

Are you troubled about the thousands of Milwaukee residents being laid off, with no safety net?

Do you think there's a better answer than temp agencies, layoffs, part-time work, out-of-town low-wage jobs, and the W-2 program??

Do you want **bold action** on **family-supporting jobs in Milwaukee**??

Support "W-3"—We Want Work" !

The People's Economic Summit is demanding a city program of 500 public service jobs paying \$12/hour plus benefits: "W-3"-We Want Work. A Resolution supporting W-3 is at the Common Council now.

W-3 can win if Milwaukeeans tell their Aldermen, loud and clear, that we want it!

What you can do to Support "W-3":

Sign a petition card now.

Attend the Common Council Committee hearing on W-3.

Thursday, May 30, 1:30 pm, City Hall, Room 301-B

W-2 /No/

W-3 /Yes/

The People's Economic Summit

A Coalition sponsored by Esperanza Unida, 9 to 5 National Association of Working Women, and the Women and Poverty Public Education Initiative. Endorsed by 40 Milwaukee groups.

*A gathering last year of 550 central city residents.

*A Platform addressing job creation and access, human and civil rights, vocational training to meet community needs, rethinking economic development, and human needs.

*A commitment to action on issues affecting central city residents of Milwaukee.

For more information, call 265-3925

Common Council Resolution

to endorse

the Milwaukee Emergency Public Service Jobs Program ("W-3": We Want Work)

Whereas, Wisconsin's welfare program(W-2) is based on work and in 1997 31,000 Milwaukee families began the transition from AFDC to work but there was no labor market provision for this new influx of job seekers and

Whereas, families participating in the W-2 program are now beginning to meet their lifetime limit on welfare and are no longer eligible for government assistance, find no safety net in place and are totally dependent on acquiring family supporting jobs for survival, and

Whereas, thousands of factory jobs have left Wisconsin and specifically Milwaukee in the past two years, replaced by low-wage-no-benefits-frequently part-time jobs, resulting in vast numbers of active job-seekers with ever fewer family-supporting jobs with benefits remaining in the central city; and

Whereas, the latest UW-M Employment and Training Institute survey of job openings in Milwaukee shows a 10:1 job gap in the central city—ten active job-seekers for every full-time job, compared to 4:1 in 1998; and

Whereas, central city Milwaukee's unemployed and under-employed job-seekers include significant numbers of young people in the 18-21 age range, residents with felony records, and limited English-speakers; and

Whereas, access to meaningful education and training for better-paying jobs is extremely limited in the central city, especially for persons not yet employed; and

Whereas, in the 1990s real income actually declined in inner city neighborhoods of Milwaukee, despite one of the greatest booms in U.S. economic history; and

Whereas, incomes in Milwaukee's inner city neighborhoods are either stagnant or declining and, despite the 1990's boom, poverty remains pervasive; and

Whereas, a family of four requires a \$34,000 (\$16.35/hour) annual income to maintain a modest standard of living for housing, food, heat, clothing, transportation, health insurance and some recreation; and

Whereas, raising inner city incomes is among the central challenges for revitalizing Milwaukee neighborhoods, and

Whereas, surveys continue to report that members of Milwaukee families choose to go without meals so their children have enough to eat; and

Whereas, growing numbers of residents, including more and more women with children, are homeless and searching for shelters or are doubling and tripling up with family or friends because they cannot earn enough to meet monthly rent payments; and

Whereas, churches and social service agencies are overwhelmed with requests for food, shelter, and health care because job-seekers cannot find family-supporting jobs to meet these basic needs; and

Whereas, crime problems are structurally connected with the lack of living wage jobs; and

Whereas, the "W-3" Emergency Public Service Jobs program was endorsed by 600 primarily central city residents at the People's Economic Summit gathering last October 27, 2001; and

Whereas, all of our Aldermanic Districts are affected, directly or indirectly, by severe unemployment and under-employment; now therefore be it resolved that:

The Common Council of the City of Milwaukee does hereby:

--heartily endorse and support the "W-3" Milwaukee Emergency Public Service Jobs program, the goal of which is the creation of 500 new jobs @ \$12/hour with benefits, as an urgent priority for our city, and

--commit to assist in finding the necessary funds to support the program, and

--urge the Mayor of the City of Milwaukee to work in partnership with the People's Economic Summit to begin implementing the program within three months after the approval of this resolution.

**Frequently-asked questions
about
“W-3: We Want Work”
Milwaukee’s Emergency Campaign For 500 Public Service Jobs**

(1) Aren’t there jobs out there for people who are really looking?

Recent research from UW-M confirmed that there is one job for every 10 central city residents looking for one in Milwaukee. And few of these job-seekers have reliable transportation to jobs outside the city. Many of these companies are also cutting back, shutting down, or pay low wages with no benefits.

(2) Why jobs instead of training?

Most job-seekers can’t afford training programs because they provide little or no financial help. Also, most employers require experience as well as training. These public service jobs will involve on-the-job training and the experience of regular, meaningful work with pay above the poverty line.

(3) Why \$12 with benefits?

Low-wage jobs with no benefits are a primary source of drop-out or job loss because the low-wage worker is constantly faced with emergencies due to lack of resources—expenses like child care, medical needs, car repair and upkeep, and expenses for school-age children. The \$12/hour with benefits provides a more secure economic base for job achievement, retention, and advancement.

(4) What happens after the one year commitment?

The program will include employer buy-in at the beginning, which will encourage permanent hiring after the one year. Additional support elements like mentoring, GED help, and job application assistance will also be provided. A structured, full-year experience is an important factor in achieving high retention rates during the year and beyond.

(5) Why a priority for job-seekers with less than a high school diploma, limited English, or felony records?

These are the job-seekers with the biggest challenges and with the least support. If we want them to be productive, tax-paying, responsible citizens, we need to provide a structure within which they are more likely to succeed.

(6) Why should government fund the program?

Historically, government has sponsored jobs programs as a means of economic recovery—like the WPA and CCC conservation programs in the 1930s. During economic hard times, private industry can’t provide enough jobs and if the government doesn’t step in, the economy gets worse and worse.

(7) How do we know we can afford the expense?

Compared to the \$400 million Miller Park stadium and the Midwest Convention Center, this is a really small but important program estimated at \$16 million. If the State Department of Workforce Development took even half of the \$200 million profits they’re paying the W-2 agencies, they could support the Milwaukee Public Service Jobs program for five years.

(8) Who’s behind this program?

W-3 and the People’s Economic Summit are endorsed by 28 community-based Milwaukee organizations and a 600-person founding Summit gathering on October 27, 2001.

For more information, call the People’s Economic Summit, 265-3925