

Milwaukee Area
WORKFORCE FUNDING
alliance

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July 6, 2010

President Willie Hines
City of Milwaukee Common Council
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear President Hines:

As an affinity group of Donors Forum of Wisconsin, the statewide regional association of grantmakers, Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance (WFA) brings together the consortium of private and public funders of workforce development dedicated to increased employment that benefits both workers and employers in the Milwaukee region.

Formed in 2008, we developed goals to:

- Fund agencies, programs and projects that provide career advancement support to low-income and low skilled people and
- Develop a better coordinated workforce development system of public and private collaboration that enhances regional competitiveness.

To accomplish this, we:

- Support workforce intermediaries to provide efficient coordination of services to employers, community-based organizations and workers alike,
- Fund services that fill the gaps in the recruitment, training, and support services for low-income workers and reduce barriers to successful employment, and
- Coordinate our efforts to advocate for public policies and practices that “widen” career path options for low-income, low-skilled workers.

All our members align a portion of grantmaking toward the industry sectors we select and/or priorities of the Alliance. We share information on grantees and their programs and projects as well as information on grantee outcomes for reporting.

Convener:

Donors Forum of Wisconsin

Private Funders

Helen Bader Foundation
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Manpower Foundation
Harley-Davidson Foundation
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Faye McBeath Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Zilber Family Foundation
Foundation of the Wisconsin Auto and Truck Dealers Association
Rockwell Automation Foundation
United Way of Greater Milwaukee
Milwaukee 7 Regional Workforce Alliance / WIRED
Brico Fund
Annie E Casey Foundation

Public Funders

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett
Housing Authority of City of Milwaukee
Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board
City of Milwaukee Community Development Grants Administration
City of Milwaukee Municipal Court
Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Workforce Investment Board

Employers

Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewerage District
MillerCoors
Froedtert Hospital
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare System
Columbia St. Mary's Hospitals
Aurora Healthcare System
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Since November 2009, WFA has had a relationship with City of Milwaukee's Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES) and Erick Shamberger, its interim director.

As you may know, Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance (WFA) is 1 of 25 National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS) sites. Milwaukee is 1 of only 5 sub-grantees on an ARRA Pathways Out of Poverty grant from U. S. Department of Labor which will test and document processes for job training, placement, career pathways and retention.

In our efforts to develop career pathways for low-income and low-skilled individuals, we intend to partner with OES as well as the State of Wisconsin's work in the Sector Alliance for the Green Economy (SAGE) project.

We are pleased to support the Milwaukee Energy Efficiency (ME²) program and to provide leveraged resources through our Pathways Out of Poverty project.

As a subgrantee in NFWS and Jobs For the Future (JFF), its Implementation Partner, Milwaukee has access to training curriculum from Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), a nationally recognized technical assistance provider working to get more women and people of color into trades and Working For America, the national non-profit technical assistance arm of AFL-CIO.

In addition, members of the WFA will be considering future funding to support OES and its green workforce development work in conjunction with "greening" Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance plans to work collaboratively on ME² and align WFA resources and investments to support efforts for low-income, low skilled workers in Milwaukee's central city to enter the new and expanding green jobs fields and the expanding career opportunities they offer.

We support a Community Workforce Agreement for the ME²Retrofit Ramp-Up grant if it aligns with the goals of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance, especially as it pertains to low-income, low-skilled individuals, as indicated above. The Alliance looks forward to working with the Office of Environmental Sustainability to implement energy efficiency programs and create family-sustaining wage jobs.

Please contact me at 414-755-4372 with any questions or an opportunity to discuss this partnership in more detail.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Dunn
Community Investment Officer
Helen Bader Foundation

Chairperson
Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance