

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 28, 2014

TO: Supervisor Patricia Jursik, Chair, Economic & Community Development Committee

FROM: Teig Whaley-Smith, Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Milwaukee County Revolving Loan Fund - Update

**REQUEST**

There is no request at this time; this report is for informational purposes only.

**BACKGROUND**

The Milwaukee County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) allows Milwaukee County companies to take advantage of low-interest loans to assist in financing their business projects. The fund contained \$1,000,000 and permits businesses to receive financing of 40% of total project costs or up to \$250,000. The Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is the organization operating the loan fund on behalf of Milwaukee County. The Portfolio Management Agreement between the parties was signed May 1, 2013.

To date, two loans utilizing County RLF monies have been approved and closed.

- (1) 2920 W Vera Avenue LLC: \$250,000 loan whose proceeds will be used for the renovation of a vacant warehouse into an indoor athletic facility. The facility will be focused on Futsal programming, but will also provide court time for other athletic programs, such as soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, dodge ball, baseball and softball. The business proposes hiring up to 12 FTE within two years.
- (2) 6505 W North Avenue: \$250,000 loan utilized for the renovation of property at 6505 W. North Avenue in Wauwatosa into three tenant spaces. The three tenants will include a fitness business, a musical instrument business and a restaurant opening its second location after finding success in Bayview. It is estimated that 25-30 FTE will be created at the location within two years.

While completing the first few transactions was slower than anticipated due to changes in County personnel, great strides were made in working towards getting the program fully operational. With the first two loans closed, template loan documentation has been created and will streamline further funding opportunities. MEDC has identified the Economic Development person(s) in each County community and will be doing outreach to better market the RLF at a local level. Moreover, constant banker networking has resulted in better awareness of the program, which has helped to generate both general and project-specific inquiries. MEDC considers it likely that 2014 will draw enough opportunity to exhaust the remaining \$500,000 of resources pledged by the County.

**RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation at this time; this report is for informational purposes only.

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Teig Whaley-Smith  
Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive  
Marina Dimitrijevic, County Board Chairwoman  
Economic and Community Development Committee Members  
Don Tyler, Director, Department of Administrative Services  
Amber Moreen, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors  
Raisa Koltun, Director of Legislative Affairs, County Executive's Office  
Jill Suurmeyer, Research Analyst, Comptroller's Office