



AMERICAN INDIAN OIC

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

Wopila Tanka,

Dr. Joe Hobot
Sunkmanitu Tanka Se Tokeya Hiyaye
(He Leads Like a Wolf)
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