

From: Leon T. Andrews [mailto:andrews@nlc.org]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 4:59 PM
To: Mayor Tom Barrett; Davis Sr., Joe
Cc: Mahan, Steven
Subject: SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT: City Leaders to Promote Black Male Achievement

Dear Mayor Barrett and Alderman Davis,

On behalf of the National League of Cities (NLC) and its Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute), it is my pleasure to share that Milwaukee has been selected to participate in the first phase of NLC's *City Leaders to Promote Black Male Achievement Technical Assistance Initiative*.

We thank you for your leadership in seeking to reduce the wide disparities in education, work, and family outcomes between African-American males and their peers. The proposal submitted by Milwaukee is a reminder that mayors and other city leaders are in a unique position to spearhead efforts to increase black male achievement and reduce racial disparities in their communities.

We had an incredible response to this solicitation from cities across the country. In total, we received nearly 30 applications! Because of the strong pool of proposals, we have chosen 11 cities to participate in the initial planning phase of the project:

1. Charlottesville, VA
2. Chicago, IL
3. Fort Wayne, IN
4. Jacksonville, FL
5. Louisville, KY
6. Milwaukee, WI
7. Oakland, CA
8. Omaha, NE
9. Orlando, FL
10. Philadelphia, PA
11. Portland, OR

Over the next four months, NLC will host monthly webinars and conduct individual technical assistance calls with each city team. Our goal during the next four months is to better understand the local process and plan each city is implementing to sustain progress at the community level in improving life outcomes for black men and boys. As part of your participation in this initiative, your city has committed to take steps in each of the following areas:

1. Engaging local elected officials to frame and raise the visibility of issues related to black male achievement
2. Developing strong partnerships dedicated to improving outcomes for black men and boys
3. Utilizing data effectively document needs, target resources, assess the effectiveness of strategies, and measuring progress in improving life outcomes for black men and boys
4. Implementing comprehensive strategies for black men and boys in educational attainment, employment opportunities, family strengthening, and violence prevention
5. Promoting an authentic youth civic engagement structure for young black men and boys

At the end of the four months, NLC will select a smaller cohort from this group of 11 cities to receive more intensive technical assistance for the remaining 12 months of this initiative, including more frequent phone and email consultation, at least one site visit by NLC staff, and the opportunity to participate in a cross-site convening. This second phase of the initiative will enable NLC to offer greater help to those

cities that have demonstrated great promise and the capacity to move forward during the project's initial planning phase.

In addition to your city's participation in this national technical assistance initiative, we are excited that you accepted the invitation from Mayor Michael Nutter a few weeks ago to participate in Cities United, a diverse coalition of mayors working in partnership with the Open Society Foundations, Casey Family Programs, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities dedicated to reducing violent deaths among black men and boys. Cities United was established to bring mayors from across the country together with other local elected officials and community leaders to create opportunities for black men and boys to achieve their full potential and live long and productive lives. Among those joining Cities United in establishing this effort is New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu; more than 25 other mayors have already signed on. City officials have a visible "bully pulpit" from which to place issues on city and community agendas, the power to serve as conveners and broker partnerships among diverse groups, and the ability to leverage local resources – from parks and community centers to libraries and housing and community development programs – on behalf of citywide initiatives.

Both Cities United and NLC's *City Leaders to Promote Black Male Achievement Technical Assistance Initiative* are designed to complement each other and strengthen the capacity and efforts locally for local elected officials to sustain progress at the community level in improving life outcomes for black men and boys.

We are really looking forward to working with you and your staff and doing all we can to support your efforts to promote black male achievement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My very best,
Leon

**LEON T. ANDREWS, JR. | SENIOR FELLOW
INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH, EDUCATION, & FAMILIES
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES | 1301 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004 | 202- 626-3039- PHONE; 202- 626-3117- FAX | ANDREWS@NLC.ORG**

**[Register Now and Save](#)
Congress of Cities and Exposition, Seattle, WA
November 13 – 16, 2013**