

I'm writing in support of Teresa McGarry and the Moneytalk Financial Foundations (MTFF) organization, which provides underserved communities financial literacy training that is highly needed.

I have worked in the low-to-moderate income communities in Wyandotte County for the past 13 years. I have seen firsthand the deep need for financial literacy in Wyandotte County to help individuals thrive as adults.

Many are embarrassed and ashamed, and don't feel comfortable admitting or talking to anyone about it. In addition, they don't have a safe place to turn to for help. I hear every day from community members who want help with money management: from people who are struggling to pay the bills to those who have a healthy paycheck but don't know how to make their money grow. The stories, often from people who are doing their best to raise a family on a budget, are both heartbreaking and inspiring.

For many people in our community, the challenge began when they graduated high school and entered adulthood with little understanding of how to manage their money. By educating themselves through MTFF, they've learned about budgeting, paying down debt, and improving their credit score. They work every day to pull themselves out of the same hole many before them have found themselves in.

The training provided by MTFF has the potential to change all that. I'm not suggesting it will keep everyone out of debt or eliminate all hardship, but giving high schoolers a basic understanding of how to manage their money brings the chance to start their adult life on stable footing.

Imagine the better choices a teenager might make who understands why a credit card bill balloons with interest or how much federal tax comes out of each paycheck. Imagine what Kansans' retirement savings could look like if young adults understood the concept of compound interest and began investing in an employer-provided 401k in their 20s rather than a decade or two later.

The mission at Moneytalk Financial Foundations is to help people stress less about money by promoting personal finance education. We hope the great State of Kansas will support Moneytalk Financial Foundations through the awarding of this grant opportunity.

Respectfully,  
Gabriel Muñoz