



Department of City Development
Housing Authority
Redevelopment Authority
City Plan Commission
Historic Preservation Commission
NIDC

Rocky Marcoux
Commissioner

Martha L. Brown
Deputy Commissioner

March 28, 2007

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
Chairman, Community and Economic Development Committee
Milwaukee Common Council

Dear Ald. Davis:

We are happy to have the opportunity to provide your committee with an update on the City of Milwaukee's 2007 Summer Youth Internship Program.

With the creation of a fulltime Youth Development Coordinator in the 2007 City budget, the management of SYIP has been turned over to Scott Gunderson. We are very happy to have his skills and energy devoted fulltime to youth employment.

As of March 28, 2007, more than 1,000 youth have applied for positions, with more than three weeks still remaining in the application period. This compares to 673 students who applied for positions last year. Students are once again required to provide school attendance records and a letter of recommendation from an adult not related to them.

All applications are being accepted online. Recruitment efforts have included visiting high schools to speak to classrooms, setting up a table in school lunchrooms, and dropping off materials to all the Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA locations. School counselors and STEP-UP coordinators working in the schools are working directly with the students to ensure they have computer access. We are also directing youth to their local libraries or to Youthpower at the Fitzsimonds Boys & Girls Club for online access.

We will again hire team leaders to serve as job coaches for the interns and as liaisons between city supervisors and their summer interns. Team leaders also facilitate education days which will be held on Fridays as in past years. We have closed the application period for team leaders and have a diverse pool of 43 applicants, including several who have served in the position in years past. We will begin interviewing for these positions shortly.

City departments have stepped up this year to create 238 jobs for the program, compared to 206 positions filled last year. With a full time youth development coordinator's salary being funded by the program this year, the current budget projections would allow for creation of 176 youth positions. The department has filed a CDBG reprogramming request for the necessary funding to fill 238 positions.

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Nearly every City department will host interns this summer. Our interns will perform a wide range of tasks -- everything from office-based activities like filing and data entry, to field jobs including assisting at construction work sites, landscape maintenance, neighborhood surveys, and distribution of fire safety information. The interns will work 20 hours per week for eight weeks, from June 18 through August 10. They will earn \$7.13 per hour.

We continue to work with partners committed to the City's internship program. Marquette University will again serve as the primary location for Education Day on Fridays, with many of their faculty and administrators providing workshops and support at no cost to the program. This collaboration allows us to expose our talented interns to a university setting that is centrally located.

We will work with Manpower and Victory Personnel again this year as temporary agencies that hire the youth, record their time, and process their paychecks. This arrangement has worked very well the past two years and this year's contract comes in at a cost that is less per student than last year. Manpower will again work with a lending institution to provide bank accounts, direct deposit, and debit cards for the summer interns.

Scott Gunderson will attend the April 4, 2007 meeting of the Community and Economic Development committee to answer committee members' questions about this program.

We are confident that the 2007 Summer Youth Internship Program will provide an outstanding experience for interns and city departments alike. We appreciate your ongoing support for this effort.

Sincerely,



Martha L. Brown
Deputy Commissioner

Cc: Members of the Community and Economic Development Committee

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