



# MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER

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February 3, 2023

To Members of the Minnesota State Legislature:

I am writing in support of the Youth Intervention Program (YIP). The Minneapolis American Indian Center's Youth Services Program has received funding through the Youth Intervention Program for many years. This contribution has played a critical role in supporting our *mission to provide excellent services that help meet the needs of the American Indian community* within a foundation of cultural values.

Our American Indian youth are resilient. In the past few years, they have persevered through Covid and civil unrest after the murder of George Floyd. Youth Services' has played an important role in ensuring that youth are connected people and teachings that support their social, health and wellness, educational and cultural well-being. The Minneapolis American Indian Center's Youth Services Programs have pivoted when needed, whether that be providing educational opportunities on-site when schools were closed or delivering food to the youths homes during the height of Covid. The Youth Intervention Program has provided not only monetary support for youth programming, but also critical trainings for youth service's staff.

I ask that you fully support the Youth Intervention Program through the Minnesota State Legislature. It is programs such as YIP that are vital for our youth, not only in the urban areas, but throughout the state.

Miigwech/Thank you,

Mary LaGarde  
Executive Director