

**County of Milwaukee**  
**Interoffice Communication**

**DATE:** 2/21/2020  
**TO:** Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chair, County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation  
**SUBJECT:** Update on Social Development Commission Activities – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**BACKGROUND**

In March of 2019, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services (Committee) recommended for adoption, and the County Board approved, an amendment to Chapter 77.03 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances regarding the composition of the Social Development Commission (SDC).

At the March 2019 meeting, the Committee requested that SDC provide an update on their activities in 2020. Attached is a presentation regarding these activities and general updates.

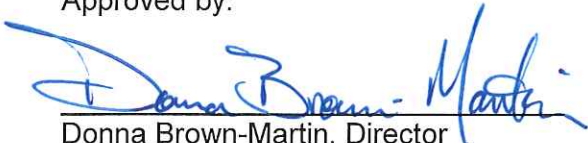
**RECOMMENDATION**

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

Prepared by:

Julie Esch, Deputy Director

Approved by:



Donna Brown-Martin, Director  
Department of Transportation

Attachment



# Social Development Commission

George Hinton, CEO

# Who we are?

The Social Development Commission is a commission on poverty and a community action agency.

Mission: Empower Milwaukee county residents to move beyond poverty.



# The Problem

## Areas of Study

### Community Needs Assessment 10 Key Factors

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Family & Relationships
4. Income
5. Transportation
6. Housing
7. Health & Healthcare
8. Food & Nutrition
9. Business & Economic Development
10. Crime/Incarceration

## The Problem

# Affordable Housing

- 79% of people surveyed pay more than 30% of their income on housing
- 39% of those surveyed said their homes need repairs
- Lead paint and lead in water pipes impact market value of homes and create health concerns

# The Problem

## Employment

Jobs with low wages/unemployment

- Lack of skills needed to secure a higher paying job
- Lack of confidence to invest in self
- Transportation challenges
- Childcare or family issues
- The “Cliff Effect”, dependence on government support
- Lack knowledge of how to pursue higher paying jobs
- Lack knowledge of how to compete in today’s job market

# The Problem

## Income

Economic Instability: Not enough money to pay rent & bills

- Quality of life
- 41.67% of people surveyed concerned that their food would run out

# The Problem

## Health & Healthcare

Economic Instability: Not enough money to pay rent & bills

- Access to care
- Chronic disease prevention
- Infant mortality
- Mental health



# The Solution

## Current Programs & Services

- Career Services
  - Education Services
  - Financial Services
  - Mental Health & Wellness Services
  - Nutrition Services
  - Residential Services
  - Senior Services
  - Youth Services
- Newest Programs:
- Lead Outreach
  - Health Navigator
  - Taking services into North Division

# Moving Forward

## Strategic Plan Objectives

1. The Social Development Commission is getting back to being a commission on poverty.
2. We will begin to use research and IT to evolve our programming to impact root causes for people experiencing poverty.
3. We will begin to democratize economic opportunity to help people experiencing poverty.

## Call to Action

- We are committed to thinking differently on how to attack the war on poverty.
- We are a solution to a valuable piece of the county.
- We ask that YOU participate in research opportunities.
- We are that YOU listen to solutions presented through our advocacy and policy work.



Questions?