



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Our agency is dedicated to empowering at-risk youth by offering comprehensive support and mentorship through the Little Brother/Little Sister Program. This initiative pairs young individuals with compassionate and responsible mentors, creating meaningful, enduring relationships. Our focus is on providing guidance and a nurturing environment for children from diverse backgrounds who may face challenges such as living in single-parent homes or being raised by extended family. By fostering these connections, we aim to build a reliable support system that encourages personal growth, resilience, and a sense of belonging in their communities.

The YIP grant plays a crucial role in expanding our agency's reach and impact by providing the necessary resources to host impactful events and workshops for our Little Brother/Little Sister Program. These activities are specifically designed to nurture the mentor-mentee relationship, offering both parties unique opportunities for personal and educational growth, that might otherwise be unavailable to them. With the support of the YIP grant, we can also provide training for mentors, ensuring they are well-equipped to guide their mentees through life's challenges. This comprehensive approach helps create a nurturing environment where at-risk youth can thrive, ultimately fostering a sense of belonging and community.

The advantages of the YIP grant are numerous, and reflecting on the faces of the children we serve reminds me of the personal struggles they endure. I am deeply grateful for the YIP grant funding, which allows me the privilege of coordinating this program. This funding ensures that these children have someone to rely on, someone who acts as a "watchdog" in their lives. Witnessing the growth of these friendships year after year reaffirms the positive impact we are making in shaping our youth, who are the future generation. *Fully funding this grant is not just an investment in our programs but an investment in the resilience and potential of each child. Your support ensures that we can continue to empower young lives, fostering a community where every child feels valued and inspired to reach their fullest potential. Together, we can build a brighter future, one mentorship at a time.*

**Overall Benefits from the YIP Grant:**

- Impacts the future generation
- Hope to youth feeling hopeless
- Keeping kids on track with life choices
- Fosters the development of essential life skills

Sincerely, Madeline Waage

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeline Waage".