



McGREGOR ISD 4

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March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Please support the interventions YIP funding provides to struggling young people. As coordinator of our school-based program **Futures by Design**, I oversee and provide direct services to 100 students a year ages 10 and older in our rural Minnesota district. YIP funds allow us to offer personal asset building and risk reduction interventions to students who are failing school courses, experimenting with drugs, having contact with the juvenile justice system, are homeless and/or do not have their daily food needs met. We work with students daily to meet needs for homework help and tutoring, drug education and cessation, skills for navigating a myriad of problems in legal and safe ways, connecting youth and families to resources for emergency needs and long term mental health treatment, and sometimes just a spot to sit and gather themselves.

The YIP grant and the matching dollars we contribute are the only way we can support the people in these roles: full-time Interventionist, part-time BARR Coordinator (Building Assets, Reducing Risks), All Stars Instruction (6th grade decision-making skills), BARR Mentors and Afterschool Mentors, Service Learning to build job skills and connections to life changing opportunities. Without the YIP grant, the matching cash and in-kind contribution will not support these people, programs and activities, leaving our youth most at-risk for problems behaviors without the supports they need.

Please fully fund the YIP grant, in rural communities like ours in Aitkin County, it is the single source of support for the essential help we offer at-risk youth.

Thank you!

Cheryl Meld
Master Youth Worker & Program Coordinator

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