Monument Prevention Coalition
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April 6, 2026

Received
4.9.2026

City of Terrytown
116 Terry Blvd.
Gering, Ne 69341

RE: Funding

City Council Members:

On behalf of the Monument Prevention Coalition, I write to you today to ask for your continued financial support. The City of Terrytown has been a faithful community partner since 2013, and we ask that you continue to invest in the lives of Terrytown youth by contributing at the same rate of $.75 per Terrytown resident. According to the 2022 census Terrytown had a total population of 1,043 which would be $782.25 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

I thought I would go back in time and share where we were in 2013 and where we are now. In 2001, we operated as a satellite office for Project Extra Mile in Omaha. In 2012, Project Extra Mile had a change in their funding and could not keep our office open due to lack of funds. When they met with the coalition to advise them on the closure, our committed members said the coalition would not stop, even if the funding stopped. They could see the vision and the need to stand up for our youth and the harms of underage alcohol and other substance use. The leaders of this coalition worked diligently toward establishing a new coalition, naming it Monument Prevention Coalition. We had and still have a very active, committed coalition. We invite you to be a part of this coalition and you can see firsthand the impact we are making on our communities. We reached out to towns in Scotts Bluff County to help us in getting this work done by providing funding. That was our beginning and we are now one of the leading nonprofit prevention organizations in the state. You are the foundation of this organization. We have come a long way, but we will not stop the work we are doing. We have great youth in Western Nebraska, and they are worth every penny and minute of our efforts.

According to the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Survey we have seen a reduction in alcohol use since 2003 when this survey was first conducted through schools. These surveys include 8th, 10th and 12th grade students every 2 years. An example of this is 30-day alcohol use. The results show that in Scotts Bluff County 8th grade students use in 2003 was 19.9% and in 2023 it was 11.3%; 10th grade students went from 44.7% down to 19.6% in 2023; and 12th grade students went from 53.2% in 2003 down to 30.1%. As you can see, even though the numbers are higher than we would like in underage alcohol use, we have seen a great reduction. We will keep on working to reduce the numbers further.

The Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center estimates it costs the citizens of the state of Nebraska $1,779.00 per youth/per year to pay for the consequences of underage drinking. Additionally, Nebraska Office of Highway Safety has declared Scotts Bluff County as a priority county for underage alcohol use and binge drinking. As a county, we look to our community to work together for the health and safety of our youth.

Since the inception of our coalition and the strategies we use for prevention of underage alcohol use, excessive alcohol use, we have expanded our efforts into vaping and medical cannabis use as priorities.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or I can be of any assistance. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,

Lanette Richards

Lanette Richards, Executive Director
Monument Prevention Coalition
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Scottsbluff, NE 69361
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