



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members:

Keystone Community Services provides year-round - after school, summer, work-readiness and youth employment programming - for low-income, at-risk St. Paul youth in grades K-12. We like to think of ourselves as a place where opportunity meets potential. These out-of-school hours are a critical opportunity for youth to get the extra support they need to stay on track academically, build positive peer relationships and develop their potential through new levels of responsibility in a job or community service.

To be frank, we couldn't deliver programming to 350 young people each year without YIP funding support. YIP funds have allowed us to hire key staff in our work readiness and youth employment training program and at our afterschool program in the West 7th neighborhood of St. Paul. These staff bring their skills and dedication with them everyday, working to help young people overcome barriers, make positive choices and develop skills they'll use their whole lives. Being a YIP grantee has also provided our staff with valuable professional development training that they can use to improve their work with youth participants.

Keystone deeply appreciates the work of the legislature on bringing bill HF-2362 this far and we wholeheartedly support the full funding of YIP grant to help us and so many other organizations continue the work. Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,

Keystone Youth Services Staff