



Youth & Family  
Services

We help kids

Counseling\Crisis Intervention\Child Care\Education\Girls Incorporated\Head Start\Nutrition & Health\Parenting Programs\Prevention Programs\Recreation

Dear Mayor Allender,

As you may know Youth & Family Services is in the 50<sup>th</sup> year of providing vital services to low-income and disadvantaged children and their families living in Rapid City. Over the past year our programs have reached over 13,000 children and families living in Western South Dakota.

Programs that include:

- Head Start/Early Head Start - Counseling Center - Girls Incorporated
- Wester Prevention Resource Center - Fatherhood First Program
- Nutrition Services - Child Development Center - Youth Trauma Center
- "New" Intensive Family Support Program

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MAYOR'S OFFICE

As a part of our 10-year strategic plan (initiated in 2008) we had a goal to serve an additional 3-5,000 children; we are currently bursting at the seams with children on our waiting lists. One key step in accomplishing this goal is a campus and building expansion at 120 East Adams. Currently, we have a 20 year "Ground Lease" agreement with the City of Rapid City for the land at 120 East Adams. Terms of the lease are \$1 a year for 20 years with an option to purchase the land for \$1 at the end of the 20 years.

In an effort to remove any potential obstacles with donors/funding sources we are requesting to terminate the lease 7 years earlier and purchase the land as soon as we can, thus putting all four parcels on the campus under the ownership of YFS.

We have met with Mayor Allender and Carla Cushman, Assistant City Attorney, to discuss this matter and have made an amendment to the agreement. This item will be coming before the Legal and Finance Committee on December 16 for review.

YFS has a great relationship with the City of Rapid City, employs over 230 people and provides a great service to the citizens living in Rapid City. We look forward to 50 more years of serving children and their families.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

YFS Director of Program Advancement and Facilities  
Mike Smith

YFS Chief Executive Officer  
Susan Fedell

