

# MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

*American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations*

*SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES*

July 15, 2021

Alderman Michael J. Murphy  
City Hall  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

sent via email

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Dear Alderman Murphy,

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council is pleased to offer this letter of support for Employ Milwaukee's workforce development proposal for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It is our understanding that the proposal will be considered by the Finance and Personnel Committee during the July 21st meeting.

It is also our understanding that this training and placement proposal covers the beginning stages of 6 years of funding, focusing on launchable first year pilot ideas. As a member of the City County Task Force on Climate Change and Economic Equity, I am especially pleased that so many ideas that have been prioritized from those deliberations. Not all the details are in place, but we are well beyond the brainstorming stage in how to connect city of Milwaukee residents to new career pathways in green jobs. If we can stress anything to policymakers, it is the very really opportunity we have with this funding to focus on outreach, including the proposed career exploration hub in Century City. Following the engagement step will be workforce programming, to connect new people into training for a future in renewable energy and other fields that address climate change.

Another key aspect of this proposal includes the expansion of pathways to registered apprenticeship, which we know is a means to train into a long-term family-supporting career. Any additional apprenticeship opportunities for both youth and adults are program components to support, as the training happens directly on the job through paid work and classroom instruction and with employers that are ready to hire. The ARPA funding is the growth opportunity to address equity in the skilled trades and welcome new people into skilled trades careers.

There is a need to light the imaginations of the young people in our community to the types of jobs that can both offer a viable life-long career and a means to help the planet. The City/County Task Force is putting in serious time and effort and using community input to create robust outreach planning. This workforce development plan creates a critical link to the skills training needed to make a shift in Milwaukee's economic and environmental health.

As a board member of Employ Milwaukee I am privy to ongoing performance information on the programming of the organization. In the full programming year before COVID, 63% of program participants were African American and the top five zip codes where participants live include 53209, 53206, 53216, 53218, 53210. I have full confidence that Employ Milwaukee and their range of community partners will be able to deliver the services that are outlined in the proposal, and the unions of Milwaukee County are engaged stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Pam Fendt, President  
Milwaukee Area Labor Council

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