

January 31, 2023

To: Proof Alliance

Re: FASD Prevention Grants

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

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

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

I write to you as the Director of the Intensive Family Outpatient treatment program. We provide Substance Use and Mental Health treatment for pregnant and parenting mothers, and transitional recovery housing for the mothers and children we serve. We are the only program in the state that accepts children from 0-17 years of age. We strongly advocate for, and support women to have a chemical free pregnancy and birth and are able to ensure we do so by various funds and programs available to support these mothers.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kristen Bewley
Avivo