



***"Building Bridges with Youth to Live Safe, Drug Free and Healthy Lives."***

August 7, 2014

Mayor Sam Kooiker and Rapid City Common Council  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

**RE: Request for additional funding**

Dear Mayor Kooiker and Council Members,

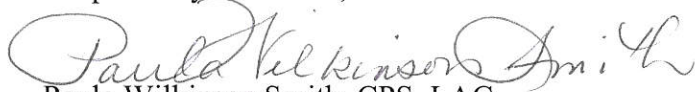
Over the past 12 years, through Lifeways' partnership with the City of Rapid City, Rapid City Area Schools and the South Dakota Department of Social Service/Division of Behavioral Health, thousands of youth have been positively impacted by our programming: "Building Bridges with Youth to Live Safe, Drug Free and Healthy Lives" through prevention education classes, early intervention support, individual guidance, connection from school to the many community agencies and resources in our community.

I am writing this letter requesting from the City Council and the Mayor, an additional \$10,000 from the 2015 budget. Dr. Mitchell, RCAS Superintendent has agreed this week to the additional \$10,000. It is of utmost importance that Lifeways receives this additional funding at this time, as Lifeways is facing a significant funding cut from the State of over 25%. Due to this funding cut, we are faced with a decrease in this upcoming school year's revenue from the State of approximately \$136,000.

Lifeways has been committed during the past 12 years in providing needed education prevention and intervention services for Rapid City youth. With the City and School increased support and current strategic planning of Lifeways Board of Directors and Staff, Lifeways will continue to provide these essential programs in the upcoming school year. Lifeways Board realizes, as a 12 year old nonprofit, we need to increase our work on accessing additional revenues of funding to ensure sustainability of our program.

Your consideration of this request is sincerely appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Paula Wilkinson Smith, CPS, LAC  
Executive Director

cc: Superintendent Dr. Timothy Mitchell