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To: **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
ALD. JOE DAVIS, SR., CHAIR / Ald. Anthony Zielinski, Vice-Chair
Ald. Michael McGee, Jr., Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Ald. James Witkowiak

Date: November 1, 2004

Please consider this a formal request to restore the Job Placement funding for Milwaukee Careers Cooperative to \$85,020, which is the 2004 amount. This request is based on the fact that MCC has since 1990 **ALWAYS** met its performance goals and that a **65% reduction** appears unwarranted given the overall Community Development Block Grant funds available for 2005 and the City's expressed priority on employment.

MCC is a faith based, nonprofit employment agency that since 1987 has assisted central city job seekers obtain employment utilizing a temporary to permanent job placement model. Its membership consists of 39 churches and 2 community organizations. There is a need for a nonprofit employment agency because many of the residents of the CDBG target areas have multiple employment barriers that make them high-risk hires for employers through regular means. Because most of these job seekers are high-risk hires, it takes much more time and effort to get them into the right employment situation to obtain a permanent job. Only those who are hired by the permanent employer are counted as job placements for CDBG performance standards. These central City of Milwaukee job seekers are often not served by the for-profit employment agencies because of the extra time and effort required to get them into permanent jobs which means that they can not make a profit serving the CDBG target population. For-profit employment agencies can make a profit by placing CDBG residents into day labor and temporary assignments forever.

MCC is unique in that it also has a Milwaukee Area Technical College Learning Lab onsite that helps CDBG residents obtain a GED or computer skills which aids in their employability and allows them to make productive use of their time while seeking employment. In addition, as a registered student of MATC, it provides them an opportunity to add to their job skills to obtain a higher paying job in the future. MCC also offers reverse commute transportation through the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program. This is important because there is not only a mismatch between the numbers of available jobs to the number of job seekers, but also where those jobs are in relation to the job seekers' residence.

At a minimum, the Community & Economic Development Committee should create a CDBG area-wide performance pool to ensure that funding will be available in a timely manner to increase the contracts of agencies like MCC that exceed their pay for performance goals.

Thank you for your consideration of Milwaukee Careers Cooperative's request.

Sincerely,

Tanya Henry, MCC Executive Director