

Tony Evers  
Governor



Andrea Palm  
Secretary

**State of Wisconsin**  
Department of Health Services

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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June 23, 2020

Erick Shambarger, Director  
Environmental Collaboration Office  
City of Milwaukee  
200 E. Wells Street, Rm. 603  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Environmental Justice Grant - Healthy People, Homes and Neighborhoods Project -  
Letter of Commitment

Dear Mr. Shambarger:

As the Director of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health (BEOH) in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, I am writing in support of the City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office's application for the U.S. EPA's State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program/COVID-19 Projects funding opportunity (Funding No.: EPA-OP-OEJ-20-02).

In Wisconsin, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected communities that also have environmental justice concerns. Additionally, COVID-19 and necessary response actions (e.g., broad social distancing) have revealed, created, or exacerbated environmental health concerns. This funding opportunity represents a welcomed chance to direct additional resources to address these issues by supporting activities to increase underserved Milwaukee residents' knowledge about home health and access to COVID-19 prevention resources.

BEOH promotes public health by administering statewide programs to increase public awareness of environmental and occupational health hazards and disease and working to prevent and control exposure to environmental and occupational health hazards. Our bureau's goal of ensuring that all people in Wisconsin live, work, and play in spaces free of - and protected from - environmental health hazards is only achievable when we intentionally and thoughtfully promote health equity in our work. The proposed project's emphasis on healthy home-related issues affecting underserved communities aligns with our programmatic expertise and priorities.

BEOH commits to being a highly engaged partner and steering committee member on this project. We will work with the project team to ensure connections between the proposed activities and existing BEOH programs and services where collaborative opportunities exist. We will review project materials for accuracy and offer additional resources when possible. We are excited to participate in a project that will help ensure that the environmental health services we provide can better reach underserved urban communities and populations.

Mr. Erick Shambarger

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We look forward to partnering with the City of Milwaukee and community partners on this project to address these important environmental health issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Werner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark A. Werner, PhD

Director, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

608-264-9880

[mark.werner@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:mark.werner@dhs.wisconsin.gov)