

# Mediation & Restorative Services

*Creating Peaceful Solutions*

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the full funding of the Youth Investment Program (YIP) grant in support of Mediation and Restorative Services (MARS). At MARS, we empower youth through mentorship, provide an oasis for open and constructive dialogue, and foster meaningful community engagement initiatives. By creating a safe and supportive environment, we enable young people to develop leadership skills, explore career pathways, and build the self-confidence they need to thrive.

The YIP grant is essential to advancing our efforts by providing the critical funding necessary to enhance our programs, improve service delivery, and expand our outreach initiatives. With this grant, we will be able to invest in key resources such as staff training, technology upgrades, and community partnerships, all of which will allow us to better serve our target population and further our mission. The financial support will empower us to implement innovative strategies, amplify program impact, and ensure the sustainability of our work, ultimately benefiting both our agency and the communities we serve.

We wholeheartedly support the full funding of this grant, as it is vital to the continued success and growth of our programs. The YIP grant will allow us to maximize our impact, reach more youth individuals in need, and create lasting positive change within our community. By investing in this grant, you are investing in a brighter, more equitable future for youth, and we are committed to using these resources to their fullest potential to help those who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of our mission.

Sincerely,

Kyra A. Gustafson  
Program Operations Manager  
Mediation and Restorative Services