



**wiscraft** Inc.  
Quality Production By The Blind

January 29, 2007

Community and Economic Development Committee  
RE: Hearing, January 30, 2007

Wiscraft, Inc. participates in Community Development Grants as a portion of the funding required to provide employment opportunities to an extremely disadvantaged and underserved portion of Milwaukee's population, the blind/visually challenged and blind/visually challenged with additional disabilities.

We seek to serve the blind and visually impaired population of Milwaukee without regard to race, gender, or ethnicity. Many individuals have additional disabilities/challenges, both mental and physical, beyond sight. Virtually all individuals served are from extremely low to low income households. Many individuals come to Wiscraft with little to no work skill sets and very limited work experience.

Wiscraft informs eligible persons about our program through networking with various community organizations such as DVR, Badger Association of the Blind, Curative Care Network, referrals, and waiting list. Upon review of a person's eligibility and verification of visual impairment, trainees are provided job skill and production training. Job skills could be in general business education such as lean manufacturing, ISO production and certification standards, or 5S organizational practices. Production training is work instructions unique to a customer's needs. Because Wiscraft produces many different customer items, most at irregular intervals, multiple training sessions occur throughout a year for an employee. The goal is to cross train on existing and new projects so that full time employment is possible for all employees. We believe that by providing these employment opportunities, individuals with disposable income will have a better quality of life, increase the economic vitality and quality of life in the neighborhoods they reside in, and may increase property values by having income to spend on necessary repairs or improvements.

The attached chart documents Wiscraft's grant performance for 2005 and 2006 and lists approved 2007 budgets. The demographics clearly document Wiscraft's service without regard to race, gender or ethnicity.

If I can be of additional service or if you have additional questions, I can be reached at [kdraives@wiscraft.com](mailto:kdraives@wiscraft.com) or 414/778-5800.

Sincerely,

Kelly Draves  
CFO, Wiscraft, Inc.

Enclosure

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**Wiscraft, Inc.**  
**Community Development Block Grant**  
**Performance Summary for 2005 - 2007**

	2005	2006	Approved 2007*
<b>Grant Amount Approved</b>	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
<b>Grant Amount Received/Submitted</b>	\$ 25,000	\$ 23,186	\$ -
<b>New Hires Budgeted</b>	3	3	3*
<b>New Hires Achieved</b>	0	2	
<b>Skills Upgrade Training Budgeted</b>	15	12	12*
<b>Skills Upgrade Training Achieved</b>	10	11	
<b>Demographics:</b>			
Male	5	6	
Female	5	5	
White	6	5	
Black or African American	2	3	
Asian	0	1	
American Indian	2	2	
Extremely Low Income	4	7	
Very Low Income	2	0	
Low Income	3	3	
Not Low Income	1	1	
Female Heads of Households	4	5	
Hispanics	0	1	

\* Wiscraft is currently in negotiations with a new customer for a job that could provide up to 10 new hire positions.