

Alcohol Tax Funding Request – New Day, Inc.

New Day, Inc. is a nonprofit behavioral health provider dedicated to serving adults, youth, and families across Yellowstone County and the State of Montana. For more than 30 years, we have supported high-risk and underserved populations through trauma-informed care, early intervention, and culturally responsive programming. Many of the individuals we serve experience systemic barriers to treatment, involvement in the justice system, or lack access to consistent, high-quality care.

As a 24/7, 365-day-a-year operation, New Day provides essential support to individuals and families in crisis, whenever and wherever they need it. While most of our clients are Medicaid-funded, the reimbursement rates fall significantly short of covering the actual costs of delivering comprehensive behavioral health services. This funding gap greatly limits our ability to recruit and retain qualified staff, maintain vital programming, and respond to the increasing demand for services in our community.

We are respectfully requesting \$25,000 from the Alcohol Tax fund to support the expansion of critical services, enhance diversion efforts, and close longstanding gaps in care, particularly for Native American youth, individuals without payor sources, and those transitioning out of detention. These funds are essential to ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our community receive timely, culturally appropriate, and effective treatment and recovery support.

Why New Day Matters

We currently support an average of 42 youth in Day Treatment and 28 in our group homes, with lengths of stay ranging from 9 to 12 months. In 2024, we received 391 referrals to our Adolescent Day Treatment and Therapeutic Group Home programs. Unfortunately, due to staffing limitations, we could only admit 86 youth. Among those admitted, 33 (26%) required substance use treatment; 34 youth (40%) identified as Native American, underscoring the need for culturally competent services. Additionally, 85% of our clients are funded by Medicaid, and many are uninsured or underinsured. We provide daily transportation, ensuring youth can access care without financial or geographic barriers.

Proven Impact

From May 2024 to March 2025, 111 individuals completed our ACT (Alternatives to Chemical Treatment) and Prime for Life (PFL) early intervention programs. Referrals were primarily sourced from Yellowstone County Judges Waters and Carter. Only one individual has sought repeat services, indicating strong retention and success in early-stage intervention efforts. These outcomes demonstrate measurable impact and strong partnerships with the judicial system.

How We Would Use Alcohol Tax Funds

1. Strengthen and Expand Specialized Programming

A. Hire one additional clinical staff member to:

- 1) Expand access to adolescent outpatient Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment; and
- 2) Increase the number of ACT/PFL (Accountability, Choices, and Treatment / Prevention, Family, and Life Skills) classes offered each month to better meet community needs.

What we Expect to Achieve

- 1) Increase the number of youth served in outpatient SUD treatment by 10–15% annually.
- 2) Offer ACT/PFL classes more frequently to reduce waitlists and improve timely service access.
- 3) Maintain a 99.1% success rate among ACT/PFL participants, measured by program completion and positive behavioral outcomes.
- 4) Sustain completion rates of 80% or higher across all therapy and recovery programs.
- 5) Expand access to Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) for justice-involved youth to promote personal accountability, enhance decision-making skills, and facilitate long-term behavioral change.

How We Will Track and Report Outcomes

New Day is committed to transparency and accountability. We will provide:

- 1) Quarterly tracking of referrals, admissions, completions, and wait times.
- 2) Pre- and post-program clinical assessments to evaluate progress.
- 3) Ongoing feedback from judicial partners, detention staff, and referring agencies.
- 4) An annual report detailing outcomes and program impact for County and stakeholder review.

New Day is uniquely positioned at the intersection of behavioral health, youth justice, and community wellness. We are already doing the work—serving vulnerable populations, partnering with courts, and producing results, but we can, and must, do more.

With support from Alcohol Tax funding, we will broaden our reach, address growing needs, and ensure that youth do not lack access to care due to their financial status, cultural background, or system involvement.

We respectfully request inclusion in the funding process and consideration for support in this year's allocation cycle.

Sincerely,

Lesli Asay
Interim Chief Executive Officer
New Day, Inc.