

Linking Public Expenditures to Jobs for City Residents Project Outline

Introduction

- *Context for study:* the potential for the Residents Preference Program (RPP) and other community participation programs to provide employment opportunities for low-income city residents (particularly minorities) during a period of major downtown redevelopment
- *Key research questions:*
 - What are the tangible results of the RPP and other community participation programs over the last five years in terms of numbers of Milwaukee residents gaining employment, the socioeconomic and racial characteristics of those residents, and any longer-term outcomes that can be identified with regard to permanent employment and other benefits?
 - What are the objectives of these programs and are they designed and administered appropriately to meet those objectives? What changes in scope or operations could be considered to improve their effectiveness and to enhance participation by people of color?
 - Are there best practices from other cities that should be considered by Milwaukee officials to enhance the effectiveness of existing community participation programs and/or to implement new policies/programs that will link public investments to jobs for city residents?

Background

- Milwaukee's current development boom in context
- Unemployment and labor force participation rates in Milwaukee
- Purpose and appeal of community participation policies/programs

RPP Overview & Analysis

- General description of the RPP and its history and design, including current City activities to improve program administration
- Analysis of RPP participant and project data
- Program operations/implementation: certification process, hiring process, program monitoring and enforcement
- Project example: Northwestern Mutual tower

RPP Impacts & Outcomes

- Apprenticeship demographics – have racial breakdowns changed over time?
- Ladder of opportunity – does RPP policy promote career development in construction?

Other Community Participation Programs

- General overview of policy/program design and scale and relevant data on impacts
 - HUD Section 3
 - Milwaukee County Residency Ordinance
 - UpLift MKE
 - MPS
 - MMSD
- Observations about commonalities, distinctions, strengths, weaknesses

Best Practice Analysis

- Program components and practices
- Ordinance-based vs. project-based programs
- Characteristics of successful programs
- Case studies from other U.S. cities

Conclusion: Options for Modifying the RPP