



111 S Fourth Avenue E • Ely, MN 55731

Supporting Youth & Their Families since 1978

218-365-5254 • www.elycommunityresource.org

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members:

Ely Community Resource is a community-based non-profit providing youth programs that ensure all Ely youth have opportunities to thrive in school and in the community, regardless of their family's ability to provide them. We work during school hours to support academics and social/emotional needs of K-12th grade students. After school, we provide reading and homework help for all grades plus enrichment and social skills practice in age-appropriate small groups. In year-round OST, ECR facilitates a mentoring program, academic enrichment opportunities and challenges, as well as recreation activities. Our Family Resource Facilitator heads up our team support for students' basic needs and mental health referrals and connections. Their families receive help finding and furnishing housing, support for healthy lifestyle, counseling and coaching, as well as appropriate referrals for additional support mentally and physically. A small army of community volunteers help us provide additional meaningful relationships. Our small community includes significant economic diversity; all ECR programs are offered at no cost to make sure all can participate.

YIP funding has been cornerstone support for youth in our wrap-around programs for over 20 years. ECR's goals for providing support and opportunities for youth development that result in increased public safety matched YIP's purpose well. We benefitted from the support of Office of Justice staff and learned from other grantees' successes. The significant reduction in our funding in the last biennium was a major blow that has been difficult to overcome. It coincided with foundations also seeming to turn away from recognizing the challenges experienced by rural kids. Fully funding of the YIP grant is crucial.

All programs like ours are dependent on strong funding to provide the high-quality staff required to handle the challenges of today. Continuity is of the utmost importance. In the interest of public safety, we have a responsibility to continue providing that high-quality support for our youth.

Please support ongoing and increased funding for the Youth Intervention Program.

Sincerely,

Jill Swanson
Executive Director