

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: June 4, 2021

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Aaron Hertzberg, Acting Director, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: From the Acting Director of the Department of Administrative Services, a request for the allocation of \$300,000 in funds to increase and extend County's Professional Services Agreement for an Employment Program with Employ Milwaukee

REQUEST

Requesting County Board approval for the allocation of \$300,000 in funds for an extension of Milwaukee County's contract with Employ Milwaukee, Inc. This would increase the total budget for the County's contract with Employ Milwaukee from \$3.5 million, previously approved in File No 20-557, to \$3.8 million total, and extend the contract through September 2021. The proposed funding source for the extension comes from File 20-937, which provided \$5.0 million in debt service reserve funding in 2021 for COVID-19 related needs.

BACKGROUND

File 20-557 – Resolution File approving Budget Director's requested Coronavirus Relief Fund Allocation
File 20-937 – Resolution File approving the use of \$5.0 million of reserve funds in 2021 to provide financing for COVID-19 needs

REPORT

In July 2020, the County Board approved a CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund Allocation, including the allocation of \$27.1 million for Economic Support and Public Health expenditures. Included in that funding, \$3.5 million was specifically recommended for allocation to an employment program with Employ Milwaukee, Inc. to provide training and employment for COVID-19 related services.

On September 11, 2020, Milwaukee County entered into a Professional Services Agreement with Employ Milwaukee. This Professional Services Agreement extended through December 31, 2020 and included a budget of up to \$3.5 million. Funds were approved for use by Employ Milwaukee for an employment program in which unemployed individuals are hired and trained to be resource navigators, with jobs focused on mitigating COVID-19. By December 31, less than \$2 million had been invoiced from Employ Milwaukee under the Agreement. Almost 350 employees had been trained and were working under this Agreement at the end of the year. At that time, the County began to negotiate an extension through March 2021 to continue the program and to use the remaining funds allocated. On January 27, 2021, Amendment 1 to the Professional Services Agreement was signed, extending the original Agreement through March 31, 2021, with no change to the \$3.5 million total funds allocated.

Employ Milwaukee has continued their employment program, and has invoiced a total of \$3,236,449.51 of the \$3,500,000 allocated, as of the end of March 2021. On the last invoice from

March 2021, 117 employees were still working under this program. Employ Milwaukee continues to work to employ Milwaukee County residents in positions serving COVID-19 mitigation efforts around the County.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Administrative Services – Economic Development Division respectfully requests authorization to allocate an additional \$300,000 of previously authorized funds (File 20-937) in order to extend and increase the amount of the County’s contract with Employ Milwaukee to a total of \$3.8 million, with an extension to September 31, 2021.

Submitted by:

Aaron Hertzberg
Acting Director, Administrative Services

cc: David Crowley, County Executive
Economic and Community Development Committee Members
Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
MaryJo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Scott Manske, Comptroller
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director