



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Contact: Jodie Tabak
(414)286-8504

Milwaukee Receives \$3.4 Million Grant for Healthcare Job Training *Award Focuses on Educational Training for Low-Income, TANF Participants*

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett announced a \$3,401,260 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create the *CareerWorks* Healthcare Training Institute.

“This grant will enable more than 1,500 low-income and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) participants in the Milwaukee-area greater opportunities to pursue a career in healthcare,” Mayor Barrett said.

The CareerWorks Healthcare Training Institute will provide easy access to information necessary to succeed in a healthcare career as well as training and supportive services. Following the completion of the educational programs, individuals will be provided with the credentials necessary to begin a career in healthcare. This grant is the result of Mayor Barrett’s directive to create innovative and meaningful collaborations that lead to jobs and resources for the Milwaukee community.

“I am excited about this grant because it provides a doorway to get more people the training and experience required for jobs in the healthcare field,” Mayor Barrett said. “This program provides both unemployed and entry-level workers in the Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington County areas the ability to upgrade their skills so they can get higher paying jobs in the growing healthcare field.”

The Health Profession Opportunity Grant is being awarded to the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB). Data from the *Economic Modeling Specialists* indicates that the health sector remains one of the fastest growing industries in the greater Milwaukee region with an anticipated increase of 13% in healthcare-related occupations over the years 2008 to 2015.

In addition to MAWIB, this grant will also rely on the collaborative efforts and continuing participation of several community partners including the Milwaukee Area Healthcare Alliance, the YWCA, the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center, the State Workforce Investment Board, the State Bureau of

Apprenticeship Standards, the State Department of Children, the WOW Workforce Board, MATC, several area hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Care Centers.

According to the Wisconsin's Workforce and Labor Market Information System, 15 of the top 25 "High Growth" occupations are in healthcare related fields and in Milwaukee several prominent employers have announced their participation in this program. As a result, the TANF and other low-income workers who complete the program may now be able to apply for entry-level positions with Aurora Health Care, Columbia St Mary's Health System, Froedtert Health, Milwaukee Health Department, Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., Sixteenth Street, Community Clinic, Stowell Associates/ Select Staff, Inc., Westside Health Care Association and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare. Through these partnerships, low-income and TANF workers will be able to acquire the skills necessary for entry-level positions in the workforce and further educational and training opportunities to ascend the healthcare career ladder.

"This program will provide participants the continuing education and personal support necessary to find and retain jobs in the healthcare profession so that they can better support their families," Mayor Barrett said.

Additionally, this program will provide information, motivation and opportunities to pursue more advanced education and training for mid-level jobs with higher wages, as well as support of healthcare apprenticeship models.

The Institute will respond to employer needs by offering training at entry, mid, and high skill level positions in Allied Health, Health Information Technology and Nursing. Upon completion of the training programs, all participants will be awarded an industry recognized, portable certificate or degree in the healthcare field.

"This grant will not only have a positive economic impact on individuals by empowering them with the skills to take advantage of job opportunities in the fastest growing industry sector, but also healthcare sector employers and the City as a whole," Mayor Barrett said.