



July 21, 2021

Alder Kovac
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Common Council,

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an immense impact on Milwaukee workers, especially within some neighborhoods where traditionally reported unemployment statistics do not depict the full picture of joblessness and lack of income. The workforce development initiatives proposed for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) can make immediate positive impacts within our community.

An analysis conducted by the City of Milwaukee Office of Equity and Inclusion found that over a third of the city's labor force filed a claim for unemployment benefits during the pandemic, low-wage workers were hit particularly hard, and workers living in Black neighborhoods experienced disproportionate unemployment impacts.

It is critical to make decisions on ARPA funding now in order to push this funding back into the community through wages, enhanced wraparound supports, and upskilling. If deployed this summer, Employ Milwaukee's projects can immediately provide:

- **August 9-13 and September 15-17; 29, 2021:** Training for two cohorts of industry-recognized lead safe renovators and abatement workers/supervisors for approximately 30 individuals earning \$460,000 collectively for paid work experience and up to \$2,000 each for supportive services and needs related payments.
- **August 23, 2021 – December 16, 2021; January – March 2022:** Training for two cohorts of MATC IT Help Desk Technician virtual bootcamps for approximately 50 individuals earning \$278,400 collectively while in training with employers ready to hire. *Employ Milwaukee recently opened up pre-registration for the IT bootcamp and received 229 inquiries in less than a week.*
- **September 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022:** Transitional Job opportunities for 150 individuals with an estimated \$2.34 million in wages going directly back to city residents in the form of work experience, skills building, and connections to sustainable employment.
- **September 15 – November 30:** Financial services and retail banking training for up to 100 individuals who would receive wages during the 12-week training collectively earning \$313,200. Employ Milwaukee's network of retail banking and financial services employers are in need of immediate talent and are ready to hire.
- **October 1 – December 31, 2021:** Pre-apprenticeship training for 48 individuals in high demand

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industries including manufacturing, construction, and healthcare.

- **August 1, 2021:** The distribution of equipment, connectivity, and basic IT skills training for 500 city residents, to be distributed through community- and faith-based organizations. Total value directly to city residents is up to \$250,000.

Thank you again for considering Employ Milwaukee's proposals. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions at Chytania.brown@employmilwaukee.org or 414-270-1783.

Sincerely,



Chytania Brown
President and CEO
Employ Milwaukee, Inc.

