

Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance

March 2009

DISCUSSION WITH NONPROFIT LEADERS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MARCH 17

Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance joined the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) – the largest public sector member of WFA - in hosting a discussion for leaders of nonprofit groups to develop coordinated strategies for effective use of the stimulus package funds in the community.

Held at MAWIB offices, the event featured presentations on the stimulus funds, the need for strong communication and collaboration and discussions on the assets of each organization.

This event will be followed with a second meeting in April to present findings of the mapping work and share examples of collaboration.

Urban Strategies is serving as a member of the Stimulus Task Force launched by the Regional Workforce Alliance. Stay tuned to the [RWA website](#) for a clearinghouse of information regarding the stimulus and in particular its expected impacts on Southeastern Wisconsin.

APRIL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL FUND FOR WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
Strengthening Workforce Partnerships, Tracking Worker and Employer Data, and Evaluating Success will be the focus of the April 16-17 conference in the Seattle area.

Microsoft will donate \$8 million of software solutions towards the technology needs of the 21 sites of the National Fund. A portion of the conference will focus on use of the tools.

Representatives of the designated Workforce Partnerships: **Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP)**, **Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (MAHEC)** and **YWCA** of Greater

Milwaukee will be guests of the Workforce Funding Alliance at the conference.

Funders and technology & evaluation staff also will be attending from Milwaukee area thanks to support from National Fund, M7 Regional Workforce Alliance (RWA) and MAWIB.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT INITIATED
Kathryn Dunn of Helen Bader Foundation and Chair of Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance and Kelly Lucas of Greater South Wood County Community Foundation and Chair of the Workforce Innovation Funding Collaborative in South Central Wisconsin have partnered to establish ties with each State agency with funds for workforce development. Kathryn and Kelly met with Department of Workforce Development Roberta Gassman in early February to share the National Fund for Workforce Solutions model.

As a result, a representative of the 2 regional funding alliances will participate on the National Governor's Association project to look at sector-based workforce development strategies.

A key focus of these discussions is the leveraging of private philanthropic dollars with public monies for greater community impact.

Governor Doyle's Wisconsin Office of Recovery and Reinvestment has a [website](#) that is frequently updated with new information including a list of current and future funding opportunities and application guidelines.

FIRST CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE
MEETING:
METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE SEWERAGE
DISTRICT
260 SEEBOTH
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

EMPLOYERS
Aurora Healthcare System and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin have both joined the Milwaukee Area

Workforce Funding Alliance and colleagues from Froedtert, Wheaton, and Columbia-St.Mary's. The group is working with the healthcare workforce partnership process to analyze incumbent work training opportunities.

Stimulus Watch has a list of stimulus projects submitted to the federal government by major municipalities in Wisconsin. [View the lists](#) and labor projections related to the projects.

POLICY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED
Marcus White of Greater Milwaukee Foundation will chair the newly-created Policy and Research Committee of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance.

The issues for 2009 include: drivers license recovery and drivers education, case management coordination, and distribution of State workforce funds into southeastern Wisconsin among others.

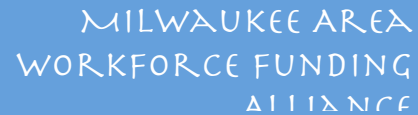
Several WFA members have expressed interest in participating and will be contacted for a meeting date. The first meeting is scheduled for April 3 at 1:30 p.m. If you want to be involved in the design of the policy strategies, please contact Marcus at 414-272-5805 or Taryn Roch at Urban Strategies at 414-221-9500.

Beyond funding from US Dept. of Labor, the Health Resources and Services Administration will receive \$5 million to distribute for scholarships, loan repayment, and equipment for training providers to address the shortage of health care professionals. No further detail is available at this point. Check [here](#) for updates.

For every 100 adult education students, 20 are able to achieve their GED, 8 go on to post secondary education, and less than 2 earn a BA. There are examples around the country of states working to address the "leaks" in adult basic education by increasing program flexibility and life supports for students.

Examples of reform include:

- Allowing half-time or less students to receive aid
- Reducing the caps on credits and time limits related to aid



MILWAUKEE AREA
WORKFORCE FUNDING
ALLIANCE

- Affinity group of Donors Forum of Wisconsin, the statewide regional association of grantmakers
- Consortium of private and public funders of workforce development (including education, job training and placement, support services) dedicated to increased employment that benefits both workers and employers in the Milwaukee region.

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