

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: August 28, 2017

TO: Supervisor Theo Lipscomb, Chair, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James Tarantino, Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Informational Report Related to UpLift MKE Second Quarter 2017 Results

REQUEST

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

BACKGROUND

UpLift MKE is a workforce development program that was created in 2015 (File #15-669) to help job seekers from Milwaukee County's most disadvantaged areas obtain employment. UpLift is a partnership between the County and Employ Milwaukee, formerly known as the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board. Employ Milwaukee serves as a broker of employment opportunities and wraparound services specific to the job seeker's needs. Through the UpLift program, Milwaukee area employers pledge to use Employ Milwaukee as a "first source" for job posting and hiring qualified candidates. In turn, Employ Milwaukee will identify job seekers that live in the 10 zip codes that have above average unemployment as compared to the County's median unemployment rate ("Tier 1 zip codes").

Employ Milwaukee is to report quarterly results to the Economic Development Division. Attached to this informational report is a summary of the activities conducted in support of the program through the second quarter of 2017.

In this period of time, Employ Milwaukee continued programming from the first quarter which included a referral relationship with the Job Center of Wisconsin. Six training sessions were held in the second quarter and Employ provided Uplift recruitment at the Milwaukee Career Expo. This was one of the most successful quarters in terms of job placements - 65 individuals from Tier 1 zip codes and 18 from Tier 2 zip codes were placed in sustaining employment. For these 83 individuals, wages earned have shown growth over previous quarters with an average wage of \$14.93 per hour. Individuals served by this program continue to be placed in diverse industries with representation from large and small manufacturers, hospitality, customer service, and food service. Within the second quarter of 2017, two individuals from the Huber work release program found sustaining employment with an average starting wage of \$22.76 per hour.

RECOMMENDATION

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



James Tarantino

Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

Attachment: Uplift Q1 2017 Report.pdf

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Economic and Community Development Committee Members
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Michael Hafemann, Superintendent, House of Correction
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director
Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator