



August 21, 2026

Deadwood City Historical Society
Outside of Deadwood Grant Committee
Deadwood, SD 57732

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing with gratitude for your support of St. Francis Mission with an Outside Of Deadwood grant award last year and to request a short extension—September through November. The award was for the St. Charles Cemetery marker project that would provide grave markers and section/row markers. As described in our proposal, the cemetery holds more than 4,000 burials, representing generations of Sicangu Lakota families. This work remains deeply important to us and to the families we serve.

Unfortunately, we were made aware that the award ended July 31 as we were getting ready to finalize our order for the markers and posts. We experienced unexpected delays after our Chief Operating Officer, who handled grants, resigned at the end of December. Without a dedicated grant manager, coordinating vendors and project steps took longer than we anticipated. We've now assigned clear internal responsibility and are ready to move forward immediately.

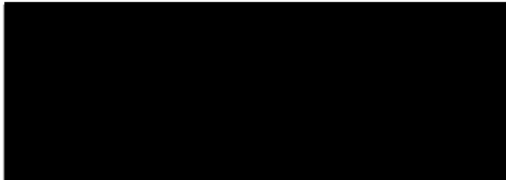
The St. Charles Cemetery is a living history as contradictory as that sounds. From the earliest grave dated 1876 to yesterday's burial, the cemetery is a testament to the lives of Sicangu babies, elders, veterans, and the priests and sisters who served here. Keeping the cemetery census accurate and accessible matters to families, tribal members, and our broader community. Updated grave markers and section/row markers will make a meaningful difference for everyone who comes searching for their relatives and ancestors.

The planning is complete, vendors are lined up, and we can finish the project within the three-month extension. We truly appreciate your belief in this work and your partnership in preserving our shared history.

As mentioned in our proposal, the history of Deadwood is deeply entwined with the history of Chief Spotted Tail, Crow Dog, the Black Hills, and the Treaty of 1868 between the Lakota tribes and the United States government. The \$10,000 award was truly a gift that will help us maintain and update the final resting place for many of our people.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if you need anything further.

Warm regards,



St. Francis Mission,
St. Francis, South Dakota