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4 **A RESOLUTION**
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6 allocating \$100,000 from Agency 194, Account 1945 - Appropriation for Contingencies
7 to Agency 800, Org. Unit 8521 – Department of Health and Human Services, Housing
8 Administration for the Local 212 Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) Faculty and
9 Students Together Fund (FAST Fund) to specifically mitigate student housing insecurity
10 so pupils can graduate, become successful, and improve their societal contributions
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12
13 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) is Wisconsin's only
14 majority-minority college and MATC reports approximately 70 percent of its students are
15 low-income and 83 percent of its students are Milwaukee County residents; and
16

17 WHEREAS, according to the 2015 University of Wisconsin – Madison study
18 titled, "Hungry to Learn: Addressing Food & Housing Insecurity Among
19 Undergraduates", "[H]alf of all community college students are struggling with food
20 and/or housing insecurity. Fully 20 percent are hungry and 13 percent are homeless.
21 These numbers are startling and indicate the need for a multi-pronged, comprehensive
22 set of institutional, state, and local policies to alleviate the barriers presented by poverty,
23 so as to improve educational success."; and
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25 WHEREAS, according to an August 2020 Georgetown University report titled,
26 "Driving Home Costs Beyond Tuition: A New Look at Older Students' Challenges
27 Affording Housing," higher education costs beyond tuition are 2.5 to 4 times greater
28 than tuition, with a greater burden falling on older students due to their typically
29 increased responsibilities, with housing being the single biggest challenge; and
30

31 WHEREAS, motivated by an understanding of the data indicating impediments to
32 studying many college students face, the American Federation of Teachers Local 212,
33 representing faculty and staff of MATC since 1930, created the Faculty and Students
34 Together Fund (FAST Fund) in 2016 as an independent nonprofit to help ensure
35 hunger, transportation, housing instability, and poverty are not learning obstacles, so
36 students may focus on their studies, remain enrolled, and graduate to move on to
37 successful careers and be productive members of society; and
38

39 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Public Television (MPTV) program *Adelante* featured
40 a segment about MATC's FAST Fund which reported:
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- 42 • Many students are lower middle class, poor, or do not qualify for financial aid
43 • 61 percent of students qualify for Pell Grants, which are typically awarded only to
44 low-income students
45 • Current and retired MATC faculty and staff have been the Fund's primary donors
46

47 ; and
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49 WHEREAS, the FAST Fund in the 2020-2021 academic year raised \$2,223,270,
50 \$2 million of which was an endowment from the family of the late Mary Anne Gross, a
51 retired MATC faculty member, and the FAST Fund anticipates a yield of \$60,000 per
52 year from the endowment; and
53

54 WHEREAS, the FAST Fund Director reports the Fund has helped students meet
55 the basic needs of housing, food insecurity, tuition and college costs, transportation,
56 and other expenses so students may focus on studying:
57

Academic Year	Dollars Expended	Total Students Helped
2016-2017	\$21,950	26
2017-2018	\$33,405	109
2018-2019	\$89,293	298
2019-2020	\$94,401	344
2020-2021	\$140,338	433
2021-2022	\$216,780	765

58
59 ; and
60

61 WHEREAS, in 2020, Milwaukee County appropriated \$35,000 for the MATC
62 FAST Fund in File No. 20-678, and the FAST Fund reports that in the 2020-2021
63 academic year, approximately \$30,000 was spent directly on housing insecurity and the
64 remaining approximate \$5,000 was spent on utility fees; and
65

66 WHEREAS, in 2021, Milwaukee County appropriated \$50,000 for the MATC
67 FAST Fund in File No. 21-985, and all of the funds granted by the County were used for
68 housing; and

69 WHEREAS, in the spirit of continuing the safety net which protects local
70 residents and serves as a future investment for Milwaukee County's prosperity; and
71

72 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of March 16, 2023,
73 recommended adoption of File No. 23-336 (vote 5-1); now, therefore,
74

75 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby
76 authorizes and directs the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of
77 Administrative Services to process an administrative transfer of \$100,000 from Agency
78 194, Org. Unit 1945 Appropriation for Contingencies to Org. Unit 8521, Account 8123 –
79 Department of Health and Human Services Housing Division Administration to
80 cooperate with the Local 212 Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) Faculty and
81 Students Together (FAST) Fund to enable distribution of those funds, pursuant to and in
82 conformity with Wis. Stat. §§ 59.53, 66.1201 to 66.1211 et seq., also in conformity with
83 guidance provided by the Wisconsin Office of the Attorney General opinion OAG-01-17,
84 specifically for the MATC FAST Fund to mitigate student housing insecurity with these
85 funds to remove a barrier to graduation and success; and
86

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Housing Division is requested to make
88 contingent upon Milwaukee County's appropriation to the FAST Fund an agreement
89 whereby Milwaukee County may review the financial records of the FAST Fund upon
90 request to audit and verify taxpayer dollars are spent toward student housing insecurity
91 pursuant to the aforementioned and relevant State statutes and the mission of
92 Milwaukee County; and
93

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, administrators for MATC's FAST Fund are
95 requested to provide anonymized information as to how the County's funds were spent
96 to reduce housing insecurity to the Housing Division and County Board within 90 days
97 of the end of the plan year.
98
99

100 03/16/2023

101 \\Fi01wpchc\comclerk\$\Committees\2023\March\FINANCE\Resolutions\23-336 \$100k MATC FAST Fund Allocation -
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