



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & DIVERSION • MEDIATION • HEALING CIRCLES OF SUPPORT • YOUTH DEVELOPMENT • RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Dispute Resolution Center is dedicated to restoring and empowering communities by promoting the constructive resolution of conflict through open communication and shared decision-making. Founded in 1982 as Minnesota's oldest community mediation program, DRC offers services in Civil, Family, and Community Mediation; Restorative Justice & Diversion; Restorative Practices & Training; and Youth Development.

DRC prioritizes keeping youth out of the criminal justice system through restorative alternatives. Our **GRO (Giving Real Opportunities)** and **ETHOS Diversion Programs**, along with **Youth Weekly Circles of Support**, address this need in St. Paul and beyond. GRO serves ages 10–17, while ETHOS supports young adults 18–24, diverting cases from traditional courts into restorative circles focused on accountability, healing, and harm repair. Instead of navigating a complex legal system that often silences victims, our approach promotes meaningful resolution and lasting change. The impact of our clients' harm on others, leaving victims feeling unheard and unhealed, is one we strive to transform.

YIP is essential in sustaining DRC's youth programs and staffing. As a longtime recipient, we've maintained quality staff and provided social-emotional learning, digital literacy, and career readiness skills for our weekly circles of support attendees. YIP funding allows us to offer workshops with guest facilitators, mentorship, and hands-on learning experiences. Funding also helps cover operational costs such as rent, marketing, and staffing, ensuring we can expand our reach. With continued support, we remain committed to empowering youth with guidance and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Without YIP funding, DRC wouldn't be a leading organization in diversion work. YIP enables us to expand programs that build self-awareness, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution skills—essential for navigating life's challenges. As demand grows, this support ensures we can reach marginalized youth, providing the resources they need to thrive.

Peace & Progress,

Roslyn Harmon, Executive Director

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

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