



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jenna Maguire
Media and Events Manager
Jmaguire@ysswv.com

Youth Services System, Inc. Awarded Momentum Initiative Grant from West Virginia First Foundation

WHEELING, W.Va. – Youth Services System Inc. is proud to announce its selection as a recipient of the Momentum Initiative Grant (MIG) from the West Virginia First Foundation (WVFF).

The grant, totaling \$125,000 will support Youth Services System, Inc.'s afterschool program by expanding a youth prevention element, which will deliver evidence-based substance use prevention programming to elementary and middle school students through school and out-of-school-time settings.

The program strengthens youth wellness, healthy decision-making, and social-emotional skill development by connecting positive lifestyle choices, goal-setting, and coping skills with the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and opioid use across Region 1 of West Virginia, including Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel counties

"At Youth Services System, we believe every child, family and individual deserves access to the support and opportunities they need to thrive," said Jill Eddy, CEO. "With support from the West Virginia First Foundation, we can remove barriers to care and expand access to services that help create better futures for children, families, and our community."

The Momentum Initiative Grant reflects WVFF's continued commitment to responsible stewardship of opioid settlement funds and to supporting projects and organizations that strengthen systems of care across West Virginia.

"The Momentum Initiative Grant was designed to support organizations that are ready to scale, collaborate, and deliver lasting results," said Jonathan Board, WVFF executive director. "The work of Youth Services System, Inc. reflects the kind of leadership and local insight needed to move this effort forward."

Through MIG, WVFF is advancing nearly \$18 million to support projects across the state that address prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce needs; building on lessons learned and focusing on accountability, sustainability and long-term impact.

To learn more about West Virginia First Foundation, visit wvfirst.org. To learn more about Youth Services System, visit youthservicessystem.org.

About West Virginia First Foundation: The West Virginia First Foundation (WVFF) is a nonprofit organization established to address the opioid crisis and its lasting impact across the state. Created under the terms of the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), WVFF was designed to receive and distribute opioid settlement funds. Guided by the principles outlined in the MOU, the Foundation operates as a private 501(c)(3) entity to support prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction efforts. Through strategic funding and community collaboration, WVFF is committed to creating sustainable solutions that improve the health and well-being of all West Virginians. For more information, visit wvfirst.org.

About Youth Services System: Youth Services System, Inc.'s mission is "to create better futures for children, families and our community." YSS is committed to responding to the complex needs of youth at serious risk. Since 1974, Youth Services System, Inc. has reached thousands of youth and their families with our shelter, residential, community-based and professional services. Together with youth and their families, we work to improve their physical and emotional well-being, to address the debilitating effects of abuse, substance use, and trauma, and to build the skills and connections they need to be successful. Accredited by CARF International, YSS is supported by our volunteer Board of Directors, dedicated staff and faithful community, allowing us to make a measurable impact on the lives of youth. For more information, visit www.youthservicessystem.org.