



March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) is a 501c3, non-profit, workforce development entity based in Rochester, Minnesota with offices in 10 counties across Southeast Minnesota and serves as the Workforce Development Board for Southeast Minnesota. We operate the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth and Young Adult program and Minnesota Youth Program (MYP), serving youth who face barriers to employment and education. We are committed to providing career exploration, job training, and employment opportunities, ensuring young people gain the skills and experience needed for successful futures.

Our Youth and Young Adult program operates under 12 funding streams, many of which require intensive enrollment processes that can delay immediate assistance. The YIP grant is instrumental in bridging the gap, allowing us to provide timely support when urgent needs arise. This funding serves as a critical entry point for many young people, enabling them to access immediate resources while transitioning into more comprehensive workforce development programs.

WDI strongly supports the full funding of the YIP grant to continue providing essential services to youth and young adults. This investment is crucial in ensuring equitable access to career development opportunities, helping young people overcome barriers and build pathways to success.

Sincerely,

Megan Horton
Youth Services Director
Workforce Development, Inc.