

**From:** Paul Smith  
**To:** [JWMED Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Youth Development Council Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:16:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express how integral the work of the Youth Development Council is for the benefit and support of youth in our community. Our organization and The Benton County Positive Youth Development Coalition both see a positive impact from the Council's work and the funding that derives from it.

The funding we receive has two important aspects that would be nearly impossible to replace in that they are the base funding for much of our collaborative work and that the presence of these funds has definitively led to our ability to leverage additional dollars and capacity.

As you are all well aware, the investments we make in youth and particularly those we make in ways that are upstream of more serious interventions or school and employment failures provide a substantial return on the dollars spent. From a fiscal responsibility perspective, not making or decreasing these investments makes no sense.

Respectfully,

Paul Smith  
Executive Director  
Strengthening Rural Families  
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