs of all youth, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.
6. Mental health education: Young people need access to education about mental health and how to care for their mental well-being.

I strongly support ongoing funding for youth intervention programs, as they provide essential services to young people needing guidance and support. These programs can help prevent youth from entering cycles of poverty, crime, and addiction and provide them with the skills and resources they need to become productive members of society. With the right interventions, young people can build brighter futures for themselves and create a more equitable world.

Sincerely,



Brandon Jones, M.A., CPPM

He/Him

Executive Director

Office Number: 651-789-8626 | Email: bjones@macmh.org

Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health

April 21, 2023

Re: Support for Ongoing funding for Youth Intervention (YIP) grant

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

On behalf of Health Start the School Based Health Clinics which is a program of Minnesota Community Care, I would like to express our support for Bill HF 1712 to increase funding for prevention and intervention services to help young people develop independent living skills, positive relationships, conflict resolution and decision-making skills while receiving integrated health services .

Health Start works with youth in 10 different School Based Clinics in Saint Paul and with youth serving community resources and schools without clinics. We provide medical, mental health , nutrition, and health education services in our clinics and in the community without cost to the young people or their families and have done this for the last 50 years.

Over the years, we've experienced so many stressors on young people and the past 3 years have been unprecedented. The effects of the Covid pandemic and the isolation that it caused, the continued violence in our communities, challenges to our civic stability and all the other events that were beyond the control of these young people have taken a toll.

We have seen the importance of services that are available, acceptable to youth and accessible begin as a path to a safer and more normal environment for them to thrive.

So many of our youth serving agencies work together to help in a variety of ways to provide the variety of services which are so important in supporting youth and their families. The future of our community depends on our "being there" for them while they are on this journey.

Sandy Naughton Supervisor of Health Education- Health Start Clinics -MCC

Saf



Moorhead Police Department

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



April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

The Moorhead Police Department (MPD) is writing to you in support of the need for ongoing, stable funding for youth-serving programs that positively impact our young people. MPD is able to offer four programs to the youth of Moorhead and Clay County thanks to the Youth Intervention Programs grant funding. These programs are offered free to families because of the grant funds received. They are geared to serve underserved and at-risk youth. Following is a description of each of our programs:

Summer Youth Program: This program has been offered by the Moorhead Police Department since the 1980's. Its purpose is to offer free, healthy activities and exposure to police officers and responsible adult mentors to children in our community who may not have any other activity options for the summer. For seven weeks in the summer, 200, 8-12 year olds have set plans for one day of the week that includes lunch, an educational component and a fun activity, all while getting to engage with police officers in a fun, positive atmosphere. One of our goals with this program is for kids to get to know our School Resource Officers and get more comfortable being around law enforcement in general.

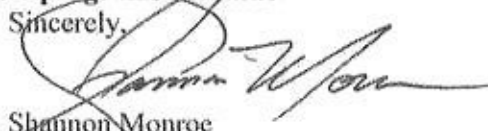
Community Service Program: This program has been in existence since 1994. In partnership with the Probation Department, the MPD Youth Service Coordinator (YSC) supervises youth directed to perform community service. Our goal with this program is not only to have juveniles complete their court ordered community service hours, but also be mentored by our Youth Services Coordinator. YSC Ochoa strives to find projects that give the youth a sense of pride in their accomplishments as well as teach them some valuable life skills. YSC Ochoa develops a trusting relationship with these youth and shows them that there are people who care about their future and are there to help them long after they have completed their community service hours.

Change Starts with YOUth Summer Camp: This program began in 2012 and is designed for officers to work with a small group of at-risk youth that focuses on building positive relationships with law enforcement while learning about positive choices for a successful future. Participants are youth ages 12-15 referred by school counselors and probation officers that are first time offenders or are starting to exhibit tendencies towards negative choices and/or illegal behavior. These youth 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 camp has proven over the years that youth now feel comfortable coming to our School Resource Officers with problems, questions or even to share information about things going on in the schools.

Not a Number: The Moorhead Police Department and the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center are partnering to provide 7th and 8th grade students attending Horizon Middle School an opportunity to attend the program. Not a Number is a Love 146's Child Trafficking and Exploitation Curriculum. It is described by Love 146 as "an interactive child trafficking and exploitation prevention curriculum designed to provide youth with information and skills in a manner that inspires them to make safer choices. Youth learn to identify and utilize healthy support systems that may decrease their vulnerabilities." This program is a 5-part, 50-minute time block. Three sessions of this program have been facilitated since spring of 2022. Each session has included a group of eight girls identified as at-risk for exploitation.

Your support is needed to ensure these valuable programs continue!

Sincerely,


Shannon Monroe
Chief of Police





April 20, 2023
Members of the Judiciary &
Public Safety Conference
Committee

Dear Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

MoveFwd is writing to express support for the ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Program (YIP), that provides vital funding to support our services. Over 30 years ago school social workers in our western suburban communities identified youth in need of mental health and housing services, but lacked the resources locally. MoveFwd was created in response. MoveFwd now provides transitional living services to single and pregnant/parenting youth, street outreach, drop-in, and cost free mental health services to over 250 youth annually. Ensuring youth have access to robust, individualized and responsive services can have lasting impacts on their lives and our state has an opportunity to do just that with an opportunity to fund the Youth Intervention Program.

The Youth Intervention Program funds MoveFwd's cost free school based mental health and homeless youth services. Our therapy program primarily serves youth who are under and uninsured giving them access to high quality mental health care in their schools. **90% of students** participating in individual, group or family therapy demonstrate an improvement in mental health functioning. We know that ALL youth despite their ability to pay deserve access to this care and YIP makes this possible. **70% of youth** accessing our homeless response services report improved social support and **75% of youth** will maintain or increase their income through employment. Investing our youth works and our funders are important partners in the work.

Increased and ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Program ensures that our communities have the resources we need to invest in our youth and ensure they have the support and tools they need to be contributing members in their communities.

Sincerely,

Angela Gauthier

Angela Gauthier, LMFT
Executive Director



(218) 301-3017

Angie.erickson@northhomes.org

www.northhomes.org

303 SE 1st Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

April 21, 2023

TO:

Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

RE:

Support of YIP funding

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

North Homes Children and Family strongly supports continued and increased funding of youth intervention programs (YIP). We are a comprehensive mental health services nonprofit, serving greater Minnesota since 1990. Our mission is to provide a community-based continuum of compassionate care to children and families.

While we do serve clients throughout the lifespan, over 70% of our 3,600+ clients served are those aged 20 years and younger. The programs we offer for youth include: residential programs for youth with serious emotional disabilities, school-based CTSS programs, foster care and adoption, and outpatient behavioral health such as therapy and substance use disorder services.

Prior to the pandemic, it was estimated that 20% of children in Minnesota experienced some type of mental health issue each year. Additionally, there was already a crisis in Minnesota regarding available treatment options for some of our most seriously challenged youth, who often end up in hospitals and shelters. Growing referral lists for many of our residential and school-based programs highlight that this need has only increased over the last two years.

Youth intervention programs – and youth work – are protective factors that support resiliency. When youth feel adults care for them and when youth feel connected to their community, we know that they do better and feel better. One example from the Itasca County ACEs data from the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) showed decreases in e-cigarette use and reported depression rates when they felt cared for by teachers and adults in the community.

We hope that you will continue and increase funding for YIP programs. YIP funding is a critical component of supporting youth holistically to help ensure that they can positively develop and thrive.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angie Erickson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

Angie Erickson

Director of Outreach & Communication

303 SE 1st Street, Grand Rapids MN 55744

(218) 301-3017

Angie.erickson@northhomes.org



Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

The NYFS Youth Diversion Program benefits first time offenders ages twelve through seventeen that have committed misdemeanor crimes. NYFS receive cases from the Ramsey County law enforcement departments, schools, and parent referrals.

The Diversion Program is a three-tier model of programming that includes Restorative, Case Management, and Community Connections. **Restorative** works with youth to understand harm, consequences, and restitution. Programming benefits youth by addressing the consequences of having a juvenile record, providing educational seminars and discussion on how new law violations can affect their future. **Case Management** motivational interviews are conducted to understand the current status of youth (school, wellness, activities, work, family, and personal goals) in order to provide services that will benefit youth and family. Youth also benefit from family mediation if applicable.

Community Connections Program is targeted to support youth that are experiencing isolation. A group of eight youth attend five community events together. The components of the community connections program include service, career exploration, skill development, education, life skills. Events take place over seven weeks. Youth benefit from community service engagement, social connections with peers and positive adults in the community, understanding that there are resources in the community to help them now and in the future, optimism for the future, building confidence, and developing professional skills. Youth also benefit from being introduced to activities that promote living healthy through nutrition, fitness, routines, time management, goal setting and moderation.

The main components of our programs foster self-awareness, self-confidence, social skill development, and resilience. Youth also benefit from reducing their contact with law enforcement. Program survey results demonstrate that 95% of youth did not re-offend six months after completing the program.

Recent NYFS Youth Diversion participant quotes:

"I now rethink my decisions before doing. Thinking of the effect."

"I am learning a lot about adult life."

"I think about the consequences of my actions more."

"Learning different strategies in every situation."

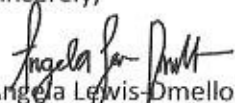
"I enjoyed every event and feel I've learned from each activity."

"Thanks for everything."

"Feed My Starving Children was great. Super comforting people."

We see the significant positive impact of these programs every day on youth that attend NYFS for services. It is vital that these services receive **adequate, ongoing funding** to ensure that youth can access these opportunities for growth and change.

Sincerely,


Angela Lewis-Omello
President and CEO

Northeast Youth and Family Services



April 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

I would like to express my emphatic support for increased funding for prevention services, intervention services, and barrier reduction services relating to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

Kids make choices every day that lead up to life's big decisions without enough guidance and support and every kid should have someone to turn to. Providing a "Big Brother/Sister" mentor in the lives of these kids, identified as "at-risk", is key to helping kids stay out of the juvenile justice systems.

I am thankful for YIP Grant funding that has helped in providing additional support to our area youth. I work out of Northwest Community Action, a non-profit organization, as the Youth Intervention Coordinator. Through coordinating The Little Brother/Sister Mentoring Program over the past five years I have had the opportunity to see first hand the benefits of connecting kids with volunteer "Big Brother/Sister" mentors, thus providing an additional support system in the lives of children identified as "at-risk". The children in the LBLS Program are between the ages of four and fourteen and are often referred to the program by school and county social workers. The children in the LBLS Program typically live with single parents, grandparents or guardians and the stresses of life within these homes can often be very great. Providing a "Big Brother/Sister" mentor for these children means there is someone there to support them through a listening ear, in making right choices, and guidance in life issues that steer these youth towards the right path and onto becoming the next generation of people wanting to help others and give back.

YIP grant funding provides opportunities for the mentors to connect with their youth at unique events. These events also provide a special place for kids to connect with others in the program, providing them the opportunity to experience what they otherwise would not have been able to. Funding is necessary to maintain the mentor relationships and to equip the mentors with the training and support necessary to be able to come alongside "at-risk" youth. Statistics cited from the nonprofit organization MENTOR have found that mentored youth are 55% less likely to skip school, 78% more likely to volunteer in their communities, and 130% more likely to hold leadership positions. These statistics motivate me to want every child to have the additional support needed and additional youth intervention funding is greatly needed to keep programs like this one going and continuing to *be the intervention* to the problem.

Sincerely,

Madeline Waage

Little Brother/ Little Sister Program Coordinator mwaage@nwcaa.org Cell: 218-689-2796



Opportunity Neighborhood

April 20, 2023

P.O. Box 953
Elk River, MN 55330
651-636-6360

opportunityneighborhood.org

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

For the past 15 years, Opportunity Neighborhood has provided a youth intervention program for at-risk youth in K-8th grade youth who live at Ames Lake Neighborhood, an affordable housing complex on St. Paul's Eastside. The year-round program provides structured learning opportunities for low-income youth to obtain personal, social, academic and citizenship competencies necessary to become thriving individuals and constructive community members.

The resident youth served through the program report their ethnicity as follows: 76% Latino, 12% African American, and 12% Somali. 66% of resident households make an annual income of \$30,000 or less. 100% of students qualify for the federal free/reduced lunch program.

Recent program evaluation data found that youth who participated the youth intervention programming at Ames Lake Neighborhood demonstrated the following:

- 100% of youth have a strong sense of competency as a learner.
- 90% of youth believe they have opportunities for leadership and responsibility within the program.
- 100% of youth feel challenged, in a good way, through the program's activities.
- 100% of youth believe they have a supportive adult.
- 100% of youth will not participate in illegal activities.

The majority of resident youth do not have access to extra-curricular activities. Without the program many youth would return from school only to sit in front of the TV, play video games, or worse, become involved in risky behavior, including crime, drugs and sex. The hours between 3:00-6:00 p.m. are associated with the peak time for juvenile crime and juvenile victimization. The funding support Opportunity Neighborhood has received from Minnesota's Youth Intervention Program has been vital in providing the high-quality youth intervention programming.

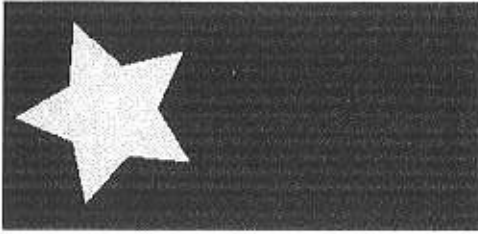
Sincerely,

Perry D. Lofquist
Executive Director

perry@opportunityneighborhood.org

612-805-1296

right services, right place, right partners



Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of Bright Futures, I would like to express my emphatic support for continued and on-going funding for The Youth Intervention Program (YIP) granting.

Bright Futures is a K-5 Enrichment program.

Building Brain Power, Confidence and Creativity. Serving Northside youth for nearly 40 years, Bright Futures builds scholars' brain power, confidence and creativity with a focus on academic enrichment and fun, imaginative arts and recreational activities.

Academic enrichment activities including independent reading, literacy and math, led by our experienced youth workers who use a variety of group teaching methods ranging from youth worker-created lessons, to electronic learning through iPads, computers, and SMARTboards.

The demand for after school and out of school time engagement is so important and needed. Without adequate funding we will not be able to continue this impactful scholars and families changing work.

Thank you for supporting, allowing us to support more youth and families in these challenging times.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Hopkins', is written over the word 'Sincerely'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Hopkins, Director Bright Futures

04-19-23

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

QUEERSPACE collective, a MN LGBTQ+ youth organization, encourages the committee to provide ongoing base funding to the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant in order to support a healthy development of our at-risk youth.

QUEERSPACE collective's mission is to create space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves. Our vision is for all LGBTQ+ youth to have a network of support to help them develop a strong sense of pride in who they are, where they come from, and where they want to go. Through mentorship, training and advocacy, QUEERSPACE collective creates space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves.

QUEERSPACE hangouts, an initiative of QUEERSPACE collective (QUEERSPACE), is a youth-centric intergenerational mentorship program creating safe, inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ youth and LGBTQ+ adults to connect as their authentic selves. As part of the LGBTQ+ community, LGBTQ+ adults understand the challenges, pains and joys of "coming out" and the need for youth to have positive role models and a supportive community. Through 1:1 and group events, LGBTQ+ youth develop increased self-esteem and a greater sense of belonging, cultural identity and pride.

Since 2021, a team of dedicated and experienced staff has served nearly 60 LGBTQ+ youth in the Twin Cities through QUEERSPACE hangouts, provided over 36 group events in the community, and trained over 1,000 individuals through our LGBTQ+ inclusivity training for organizations and corporations. Ongoing feedback shows the LGBTQ+ youth and families in our program feel reduced social isolation and a greater sense of community. Parents routinely tell us our mentorship program has been life changing for their child. *"QUEERSPACE has been a valuable resource for my child. It has provided a unique and essential support that we, as parents, could not have given. The mentor match was great and we've had nothing but positive experiences with the mentorship. I am so grateful to the QUEERSPACE team for providing this much needed opportunity!" -QUEERSPACE parent.*

With the ongoing rise of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation across our nation and the majority of the youth in our program identifying as transgender or gender non-conforming, it is important now more than ever that these young people have space where they feel comfortable showing up as their authentic. Providing ongoing funding for the YIP grant will provide much needed additional resources for the LGBTQ+ youth in our communities.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Nicki Hangsleben

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

Re: Support of ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant

Dear Public Safety Committee Members,

On behalf of Relate Counseling Center, I would like to express my emphatic support for Bill HF 1712 to increase funding for prevention services, intervention services, and barrier reduction services relating to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

For 54 years, Relate has been a leading non-profit provider of mental health counseling for individuals of all ages. We provide direct services to thousands of individuals, including youth in schools. 65% of our clients are children or youth. Services include Individual, Family, and Couples Counseling; Group Therapy; Psychological Assessment; Psychiatric Services; Chemical Health Assessment; Early Intervention Groups; and Community Education. Early intervention and prevention are the cornerstones of our services, and we bring that insight and experience to our camp design. We are a designated Essential Community Provider, recognizing our unique status as a provider for underserved and low-income populations.

This support is critical for the Relate Counseling Center. Mental health issues for children and youth were already growing before the pandemic. Guidance from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shows that 50% of all cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24 (2019). It is critical to intervene before symptoms get worse and harder to treat (NAMI 2017). This means that our intervention work with students during the school year and summer is critical.

The demand for our services has increased dramatically, Relate served 1189 youth in 2022 in our substance abuse and school mental health program and have hired a staff build a youth advisory board and provide chemical health assessments at the food shelves we services. To date in our youth chemical health program:

- Served 1189 youth in 2022,
- First quarter of 2023, 243 youth were served,
- First quarter 18 Youth completed the program,
- First quarter 77 Parents participated in coaching sessions and meetings,
- 1997 youth participated in therapy sessions,
- 13 group sessions were held.

Thank you for the support of ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant allowing us to support more youth in these challenging times.

Sincerely



Cheryl Jensen, Interim Executive Director



Bringing people together to make things right
401 Groveland Avenue Suite 50, Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 746-0780 | info@rjca-inc.org | www.rjca-inc.org

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committees, April 19, 2023

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) provides a community-based approach to criminal prosecution that fosters individual growth and transformation, repair of relationships, and strengthening community while addressing harm that occurs. For more than 10 years, RJCA has helped youth be accountable for their actions and create shared solutions with community to repair harm. Our approach reduces the barriers of a criminal record and gives youth a second chance. We serve youth in the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and Ramsey County.

Typical youth behavior has been over criminalized, especially for our youth of color. RJCA helps youth navigate a path forward by addressing root causes to behavior, which often include historical trauma, family and income stresses, and other influences such as mental or chemical health. Often these youth who are struggling are met with authority, such as teachers or police, whose implicit bias/racism escalates the situation that could have been otherwise resolved. These youth need to be seen as valuable human beings who are supported by caring adults to help them navigate their way into adulthood.

Since 2010, we have brought youth, family/supporters, direct victims (if applicable), and caring community members/adults to help over 900 youth successfully resolve their case. Through our restorative processes, youth become empowered to identify and work toward their goals, strengthen their relationships and support networks, and demonstrate their belonging as positive members of the community.

In the most recent life expectancy calculations, 1 in 25 youth will not live to the age of 40 in the United States. This is a crucial time to invest in our youth, to support and equip them for a healthy and successful life. **RJCA supports on-going and increased funding for the YIP grant.** Our youth need to know they are not alone and that they have the ability to lead lives that matter. Increased YIP grant funding would enable more youth this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia A. Prosek", written over a white background.

Cynthia A Prosek
Executive Director



Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

On behalf of Red Wing Youth Outreach Program, Inc dba RiseUp Red Wing, I would like to express my support for increased and ongoing funding for prevention services, intervention services, and barrier reduction services relating to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

Caring, trusted relationships are at the core of all of our work with youth. Specifically, we support youth by connecting them with caring adult mentors and growing their social-emotional and independent living skills.

Independent Living Skills: RiseUp Red Wing connects youth to the tools and resources they need to thrive in their everyday lives, including access to transportation, housing, education, legal documentation, and budgeting and financial knowledge.

Mentorship: RiseUp Red Wing and our network of mentors work one-on-one with youth to build social-emotional management skills through role play, conversation, and individual reflection.

Leadership & Advocacy: We create space for the voices of young people in our community to be heard as leaders on issues that matter to them. Our programming is guided by what youth say they need, and we also facilitate opportunities for youth in Red Wing to engage with the community through service learning and other leadership opportunities.

From Jan 2020 to current: **279 students** have participated in our programming. We currently serve **82 students**.

Outcomes:

94% of students showed they improved in one or more social and emotional management skills

Demonstration of need for programming:

Of those **82 students**:

- they have had 30 reports of discipline referrals so far this school year.
- they have had 71 absences so far this school year. For reference the school wide total is 296. There are 1157 kids in the high school. That means our 82 kids (7% of the population) make up 24% of the absences.
- kids in our program had a 2.06 GPA Avg in 21-22 semester 2. The GPA average for 22-23 semester 1 was 1.96.

Since COVID-19, the demand for our services has increased dramatically, as has the cost of operations. An increase in YIP funding would allow us to continue expanding our services to more youth in need.

Thank you for your support for ongoing funding for the YIP grant, which allows us to support more youth in these challenging times.

In Partnership,

Mandy Arden

Mandy Arden

Executive Director, Red Wing Youth Outreach Program, Inc dba RiseUp Red Wing

mandy@riseupredwing.org 651-468-5677



Board of Directors

Nicholas Zerwas, President
Jacobson Law Group

Neal Huemoeller, Vice
President
Wright County Probation

Nancy Leslie, Secretary
Cargill, Monticello

Michelle Anderson
Village Bank

Stacy Doyle
Wright County Sheriff's Office

Tanna Houlton
First Bank of Elk River

Elizabeth (Betsy) Larson
Wright County Attorney's
Office

Hans Larson
Wright County Attorney's
Office

Jenny Paripovich
Wright County Attorney's
Office

David Vinje
Attics to Basements Building
and Renovations, Inc.

Eric Kunkel
Wright County Sheriff's Office

Shylla Webb
Inner Matter

Hannah-Ruth Patterson
Executive Director
Rivers of Hope, Monticello

Monday, February 27, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

We are writing in support of ongoing funding for the YIP grant. Rivers of Hope is a domestic violence center serving Sherburne and Wright Counties in MN. Our mission is to provide a community coordinated response to end family violence through advocacy, education, and interagency collaboration.

Rivers of Hope has a Youth Program to support primarily middle school and high school aged students who have witnessed or experienced family violence or teen dating violence. We offer support, education, and referrals to community resources. Through education and empowerment, the youth program helps youth move beyond violence to healthy relationships.

Our work is critical. In 2022, we supported 200 youth in our program. Without support from the State Capitol, our work is impossible. We strongly believe in equipping our young people with the tools to develop healthy relationships and to feel supported when navigating violence in their own relationships.

Ongoing funding for the YIP grant would allow us to reach more young people. We know violence does not discriminate. Please, please support the work that we are doing to end violence.

Sincerely,

Melanie Harmon

Melanie Harmon
Youth Advocate Team Lead
Rivers of Hope

Hannah-Ruth Patterson
Executive Director
Rivers of Hope

Lynda Ross, Owner
Aimee Ross, Owner, President
Kevin Geislinger, Vice President
180 NE 6th St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: (218) 328-6434
Fax: (218) 328-6435



Heather Lovdahl, Vice President
Kimberly Geislinger, LADC, Vice President
180 NE 6th St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: (218) 328-6434
Fax: (218) 328-6435

Dear members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

Ross Resources is a private agency in Grand Rapids in MN. Founded in 2003, we are celebrating 20 years of prevention work in Northern MN. Ross Resources provides programming centered around child protection in Itasca County with its flagship program being the Itasca County Truancy Prevention program. Alongside the truancy prevention program, Ross Resources provides supervised visitation, recovery services for adult and juveniles, mental health case management and drug testing services.

Truancy prevention programming is an underfunded area in our state. It often falls through the cracks as there is not an identified person to work with these often-complex cases. We are fortunate here in Itasca County that we have a Family Services Collaborative that supports these prevention services. Truancy prevention and educational neglect issues have drastically risen since Covid. The issue of chronic absenteeism was a relatively new concept in 2018-19 school year, when rates of chronically absent students hovered between 10-15%. The pandemic saw these numbers skyrocket and although students have returned to in-person classroom learning, these numbers have not improved and in fact have tripled in some school districts. We anticipate the disruption in daily routines, and inconsistency caused by the pandemic, will take years to overcome.

Since 2003, Truancy Prevention Specialists, TPS, have shifted the focus of the program from punitive to prevention. Developing a trusted relationship with the student and parent/guardian all while providing person-centered programming are top priorities of the work we do. Taking away barriers for students and families to ensure consistent daily school attendance rates has resulted in attendance rates of 90 percent or above for many years in Itasca County schools.

Truancy, educational neglect, and chronic absenteeism are issues of immense proportion and display significant long-term consequences for students and their parents and to the quality of life in our communities.

Youth Prevention programming and its funding is more important now than ever before. The YIP grant will allow for vital youth prevention programming to continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aimee Ross', written over a faint circular stamp.

Aimee Ross

President, Ross Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Geislinger', written over a faint circular stamp.

Kim Geislinger

Itasca County Truancy Prevention Program Director



Somali American Social Service Association

1700 N Broadway Suite 152 A ♦ Rochester, MN 55906

April 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

SASSA is a tax-exempt non-profit organization established in 2012 for the purpose of rebuilding the youth of Olmsted County through education, physical activities and programs that promote success. SASSA's vision is to provide educational, recreational, cultural, health and lifelong learning opportunities aligns well with the aims of the proposed project of fostering sustainable health promotion for the Somali community.

SASSA has established its roots in our community through collaboration with many organizations and community members. We build and sustain relationships with parents, youth, and community members by working with key organizations to provide the needed leadership and resources. We advocate a safe environment to provide constructive criticism. We engage with youth and families through focus groups to help build a unique decision-making experience in serving the community through collaboration with SASSA staff and board.

Our interest in the YIP program stems from our desire to set an example many youths can follow to promote positive change and plan to build an effective program that enhances the quality of life. The Somali community has been in the United States for decades. We hoped many people would take advantage of the available resources during this time. We noticed as an organization that many people are still seeking basic help. Through our programs, we wanted to analyze the root cause of these shortcomings. With this type of methodology, we were able to address the significant areas people struggled with the most.

According to the Census Bureau (2010), American Community Survey Poverty is the highest (58%) compared to other black groups. The unemployment rate is also the highest (21%) compared to other black groups. 1 in 10 black Minnesota's report language limitations. That's about 10% of an already small population compared to different ethnicities. The level of educational attainment varies widely across race groups in MN. This data suggests the need for additional funding and services to foster the growth of youth programs. YIPA is prime example of the work and ongoing funding will be substantial to the success of our community. We strongly endorse this funding YIPA and the ongoing efforts of their work.

Sincerely,

Omar Nur

Digitally signed by Omar Nur
Date: 2023.04.21 22:48:06
-05'00'

Omar Nur
Executive Director of
Somali American Social Service Association

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

I am writing in support of funding for the Youth Intervention Prevention (YIP) program.

The South Central WorkForce Council administers workforce development programs and initiatives serving youth, adults, dislocated workers and employers in nine counties for South Central Minnesota. Through the YIP grant, we are able to target services to meet the unique needs of youth ages 14-24 that are currently and previously in foster care or out of home placement. Through our YIP program, youth are provided the opportunity to develop critical skills needed to obtain, maintain and be successful in employment. Our program focuses on enhancing the youth's support network through mentorships at a paid work experience. In addition, youth receive case management services and guidance regarding their career goals, positive work habits, job search tools, financial literacy and daily living skills.

The YIP program allows us to provide essential career and employment services to build our future workforce and talent pipeline while providing wraparound support. Seventy percent of YIP participants have increased their independent living skills through the YIP program, and we continue to support youth in developing their independent living skills.

We are excited to continue expanding and enhancing services through YIP.

Sincerely,



Sara Carrigan
Assistant Director



SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

"BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE THROUGH TRAINING, LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

I am writing to express our full support for increased and ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Program as it provides vital services for youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

Our nonprofit organization, the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, sees firsthand the positive and life-changing impact these funds have on youth and young adults and their families. The Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council's mission is to *build tomorrow's workforce through partnerships with a shared focus on training and leadership*. We serve 14-counties in the southwest corner of Minnesota. According to DEED, our region has experienced a 39.7% growth of immigrants since 2010. Nobles County is the 2nd most diverse county in the state with 44.4% of residents being BIPOC. There are 15 Opportunity Zones in our region and a 20.6%-30.3% poverty rate for each BIPOC race and ethnicity compared to a 9.5% poverty rate for white alone. The region's current education attainment indicates that 39% of the Hispanic or Latino population have less than a high school diploma compared to 6.6% of white residents. There is significant inequities that this funding helps to address.

Our training and employment services for youth and young adults, we have seen youth:

- Obtain employment, obtain employment at higher wages, and gain work experience.
- Develop employment and life skills needed for a successful future.
- Build strong ongoing relationships with positive, caring adults.
- Improve school attendance through work experience.
- Earn industry-recognized credentialed training in high-demand occupations.

These services equip and prepare youth and young adults for sharing their talents and strengths in the workforce and in their communities. The investments made now will have an exponential positive impact for the years to come. Thank you for your support for increased and ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Program.

Sincerely,

Carrie Bendix
Executive Director



CareerForce
A proud partner of the
americanjobcenter
network
www.swmnpic.org

Marshall Office
Lyon County Gov't Center
607 West Main Street
Marshall, MN 56258
1-800-818-9295
507-476-4040
MN Relay Line 800-627-3529
FAX: 507-537-6362

Montevideo Office
202 North 1st Street, Suite 100
Montevideo, MN 56265
1-800-422-1346
320-269-5561
MN Relay Line 800-627-3529
FAX: 320-269-5696

Worthington Office
Nobles County Gov't Center
318 9th Street, P.O. Box 816
Worthington, MN 56187-816
507-295-5020
MN Relay Line 800-627-3529
FAX: 507-376-3630

Administrative Office
Lyon County Gov't Center
607 West Main Street
Marshall, MN 56258
507-476-4040
MN Relay Line 800-627-3529
FAX: 507-537-6362



STARS MENTORING PROGRAM

314 South Broadway, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Phone: 507-383-5272 Email: Starsforkids@yahoo.com

April 19, 2023

Re: ONGOING FUNDING FOR THE YIP GRANT

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

This letter is to request ongoing funding for the YIP grant. I work for STARS Mentoring Program, a local non-profit mentoring program located in Freeborn and eastern portion of Faribault County, Minnesota. Our mission is dedicated to providing adult mentors to youth who are in need of guidance or support in order to empower them to make positive life choices, and develop to their fullest potential. We provide mentors to children ages 7-17 who meet with them one-on-one to provide activities and decision-making and conflict-resolution skills along with helping their self-esteem.

Right now we have 16 mentor-mentee matches. Our local youth need more mentors! With the ongoing funding for the YIP grant, STARS will continue to seek out more mentors to help these deserving youth who are on our waiting list. Our program coordinator will have more hours to effectively search out qualified mentors who are willing and able to support and encourage youth in our counties.

We have youth who participate in decision-making and conflict-resolution skills every month. This past quarter there was a 60% participation rate in the questions mentors asked youth to help them with their skill-building. This definitely helps youth be better leaders in our community.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Volkman
Program Coordinator

April 21, 2023



Dear Public Safety Committee Members,

Re: Support for ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant

On behalf of The Bridge for Youth, I would like to express my enthusiastic support for **full YIP funding for prevention services, intervention services, and barrier reduction services** relating to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

The Bridge for Youth has been advocating for *youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system since 1970*. In combination with the other resources available at The Bridge for Youth, the YIP services help young people stabilize their circumstances, support and advocate for youth in their journey, and provide critical access to housing and health resources, including mental health.

Being involved - or at risk of being involved - in the juvenile justice system often leads to homelessness. Homelessness is often preceded by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs); 84% of youth experiencing homelessness have experienced at least one ACE, and 59% have experienced three or more ACE's before turning 18. Amongst these youth, 61% lived with a substance abuser, 60% witnessed abuse as a child, 59% lived with a parent or guardian with mental illness, 48% were physically mistreated or abused, and 31% were sexually mistreated or abused. It's further alarming that 64% of youth experiencing homelessness reportedly have a serious mental illness.

Working with youth with this level of trauma takes its toll on youth workers and we need to invest more resources to care for their secondary trauma. We also need to increase wages and total compensation of the direct service staff supporting youth. No longer can we struggle to compete with government and private employers. We need to increase our minimum wage to match theirs so we can maintain a full and highly skilled roster of employees. We continue to hear from our government funders that our contracts can't be increased because their funding is flat. Fully funding YIP is one solution to this employment crisis and we celebrate it!

Please fully support YIP. For youth across Minnesota, outreach prevents crisis, shelter saves lives, and housing ends homelessness. If we invest in youth now, we prevent adult criminal justice system involvement, as well as youth - and ultimately adult - homelessness. Let's work together to get this done. www.bridgeforyouth.org

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Mears".

Lisa Mears, Executive Director
The Bridge for Youth

April 21, 2023

Members of the Judiciary & Public Safety Conference
Committee



On behalf of the MN Bam project. (Becoming A Man) mentoring program. I'm writing in support of the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grant getting more funding.

I work at Roosevelt High School and in the community now known as the George Floyd Square. I have used the power of relationships when talking to underserved youth. The youth don't care how much someone knows, until they know how much someone cares.

I'm relatable in many aspects because I grew up as an underserved youth. Anger is often fueled by emotions. Emotional intelligence is a part of one of the trainings that I think highly of. Sharing my story with the youth builds trust. Seeking to understand them, versus thinking something is wrong, shows empathy. The cycle of change is difficult for people who've been operating from a standpoint of fear while living in a dysfunctional situation.

Helping the youth to hold themselves accountable and not playing the victim free's them from peer pressure and allows them to make healthier choices.

Change is a process and helping them to see that it doesn't happen overnight takes some pressure away from them. One of my mentors told me, " Be what you needed at a young age". I take that to heart.

So please increase the funding for the YIP grant so we can plant seeds in the hearts and minds of the youth.

Sincerely,
Marquise Bowie
Co-founder of the MN Bam Project
Also The MN Agape Movement



Get Help: 612.825.0000
Give Help: 612.825.3333
tubman.org

Tubman Chrysalis Center
4432 Chicago Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Harriet Tubman Center East
1725 Monastery Way
Maplewood, MN 55109

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

Tubman is a non-profit, community based agency that provides a range of prevention, intervention, outreach and leadership services across the Twin-Cities metro, reaching nearly 20,000 people each year with the goal of preventing challenges associated with violence and trauma.

Far too many youth in our communities are dealing with multiple forms of violence, homelessness, addiction, discrimination, and lack of adequate resources, including systemic barriers that continue to create disparities in education, health, economic and housing sectors to name a few. Critical investments will be a start to interrupting these cycles and offer the chance for youth to impart their ideas and leadership to impact necessary changes.

Tubman's community-based youth programs offer intensive, long-term wrap-around services and mentorship, including the following: healthy relationships and youth leadership in schools, homes, and through outreach services; ways to strengthen cultural, and community connections, including improved relationships with peers and family members; help with basic needs; planning out short and long term goals; educational assistance; financial, health, housing stability, and career support as well as access to spiritual care, recreational activities, legal resources, and expressive arts. By providing necessary resources and tapping into the passions, unique gifts, and strengths of each youth, strong progress can be made to realize dreams.

Investment in youth is critical to building stronger futures for all and we are pleased to lend our support for ongoing new funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant.

In Gratitude,

Jennifer J. Polzin
Chief Executive Officer





**VOYAGEUR
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL**

April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

For 59 years, VOBS has been changing lives by using the wilderness as a classroom to provide unparalleled opportunities for transformative personal growth in self-reliance, confidence, teamwork, and compassion. Our ambitious vision, now more relevant than ever, is to help build a more resilient and compassionate world. We use the transformative power of nature to actualize this vision. VOBS partners with schools, community colleges, and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metro area to offer programming that provides a safe space for each student to exercise vulnerability and trust and to creatively solve problems by practicing authentic, effective communication. As students move through the progression of activities, they gain important social, emotional, and cognitive skills they can apply as they pursue their education to get to and through college. There is an emphasis on learning from and with peers. Students identify personal and peer strengths as well as growth opportunities.

In 2011 VOBS launched the Twin Cities program, to create more access to our programs for those who would not otherwise experience Outward Bound. Since that time we've served over 9,000 youth at our Twin Cities location, delivering programs to low-income, racially diverse young people, many of whom grapple with poor school attendance and grades, behavioral problems, and even homelessness. Last year our Twin Cities Center helped over 1,300 Twin Cities youth discover and build the strength of their character, leadership abilities, and an ethic to serve.

Our research proves that our model of sustained programming across an academic year or more has real impact. According to our 2018 CAREI results, students who participate in these partnership programs grow at more rapid and significant rates than others. Through our CHiSEL survey, these students told us they improved their skills in Persistence (31.9% growth), Service (28.1% growth), Initiative (24.1% growth), Teamwork (20.6% growth), and Problem-Solving (17.2% growth). In the other SEL skills, Empathy, Responsibility, and Emotion Management, they grew at consistent rates as their peers in offerings of shorter duration.

Our viability relies on donors and additional funding. Therefore, on behalf of our organization I fully support an increase on youth intervention funding during this budget session.

Thank you,

Anabell Deutschlander, Program Director



April 20, 2023

Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee
Minnesota Legislature

Sent via email

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment works exclusively with immigrant and refugee girls, women and individuals on the feminine gender spectrum in the areas of college prep, career exploration, FAFSA applications, navigating higher education systems, self-advocacy, cross-cultural communications, goal-setting, coping with stress and trauma, financial literacy, psycho-social development, and gender-based violence prevention. We work onsite at three St. Paul schools: Humboldt Secondary School, Sejong Academy and Washington Technology Magnet School.

Our mission is to support immigrant and refugee women, girls and those on the feminine gender spectrum in their journey of self-actualization through culturally-responsive education, advocacy, systems change and resource development. We believe it is a basic human right for all to access quality education, have reproductive freedom, and to live free of violence. Racial justice, environmental justice, economic justice, and social justice are all inextricably intertwined with achieving equity across issues, ethnicities and socio-economic classes.

Immigrant and refugee girls and young women come to Minnesota with trauma from their journey, fleeing civil war, government oppression and violence, or dire economic situations. They have often experienced or witnessed horrific violence. These girls and young women though are resilient. They want an education and to have their potential recognized by educators, admission officers and future employers. When students arrive to Minnesota, they are placed in a grade that coincides with their age, not their academic level. They are usually behind their peers in studies and academic skills.

It is critical that these young people receive culturally responsive academic support and leadership development so that they can realize their dreams. Immigrant and refugee families are all dealing with the upheaval in coming to a new place and culture. It is important to involve all family members in learning how to navigate systems, advocate for themselves, and understand how they can support their student's academic path.

In the previous academic year 100% of our 12th grade students graduated from high school, compared to only 89% for overall St. Paul School District students. Of our 46 high school students they had an average GPA of 3.2 (all of whom are English language learners), four students were taking advanced classes with one in PSEO.

Please continue to support YIPA funding, it really makes a difference in the lives of the youth we serve.

Sincerely,

Pamela R. Zeller
Pamela Zeller, Executive Director

Workforce

DEVELOPMENT, INC.

*The Workforce Development Board
of Southeast Minnesota*

Thursday, April 20, 2023
2070 College View Road East
Rochester, MN 55904

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee

Re: Support for ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant

On behalf of Workforce Development, Inc., I would like to express my emphatic support for ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant to increase funding for prevention services, intervention services, and barrier reduction services relating to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

Workforce Development, Inc. provides services and support that help young people in our area who face barriers to education and employment opportunities. The demand for our services has increased dramatically, as has the cost of operations. An increase in YIP funding would allow us to continue expanding our services to more youth in need, resulting in important outcomes such as:

- Support to assist youth in school and out of school to complete their high school education or equivalent
- Connection to alternative secondary school and GED training
- Providing resources that may be used to support individual student success in education and training (i.e., disability support services, tutoring)
- Connection to Career Pathways programming and Occupational Skills Training
- Comprehensive career guidance and counseling
- Connections to local entrepreneurship resources

As Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Southeast Minnesota, serving Workforce Development Area #8, I want to thank you for supporting ongoing funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant., allowing us to support more youth in these challenging times.

If you need any additional information, please contact Jinny Rietmann, Executive Director of Workforce Development, Inc., at (507) 292-5165 or JRietmann@wdimn.org.

Sincerely,



Jinny Rietmann
Executive Director
Workforce Development, Inc.



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

04/21/2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

YMCA Youth and Family Services provides community based supportive services to over 3,500 youth and families each year. Our YIP funding allows us to sustain our specialized services for justice involved and at risk youth. Our programs meet young people and families where they are at, and work collaboratively to address root causes that can lead to justice system involvement. Through our Youth Intervention Program at the Y we connect high risk youth ages 10-24 to 1-1 and group based services aimed at increasing positive relationships and connections to community resources and caring adults, meeting basic needs, and providing individualized mentoring services.

Youth we serve vary in needs and their life experiences, but we have seen an increased need for programming that creates safe spaces for boys, young men and masculine youth. Our mentoring services are individualized, trauma informed, harm reducing and rooted in positive youth development. Youth in program are often facing complex barriers to safety, stability, and self-sufficiency. We help youth and families meet basic needs and set goals, focus on building a positive and trusting relationships with each youth and family, and help youth and families build skills that can reduce their likelihood of justice system involvement. 2020-2023 data shows that 93% of youth in our program increased in their Self-Sufficiency Matrix Score by an average of 9 points.

The YMCA OF THE NORTH Youth and Family Services supports ongoing funding for the YIP grant. Programs like ours rely on increased funding to continue to sustain and expand community based programming.

Sincerely,
Matt Smith

Program Executive - YMCA Youth and Family Services



April 19, 2023

RE: Support for ongoing new base funding for the Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

Youth First Community of Promise has been serving youth since 1999. Our mission is to actively engage under-served and at-risk middle and high school youth to ensure they have **five specific and fundamental promises** needed to succeed in life: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education and opportunities to help others. Seventy-one percent of our participants qualify for free or reduced price school meals.

To meet students' critical needs, during the school year we work closely with school personnel to identify specific student challenges. To help them succeed, we provide direct academic support individually and in small groups to improve school performance. After school services include tutoring, counseling, advocacy, assistance locating health, housing, and employment resources. During the summer, youth participate in free educational and enrichment services at our youth center, giving them a safe place to be with staff who care about them.

Since the 2016 school year, the needs of youth in our community have grown exponentially. We measure the success of our programs based on our students year round participation. The program and support needed has at least tripled. The need for academic and emotional support has continued to increase since the COVID pandemic, making our services even more critical. The partnerships we have in the community and schools are key to student success in school, and in life.

Youth First is a nonprofit governed by a collaboration of the Anoka-Hennepin School District 11, Anoka County, and the cities of Andover, Anoka, Coon Rapids and Ramsey. Funding comes from partner donations, the generosity of our communities, and **we rely heavily on grant funding**. Having received multiple YIP grants in the past has helped guarantee these crucial student services and fundamental promises for our at-risk and under-served participants. It allows us to **never turn down a student in need**.

On-going YIP funding is **crucial** to our youth in Minnesota. Please continue to invest in our youth and commit permanent funding to our future.

Sincerely,

Chandra Genskie
Interim Executive Director
executivedirector@youthfirst.net

April 20th, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee,

YWCA Minneapolis is in strong support of ongoing funding for Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grants.

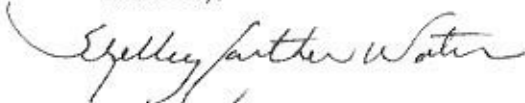
YWCA Minneapolis is one of over 200 local associations under YWCA USA all sharing the same mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and girls, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. One of the ways we do this is by running one of the largest in- and out-of school time programs for girls and youth in the Twin Cities Metro.

We run several gender-specific and culturally specific programs for young people, operating at over 20 Minneapolis public and charter schools and at our YWCA Minneapolis sites. Last year, over 700 young people were impacted. Young people in our programs:

- Lead and advocate to positively impact their communities;
- Receive support from caring adults and connect to resources that support their goals and values;
- Gain skills and education to help them achieve their desired future; and
- Lead healthy lives that nurture their minds, bodies and spirits

Two of our programs currently receive YIP funds and many of our programs staff take advantage of YIP trainings. We are one of many partners in a community of youth-serving organizations who positively benefit from YIP grants, and we strongly encourage ongoing funding of this grant program. Thank you for prioritizing young Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



Shelley Carthen Watson
President and Chief Executive Officer



Katie Rehani
Vice President, Girls and Youth



Marquita Butler
Director, Girls and Youth

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Minneapolis

Downtown

1130 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-332-0501

Midtown

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

Uptown

2808 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612-874-7131

**Children's Center at
Abbott Northwestern Hospital**

800 East 28th Street #15103
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-863-0971

**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

ywcamppls.org

**YWCA IS ON
A MISSION**