



Community & Economic Development Committee
Via E-mail

October 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Committee;

We are writing to submit those comments on the Year 2026 Proposed Funding Allocation Plan. We work at Independence First, a non-profit organization serving people with disabilities in the four-county Milwaukee metropolitan area. As such, many of our consumers reside within the City of Milwaukee. Additionally, the entitlement areas in the City has some of the highest percentage of residents with disabilities. It is very important that the City is aware of this fact, and ensures that its programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities.

- City-funded programs and services are to be accessible to people with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Grantees should be ready to demonstrate how their programs and services would serve someone with a disability.
- The Trump Administration has chosen to deprioritize Fair Housing Enforcement; therefore, it is important that the City fills the vacuum where it can and continues to support the work on Fair Housing and the vital work of reversing decades of discrimination. Funding for Fair Housing should be significantly increased.
- In the City of Milwaukee, there is a substantial need for affordable single-family housing that is accessible. The City should work with the disability community to explore the development of permanently visitable and adaptable homes, rather than spending significant dollars only to see a buyer, present or future, roll back the accessible features. There *are* nonprofit developers who would like to do more with accessibility but who cannot afford to do so. We urge the city to work with those developers to explore the creation of homes serving the varying needs of future generations of Milwaukeeans.
- An accessibility component to training programs such as Milwaukee Builds should be added so that students can learn and understand the concepts and principles of making homes accessible.

In addition to these recommendations, we would also like to express our disappointment that the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is not readily available on the City CBGA website, and we were unable to find it online.

Thank you for your consideration on each of these elements,

Brian Peters

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