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Governor Doyle Improves Job Creation and Training Efforts in Milwaukee

Grants City More Authority to Implement and Oversee Workforce Development

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today took steps to improve job creation and workforce training efforts in Milwaukee by giving the city more authority to implement and oversee workforce development in city and Milwaukee County. In letters to Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and County Executive Scott Walker, the Governor announced that the city will serve as the primary agency in Milwaukee County for workforce development – centralizing the city’s authority, coordinating regional efforts and providing better accountability for the region’s workforce development investments.

“There’s no better social program than a good-paying job. To create more opportunity for working families, we will make sure that our industries and our workers can compete in the changing world,” Governor Doyle said. “We must focus our efforts to ensure that we have high skilled workers in Milwaukee and throughout the state that are trained to compete successfully for the jobs of tomorrow. By centralizing these efforts with the City of Milwaukee, we can improve the accountability and effectiveness of the city and Milwaukee County’s investments in workforce development. I applaud the Mayor’s emphasis on improving workforce development for the city, Milwaukee County and the State of Wisconsin and I look forward to working with the city to enhance the promotion of job creation and worker training across southeastern Wisconsin.”

In February, Governor Doyle sent a letter to the Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) indicating that he supports a request from the City of Milwaukee to shift the Milwaukee Workforce Development Area (WDA) from the county-run Private Industry Council (PIC) to the city. On the same day, in a letter to Mayor Barrett, the state requested that the city submit a transition plan to the Department of Workforce Development by March 24, 2007 that would ensure continuity of services that are currently being provided, support for PIC staff during the transition, and identification of a new agency that would administer funding and services.

Last week, after receiving public comment on the request, CWI approved the Governor’s proposal for City WDA designation that includes the balance of the county. Effective July 1, 2007, following the completion of a complete plan of action, the City will assume the responsibility for receiving and delivering Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding and workforce development services in the City and County of Milwaukee.

In addition, to improving the business climate in Wisconsin by lowering the tax burden, Governor Doyle has made worker training a top priority for his Administration. In the budget he proposed to the Legislature in February, Governor Doyle made a major commitment to worker training – quadrupling the state’s investment and setting the goal that 75 percent be spent on manufacturing.