

**Self Help Center (Jen Dyer, Executive Director 307-235-2814  
jdyer@shccasper.com) Total amount last round: \$220,556.00**

**What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper:**

We provide the only 30 day emergency safe house for those in immediate danger for the county of Natrona. Our safe house is utilized by our walk in clients in addition to CPD victim advocates when they are on scene to a Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault call. The City and CPD do not have the capacity to offer this service. In addition, to our safe house we offer a 24/7 crisis hotline, advocacy and support to include: protection orders, counseling, substance use treatment, education programs, financial empowerment classes, and rapid re-housing (the #1 cause for homeless women and children is violence in the home). We also offer youth programs in the schools and during the summer. All of these programs work to reduce the cycle of violence and crime in our community.

**How many do we reach:**

- We serve over 600 walk-in clients per year that are experiencing violence and provide our essential advocacy and support services to every single person
- We serve over 3000 youth in schools with over 200 experiencing violence in the home,
- We receive over 4000 crisis hotline calls per year (up from 2500 pre-covid).
- We served 132 women and children in our safe house last year.

**The impact of losing the funds:**

We utilize the funds for our office space and the programs offered within. In addition, we utilize the funds to partner with the school district to offer presentations within all schools and support groups at all the secondary schools in Natrona. Without these funds programming with the school district would be greatly impacted. In addition, we would have to reduce operations to offset funds for building support. Finally, community partnerships to include CPD, Natrona School District #1, and many others would be greatly impacted financially.

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**Seton House, Carrie Reece**

**What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper:**

We support single-parent families who are homeless or facing homelessness.

**How many do we reach:**

22 families including 37 kids as of today. 56 families this past year.

**The impact of losing the funds:** We have received roughly \$30,000 for the past 3 for building repairs and maintenance. These buildings are old, and we desperately need

support to maintain them. Families come to Seton House from treatment centers, incarceration, and also a myriad of other situations including family violence, abuse, neglect, mental health challenges and other very sad experiences. Without enough funding we cannot serve these vulnerable families. These are our neighbors, and many of them are draining the system with their needs. Our mission is to help these families achieve self-sufficiency, to find and maintain employment and to contribute to the community rather than continue to utilize services.

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**Youth Crisis Center: - (David Hulshizer, Executive Director 307-577-5718  
dhulshizer@casperycc.org) Total amount last 1 cent Grant Allocation Cycle:  
\$280,000.00**

**What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper:**

We partner with law enforcement and DFS and community parents to offer a safe place for youth ages 0-17 a safe place to say to find help with abuse, negelect, homelessness, sexual abuse. We offer services such as group home, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, family therapy, life skills training and a robust food program to help feed kids in need.

**How many do we reach:**

In four years YCC will serve over 1800 youth and over 200 families over the course of the next four years. We offer emergency crisis sheltering, food assistance, educational assistance and both mental health and substance abuse assistance to At-Risk youth in our community. Many at-risk youth will have no place to go without the continued support of our partners including the City of Casper. Services such as mental health therapy, life skills, group therapy and family therapy would also be impacted as well as Case Management services. The Youth Crisis Center is the only emergency youth shelter in central Wyoming and Natrona County. We also are the largest and busiest at-risk youth shelter in all of Wyoming.

**The impact of losing the funds:**

We have received roughly \$280,000 for the past 4 years. Losing support provided by the City of Casper would result in a 20% reduction in staffing, as required by state licensing, to operate at our current capacity. This would involve a reduction of 4 Crisis Shelter beds due to the state requirement of 1 Youth Care Worker to 6 Youth. The impact would severely reduce our ability to house at-risk youth in need of our care and emergency sheltering. The Casper Police Department would have to find alternative emergency sheltering for at-risk youth if our numbers in the crisis shelter exceed 6 youth as we would not have the capacity to house youth over the licensing requirements. Currently, our average for at-risk youth in the crisis shelter has been 8 to 10 kids. We currently have room for up to 12 kids in the crisis shelter with a variance approved by the Department of Family Services. As part of our services we would also have to limit the number of court order kids accepted to our center and redirect them to the charging

agency. For charges stemming from a Casper Police Officer arrest or criminal charges, we would have to redirect their placement back to the Casper Police Department for housing in another facility.

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### **The Science Zone, Keri Owen**

#### **What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper:**

We inspire children and families through hands-on interactive science experiences through our museum and a variety of programs.

#### **How many do we reach:**

~30,000 visitors annually through our interactive science museum, 200 students through our summer camp programs, 5,000 children and families through our outreach programs across the state and our community, 500 students through hands-on field trips.

#### **The impact of losing the funds:**

We have been awarded over \$300,000 to help us grow our museum and programs. We've been able to move into a far better location to serve the community. Losing this support would result in roughly a 1/6th loss of our annual budget.

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**Mercer Family Resource Center:** Cori Burton, [cburton@mercercasper.com](mailto:cburton@mercercasper.com), 233-4260  
[www.mercercasper.com](http://www.mercercasper.com)

#### **What is our partnership with the community and the City of Casper:**

Mercer FRC provides education, counseling, and prevention services that build stronger and healthier youth and families in our community. Mercer FRC provides family and parenting education, adult and youth intervention, and community connections that are proactive, impactful, and accessible to anyone in the community! Serving Natrona County since 1971, we are the lead agency for the Natrona County Prevention Coalition, Natrona County Suicide Prevention Task Force, and the Youth Empowerment Council (YEC). YEC meets weekly, holds pro-social events monthly (Community Outreach Team), and presents quarterly to their peers (Suicide Prevention Awareness Team); Other subcommittees include their Green Team and Healthy Relationships. Mercer adapts to community needs as they arise, such as providing alternative activities for youth when teen fights became a trending problem and creating relationship groups to address spikes in adolescent sexual assaults. We also keep juveniles out of the criminal justice system through alternate programming for ticketed youth.

#### **How many do we reach:**

Each year Mercer FRC serves approximately 3,000 individuals through parenting classes, early intervention and education, and empowerment programs for youth. We provide an average of 8,000 direct service hours to youth and families annually. We

reach another 80% of the population through substance abuse prevention and suicide awareness presentations and campaigns. YEC reaches an average of 700 new students in grades 6-12 each school year, providing roughly 2,000 direct service hours annually.

- Current grant cycle stats (July 2019 - June 2022):
  - **10,215** Community Engagement Participants
  - **7,281** Clients Receiving Direct Services
  - **2,717** YEC participants

#### **The impact of losing the funds:**

Mercer FRC has been awarded \$128,022 for the four-year cycle. During the last fiscal year, we served 30% more clients than prior years. Resources like the City of Casper funding reduce the burden of program costs that are passed on to clients, as well as create scholarships to reduce these costs when our regular sliding-fee becomes a barrier to services. 80% of clients this past year reported coming from low income families (a 10% increase from last year). Our anticipated deficit is growing due to budget cuts while our clients (and employees) are all feeling the burdens of inflation.

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**Interfaith of Natrona County** - Lindsey Tempest/ED [lindsey@interfaithnc.org](mailto:lindsey@interfaithnc.org)  
307-235-8043 [interfaithofnc.com](http://interfaithofnc.com)

#### **What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper:**

We provide emergency services to the citizens in our community living in extreme poverty. Many of our clients are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless without intervention. We promote self-sufficiency models to prevent homelessness. In addition to providing rent/utility assistance, we are the only agency in Natrona County who provides funding for identification documents which are necessary for citizens to receive most other social services in the community.

#### **How many do we reach:**

21/22 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) - 1,287 individuals served (383 children's lives impacted and 337 disabled).

- 1,992 services provided
- 1060 case management service hours
- \$95,150 spent for rent/mortgage assistance
- \$11,600 spent for utility assistance
- \$6,400 spent for identification documents (needed for housing/employment/SNAP)

*\*\*\*these are our main areas of dollars spent but not all dollars spent...*

#### **The impact of losing the funds:**

We were awarded \$136,667 (\$34,166 annually) for this previous 4yr cycle, only received \$133,708.57 due to budget cuts in 2020. Losing city funds would cut our budget by approx 20%. In order to preserve funds for direct client services, Interfaith would have

to look at staffing and make a decision about decreasing the number of case managers we have.

As it is, we only have 3 part-time case managers, losing 1 due to lack of funding would put a serious strain on case numbers for our case managers.

Alternatively, if we were to cut funding from client services instead, that would equate to 62 families losing rental assistance per year which puts them at risk of becoming homeless.

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**Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming- Ashley Bright, [abright@bgccw.org](mailto:abright@bgccw.org) CEO; Cheryl Hackett, Director of Development, [chackett@bgccw.org](mailto:chackett@bgccw.org)**

We serve 7,436 youth, ages 5-18, in Casper. Our programs focus on academic success, good character & citizenship and healthy lifestyles. To help empower youth to make healthy decisions and avoid risky behavior, especially when it comes to alcohol, tobacco, drugs and suicide prevention, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming (BGCCW) takes a multi-prong approach, utilizing programs like SMART Moves, “Be Somebody: Cowboy Ethics,” and QPR for suicide prevention.

**Partnership with City of Casper:**

Through the years, optional one-cent funding has supported the Club’s facility improvements and has helped our operations meet the growing needs of the 7,436 youth, ages 5-18, we serve on a yearly basis in Casper. At the City’s request, the Club has hosted several one-cent question and answer sessions on our campus and have displayed one-cent banners at events. We have worked hand-in-hand with the City when community issues in need of a solution have arisen—such as hosting Safe Kids Days, and Teen Social at David Street Station to combat juvenile delinquency and misbehavior. The Club is there for kids when they need it most: after school, all day in the summer, and on out-of-school days. The Club promotes good character and citizenship, as well as academic success and healthy lifestyles.

In partnership with the City, we monitor activities at the skate park—which was made possible by one-cent funding—and have allowed Casper Police Officers to use our building for surveillance of the skate park. The Club’s All American Center, which houses WyoTowne and the Casper Boxing Club, are in a long-term lease with the City. We have provided transportation to the citizens of Casper, and we provide a free meal to youth and their families each weekday evening. In fact, the Club served 111,075 free snacks and meals in 2021. When community needs arise, we galvanize quickly to meet the need. In fact, we recently launched a new workforce development program for teens to combat unemployment in Casper and encourage local youth to stay in the community after graduation.

**Impact of the funds:** One-cent funds provide enhancements to our programs and allow us to provide more services to more youth and families in Casper. Decreased funding would mean decreased services after-school, in summer, and on out-of-school days. This would likely result in more juvenile misbehavior and crime in the city.

With current economic inflation, and coming out of COVID, organizations are serving more individuals with less funding. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming could not provide bright futures for Casper youth without the City's continued partnership, including the option of additional support from one-cent funding. Not allowing local non-profits to apply for funding as part optional one-cent funding may result in a short-term financial savings. However, the decision would be terribly costly—both fiscally and in terms of human capital—to the City and its citizens in the long-term.

When community needs arise, we galvanize quickly to meet the need. In fact, we recently launched a new workforce development program for teens to combat unemployment in Casper and encourage local youth to stay in the community after graduation.

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**Central Wyoming Hospice & Transitions:** *Kilty Brown, ED*  
[kiltyb@centralwyominghospice.org](mailto:kiltyb@centralwyominghospice.org) & *Susan Burk, Community Liaison*  
[susanb@centralwyominghospice.org](mailto:susanb@centralwyominghospice.org), 307-577-4832  
**Total amount last round: \$150,333.33**

#### **What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper:**

Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions has provided 40 years of end-of-life care to the residents of our city. The majority of our patients are cared for in their own homes. However, we operate two hospice homes, at a loss, so that patients without caregivers and resources have compassionate care in their last days. During the past few years, we've almost tripled the amount of hospice care we've provided within our community.

Additionally, Hospice provides free grief care to anyone in the community who has suffered a loss. Following COVID, we doubled the amount of grief care provided to the community. Our Transitions program offers a free support program to the homebound elderly to allow them to remain independent in their own homes. Through the We Honor Veterans program we honor veterans and provide specialized, trauma-informed care in their last days of life. Hospice does not receive any reimbursement for these extra community services.

Hospice benefits the City of Casper in the following ways:

- On an average day, Hospice cares for over 50 patients living in the community. Our 24 hour nursing team responds to patient medical crises at the end of life, relieving pressure on the city's Emergency Services. Without Hospice services police, fire and ambulance would be responding to multiple calls daily for terminal patients.

- Central Wyoming Hospice also alleviates burdens on our community hospital and the emergency department, freeing beds for patients who are acutely ill.
- Our hospice homes serve as a safety net for our patients. By operating them, we can immediately remove patients from unsafe situations, such as elder abuse, extreme neglect, drug diversion, elderly with wandering behaviors, etc. Because of our intervention, police are rarely called, and these individuals don't enter "the system."
- Our free grief counseling acts as a first line of mental healthcare. Because we automatically connect with every family, we mitigate the effects of complicated grief and depression.
- 8% of children in Wyoming have lost a parent or sibling. Hospice's kids grief care program offers early intervention to process grief and trauma. Studies show these children are more at risk for developing psychological and behavioral health problems, including substance abuse and post traumatic stress reaction.
- During COVID, Hospice was one of the few medical institutions admitting residents with COVID. Moreover, hospice was the only place in the community where family could be together in the last hours. At the height of the pandemic, we doubled occupancy rooms in our hospice home to alleviate the pressure placed on our community hospital.
- Hospice provided approximately \$740,000 in charity care during this grant cycle. (\$240,000 in 2021)

**How many do we reach:** In 2021...

- We cared for 423 patients in the past year—or 21,949 days of care.
- We provided free supportive care to 117 elderly Transitions clients.
- 575 members of the community received free grief care.
- We served the specialized needs of 92 veterans under our care.

**The impact of losing the funds:**

Our fundraising efforts heavily skew toward a broad base of small donations. The One-Cent funding allows for repair, maintenance, and infrastructure spending that are generally not funded by grants or by donors. In fact, many funders restrict their donation to fund programs and patient care rather than capital projects. This loss of funding could necessitate diverting monies marked for patient care. For example, without the One Cent Funds during the last cycle, we would have needed to cut staffing or spending on patient care. This would have very detrimental consequences to patients and families at any time, but would have been especially devastating during a pandemic.

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**Child Development Center-Alisha Rone, [arone@cdccasper.org](mailto:arone@cdccasper.org) 235-5097**

### **What is our partnership with the community and the City of Casper?**

The CDC's partnership with the City of Casper and the community has been long-standing. The CDC has been part of the One Cent funds for many years and those funds have helped to offset funding to expand the CDC facility and provide early intervention services for children birth to age five, with and without special needs. As well as outpatient services for children birth to twenty one. These services include physical therapy, speech therapy, cognitive skill development, occupational therapy, preschool, family service coordination, nutrition, audiology, and development screenings free of charge for all children and families in need. Additionally, the CDC has a partnership with the city in that, the CDC utilizes the city's transit program to get some of our children to school and therapy appointments.

### **How many do we reach:**

#### **On an annual basis the CDC serves:**

Children with disabilities ages 0-5= **424**

Children without disabilities but are low income= **135**

Outpatient Therapy= **105**

Development Screenings= **1,100**

Audiology=**200**

**Total= 1,964 Natrona County Children**

### **The Impact of Losing the Funds**

The last One Cent Cycle- the CDC has received \$54,187.50 as of 6/30/22. The funding we received expanded our therapy rooms to provide more PT, OT, and Speech therapies for children and helped to offset the costs of providing development screenings for all children in the community. Each development screening costs on average \$100 between the protocol and the staff time. Last year we delivered over 1,100 screenings to our community's children which totals over \$110,000. Early Intervention is key to a child's overall development, especially when they have been diagnosed with a disability. Obviously, without these funds it would impact the number of screenings the CDC is able to provide thus impacting little lives. We will do what we can to fill the gap, but at the same time it's the city supporting what we as a nonprofit do for the children and families we serve. The families we serve vote for the One Cent because they realize that those funds support their child receiving much needed services, that's over 1,900 constituents voting "yes" for the One Cent.

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**Big Brother Big Sisters** (Andrea D'Onofrio, Community Outreach,  
Andrea@bbbswyo.org)

### **What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper?**

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest, largest, most effective mentoring program in the nation. Our traditional model involves a child being paired with an adult volunteer with a similar personality and interests to make a 'match'. Our staff maintains regular contact with the volunteer, the child, and the parent/guardian to ensure that a positive relationship develops and provide additional resources as needed. This relationship can help ignite the potential the potential that is already in that child by just knowing there is a mentor in their corner. Many of these children are in single parent/guardian homes and the addition of a mentor can help them not fall through the cracks.

Our Progressive Youth program is a restorative justice program that provides positive supervision and supportive services that are intended to reintegrate, reconnect, and reengage youth into their families, schools, and communities. These programs have a phenomenal success rate, with very few participants reoffending. This program helps keep young people out of the court system which in turn saves the taxpayers and city money and has better outcomes for the youth involved. The PY program actively seeks out and partners with community members and businesses to provide meaningful community service opportunities that help youth internalize the concept of helping others. The program provides workplace training, positive recreation, and guided small group interactions, life skills training, support services, and academic assistance.

### **How many do we reach**

We served 154 unduplicated youth in 2021. 87 in our one on one mentoring program and 67 in our juvenile justice program. We also served 448 total household members in addition to these youth.

### **The impact of losing the funds**

We received \$9,523 per quarter in this contract period. The loss of this funding would be extremely detrimental to our program and more importantly, to the youth of Casper. With the challenges facing out young people and experts sounding the alarm on increasing struggles for young people with mental health, the supportive programming offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters provides an additional protective factor to help children develop resilience and lessen the negative impacts of mental health issues for our youth and families.

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**Natrona County Library** – Lisa Scroggins, Executive Director

307 E 2nd Street, Casper 82601

(307) 262-0754 - Cell

**What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper:**

While we are a County Library, the city has historically welcomed the Library as a 1% partner recognizing that a high percentage of library patrons are City of Casper residents. While the County is legislatively obligated to provide for a county library, there is no legislation that suggests the County should be the sole source of funding.

Libraries build literate, productive and engaged communities. It is a gateway to knowledge and plays a fundamental role in our community by promoting culture, civility, and democracy. Knowing illiteracy and crime are connected, by promoting literacy the Library is reducing the crime rate. (The Department of Justice states, "*The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure. Over 70% of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above a fourth grade level.*") The Library provides assistance to the business and workforce communities, offering technology literacy, workforce assistance and job skills training as well as a wide variety of programming and other resources for individuals of all ages and economic classes.

**How many do we reach:** The library has 34,884 registered card holders which does not include temporary card holders or people who use library services that do not require a card.

**Goals for funding:** The Library plans to make a 1% request to the City in two areas: Books & Materials, and Safety & Security. We seek City 1% funding to purchase books and other materials circulated to the community. We also seek funding for contracted security so we can provide the same level of safety in the parking lot as we do inside the building. The lack of safety was a problem exasperated with the placement of the bus transfer station next to the Library. The disruptive, violent and often illegal behaviors from the transfer station and surrounding area often spill over into the library parking lot, creating an access barrier for many Casper residents.

**The impact of losing funds:** Without this funding, the quality of the circulating collection will deteriorate quickly. Without an ongoing infusion of materials, a library's collection becomes outdated and irrelevant. It will also impact the Library's ability to combat the known safety issues in our parking lot and surrounding the library, eliminating the ability to provide residents the safe environment they expect and deserve. (We currently appreciate CPD's response to security issues; however, our goal is to prevent the issues from happening in the first place. This will not only improve safety for our patrons but will also reduce demands on an already-stretched-thin police department.)

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**Wyoming Food for Thought Project – Jamie Purcell, Executive Director**

307.267.2421

[Jpurcell@wyomingfoodforthoughtproject.org](mailto:Jpurcell@wyomingfoodforthoughtproject.org)

**What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper:**

Since our inception in 2012, we have been a collaborative force with the City of Casper. First, when we took over the management of the Downtown Casper Community Farmer's Market (at the Nic) we worked with the City to close streets weekly for that event.

In 2013, we approached the City with the idea of placing free food gardens in City parks. We worked with the City to identify a park (Dallason Park) to accomplish this goal. The idea was to create a proof of concept and show the City that the partnership could work, water would be conserved better with our watering system than what was already in place for the existing space, and that the concept could benefit the neighborhood Dallason Park is located in.

Since that project began community partnerships have evolved to include a new community based non-profit (Friends of Dallason Park) and the park has seen revitalization. This included making the park handicap accessible with a new walkway, handicap accessible beds, a new pergola, and new trees and play-pieces.

James Reeb Park is also a City Park (located at 916 Saint John) in north Casper. This park has historical significance as it was donated to the Presbytery of Wyoming who then gifted it to the City of Casper to be used for the benefit of the community. We manage that park which is primarily made up of community gardens but also has a playground.

Today our partnership with the City has expanded to include receiving one cent funds for the past 2 cycles, and also working with the City on our Good Food Hub project (they are wonderful advisors) and with the CDGB-COVID funds we applied for through the city as the sponsor.

**How many do we reach:** We reach 1,000 kids annually through our food bags (300,000 meals distributed annually), 250 children with Service-Learning, 1,000 adults with volunteer opportunities, and approximately 1,000 families with our community gardens.

**Impact of losing funds:** Funding is always appreciated and the past one cent cycle was helpful as we worked to get our Good Food Hub off the ground, as well as our Food Rescue programs where we use our commercial kitchen to create frozen meals for kids.

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**Children's Advocacy Project, Inc.**

Stacy Nelson, Executive Director, 307-232-0159

[stacy@childrensadvocacyproject.org](mailto:stacy@childrensadvocacyproject.org)

**What is our partnership with the community and City of Casper?**

CAP partners with the Casper Police Department and other local, state and federal law enforcement and DFS investigators by responding to requests to conduct forensic interviews of children who are alleged to be victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, severe neglect, maltreatment, abduction, drug endangerment and children who may have witnessed violence such as homicide and domestic violence. CAP also conducts forensic interviews of vulnerable adult victims of abuse. The forensic interview process at our advocacy center is designed provide a coordinated community approach to child abuse and minimize trauma to the children experiences the abuse. In addition to forensic interviews, CAP provides victim advocacy and trauma based therapy services such as EMDR and other post traumatic stress therapy modalities for child victims and their families.

CAP is available 24/7, 365 days/year if situations arise requiring the forensic interviews to be conducted outside of normal working hours.

**How many do we reach?**

CAP is one of only three nationally accredited child advocacy centers in Wyoming, conducting more forensic interviews than any other center in the State. In 2021, CAP conducted 354 forensic interviews, the most ever conducted in one year since opening in 2002. Of these 354 forensic interviews, 220 were of children living in Casper.

**The impact of losing the funds:**

CAP was awarded \$138,333 in the last four-year grant cycle ending June 30, 2023. CAP does not receive funding from the State of Wyoming and federal funding continues to decrease each year. The funding from the City of Casper and other municipal and county funding ensures CAP can retain their highly trained staff and ensures continued training requirements are met. This provides the best opportunity for the community of Casper to ensure best practice, least traumatic protocols are utilized when handling child

abuse investigations. A loss of funding or significant decrease would negatively impact our ability to meet the needs of the hundreds of child victims in our community.