

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: July 12, 2019

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, Economic & Community Development Committee

FROM: Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Amendment to the 2018 Annual Report of the UpLift Milwaukee Program and the Boys & Girls Club of Milwaukee's spend down of \$55,000 for year two of a three year grant to place teenagers into employment.

In October 2015, Milwaukee County created the UpLift MKE workforce development program (File #15-669). UpLift MKE is a partnership between the County and Employ Milwaukee, formerly known as the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, to provide employment opportunities and access to training and wraparound services to job seekers while specifically targeting individuals from the areas of highest unemployment in Milwaukee County.

UpLift MKE is designed to provide the opportunity, job training and support to residents in Milwaukee's most distressed neighborhoods by bringing together similar partnerships that have resulted in higher wages and low-income residential placements in the work industries. UpLift MKE is designed to have a high-impact by focusing on zip codes where the unemployment rate is higher than the County's average. Employ Milwaukee acts as a broker of the services that are needed by the job seeker and through UpLift has positioned itself as a "first source" employment center for participating companies.

The County partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Milwaukee ("Boys and Girls Club") in the furtherance of UpLift MKE. The Boys & Girls Club had the capacity and existing local partnerships to expand outreach to the Uplift Program, specifically with youth aging out of the Mary Ryan clubhouse by helping to place these teenagers into employment.

The County contributed \$165,000 to the Boys & Girls Club and distributed \$55,000 per year for three years in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to be used for the addition of a Youth Career Development Project Manager that is serving teenagers at the Mary Ryan club in Sherman Park and similar neighborhoods.

The Boys and Girls Club is responsible to place individuals in employment each year. Youth are recruited for current Boys and Girls Club Career Development Programming that includes after-school workshops, training, and counseling and private sector placement to assist students who have average or below average academic performance with their skill development and career plans.

Aaron Hertzberg
Director, Economic Development Department of Administrative Services

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., County Board Chairman
Economic and Community Development Committee Members
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Ken Smith, County Board Research Analyst
Allyson R. Smith, Committee Coordinator