



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members:

Centro Tyrone Guzman knows that youth are the future of our community. In order to ensure that Minnesota is filled with educated, prepared, diverse leaders tomorrow, we need to invest in our youth today. Our Raíces Youth Development Program does just that.

Raíces means “Roots” in Spanish. Each year, we engage more than 100 Latine youth in Minneapolis and surrounding communities in year-round, culturally grounded activities designed to build protective factors and reduce risk factors. Last year, we received requests from various schools in the Minneapolis Public School District to take our programming on-site to provide additional support to newly arrived immigrant students. As a result of the program, our youth feel proud of their culture and identity, hopeful for the future, and committed to making positive change in their community.

Without the YIP grant, we would not be able to do this work. YIP funds pay the dedicated Latine community leaders who serve as role models for these youth and coordinate the wide range of activities and experiences. The relationships these staff members build with our youth is why the program is so successful.

YIP funds are critical to the success of our Raíces Program and its lasting impact on Latine youth in Minnesota. I encourage your support for full funding of the YIP grant.

With gratitude,

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