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Youth in Transition Grant

Bridging gaps for young adults in Vermont

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Dear Appropriations Committee Members:

I am attaching for your review the final evaluation results from the Youth in Transition (YIT) Grant, which officially ended on September 29, 2014.

I believe you will find the results to be impressive, as did the House Human Services Committee, the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and the Joint Fiscal Committee last winter and summer.

Thanks to the recommendations of those committees, YIT is now sustained with state funding through the budget of the Department of Mental Health. The Legislature approved $\frac{3}{4}$ of the funding needed to support the YIT program annually starting in State FY2015; the federal grant funded $\frac{1}{4}$ year.

For State FY2016 there is no further federal grant so a full year of state support is needed. **We are now requesting the additional $\frac{1}{4}$ year of funding: \$264,920 in State General Funds.** This investment in young adults is offset by reduced social problems and costs, as demonstrated by the evaluation. Most significantly, YIT reduces young adults':

- involvement with crime and the criminal justice system;
- depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems; and
- use of prescription opiates and other illegal drugs.

I would be happy to answer questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Brenda Bean
YIT Program Director