



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Banyan is a community development organization rooted in the Phillips neighborhood of South Minneapolis. Our mission is to develop youth, strengthen families, and create community. Youth access programs to help them succeed in school, build life skills, use their own assets, and develop healthy relationships. Families connect and access resources to thrive as individuals and support one another. A collaborative network of block leaders works together to create a strong and safe community.

YIP directly funds Banyan's middle school, high school, and college programs. During the school year, middle school youth attend after school programs where they receive academic support, career exploration, and social and emotional learning. Continuing into the summer, funding from YIP allows Banyan to provide hands-on and engaging summer programming which includes a week-long overnight camp. Banyan works in partnership with local high schools to support 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth in study skills, post-secondary choice, and more through one-on-one tutoring and mentorship. Continuing into post-secondary, YIP funding helps Banyan support youth in a variety of paths to find fulfilling careers.

Members of Banyan Community have directly benefitted from YIP grants, and from intervention programs and support received through YIP funds have experienced transformational experiences that have helped them become leaders in their community. We see the capacity this funding has to make lasting impact on communities throughout Minnesota, and implore Minnesota legislators to pass this bill, and fully fund Youth Intervention Programs. In this time of great uncertainty, investing in the lives of Minnesota children and youth seems the surest and most promising path forward.

With gratitude for all your work,

Carl Schlueter  
Executive Director