



Working with schools
and communities
to prevent and reduce
youth alcohol, tobacco,
and other drug use
and to promote healthy
environments and
promising futures.

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October 12, 2018

Paul Freitas
Town Administrator
Town of Plymouth
6 Post Office Square
Plymouth NH 03264

Dear Paul:

On behalf of CADY, I would like to thank you, and the citizens of Plymouth, for prior budget allocations and for the opportunity to submit this non-profit funding request for the 2019-2020 town budget in the amount of \$10,000 for youth programming and direct service for juvenile diversion.

CADY's prevention work is purposeful, meaningful, and significant—as is your commitment to community. Preventing drug abuse breaks the cycle of crime; protects children; prevents addiction, saves lives, increases public safety, and contains municipal costs. The best way to fight addiction is to stop the problem before it starts with prevention.

As the region's leader in substance abuse prevention, we have developed a number of innovative programs which have impacted the lives of many Plymouth youth. Our programming and outreach in Plymouth is extensive and far reaching. Let me spotlight two of our direct-service programs: The LAUNCH Youth Entrepreneurship Program and Restorative Justice. **The LAUNCH is our region's sole youth employment program, in which 155 Plymouth youth have participated to date, 5 Plymouth youth in the last year.** The LAUNCH has received national recognition for its effectiveness underscored by data outcomes: when surveyed about participation 93% of youth said they have achieved higher level goal-setting capacity, stronger leadership skills, and life success as a result of participation. Most noteworthy, is outcome data indicating LAUNCH youth are significantly less likely to engage in high risk behaviors such as substance use. Restorative Justice, a NH certified court diversion program, has given 207 youth a second chance to take responsibility for their actions, make restitution to victims, reconnect with their community, and turn their lives around **(Plymouth Police Department and Plymouth Regional High School, have referred 8 Plymouth youth in the last year). This translates into comprehensive intervention services for 24 individuals from Plymouth: 8 youth, 8 victims, and 8 parents this year.** I have enclosed additional information on other CADY initiatives and programs for your review.

We just began our sixth year of Grafton County funding which partially sustains the CADY Restorative Justice Program with full-time coordinator for this region. This program allows CADY to process up to 25 youth referrals per year. In advocating for County funding, CADY made a commitment to Grafton County Commissioners and our Legislative Delegation that we would build a shared-funding formula by seeking local support to close the budget gap. Currently there is no state funding available for diversion—we are at a place where we need to find local solutions to local problems. I am confident that working together we will be able to preserve these vital services that prevent juvenile crime from escalating into violent crime;

educate. engage. empower.

prevent costly prosecution and entry into the juvenile justice system; prevent residential placements; and significantly reduce recidivism.

When we invest in community-based solutions, we save tax dollars in the short-term and over the long term as well. A study cited in the independent evaluation of the CADY Restorative Justice Program states, "It can be said that each case handled successfully through the CADY RJ program saves approximately \$1,300 in public expenditures." This estimate does not include the value of restitution provided by youth offenders; previously reported as about \$141 and 17 hours per participant. This estimate is consistent with a meta-analysis conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy of 13 studies that focused on juvenile court diversion programs for low risk, first time juvenile offenders where providing services to the youth was an important element. The study found that "overall, taxpayers gain approximately \$1,470 in subsequent criminal justice cost savings for each program participant." The study further estimated total benefits that accrue to both taxpayers and crime victims, the latter estimated as the value realized from reduced rates of future criminal offending, at \$5,679 per participant. To date, youth offenders have paid restitution to victims totaling \$13,419. In addition to being a cost-effective alternative, CADY's RJ program provides for its communities a positive, pro-social alternative to traditional court sentencing that victims, offenders and their parents have reported to be a positive, restorative experience.

We ask for your help to create local sustainability for Restorative Justice, a vital program that has earned an 85% success rate, and for the LAUNCH, a one-of-a-kind, youth employment program. CADY's priority is to help our local youth make healthy and safe choices to protect them, and our communities, from the harms and high costs associated with substance use and crime. As you review requests for municipal support, we hope you will consider the positive impact and savings CADY provides to the Plymouth.

We're very proud of our proven outcomes and know that through community-based programming we will continue to affect real lives and real change. We ask for your continued investment in our children's future as we work to create a safer, drug-free community. Should you require additional information about CADY and our programs, please let us know and we will be happy to provide it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Naro
Executive Director