

**Office of the Mayor
Mayor Tom Barrett**

City Hall, Room 201
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 286-2200
mayor@milwaukee.gov



www.city.milwaukee.gov

Joe Davis, Sr.
2nd District Alderman

City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 286-2221
jldavis@milwaukee.gov

Milwaukee among 11 cities selected in NLC black male achievement project

May 2, 2013—The National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families has selected Milwaukee and 10 other cities from a pool of 28 applicants to receive assistance as the cities work to reduce disparities between black males and their peers.

Supported by the Open Society Foundations' Campaign for Black Male Achievement, NLC's *City Leadership to Promote Black Male Achievement* initiative will address a multitude of challenges that place young black men and boys in cities across the country at a significant educational, economic and social disadvantage compared with other children, youth and young adults.

“The NLC has much to contribute to improving the outcomes of black men and boys in the City of Milwaukee,” Mayor Tom Barrett said. “I’m hopeful this unique group of collaborators can share best practices for closing the achievement gap. We’re very grateful for the opportunity to take part.”

The 11 project cities have all pledged to improve the life outcomes of black men and boys by forming strong local partnerships; using data more effectively; developing comprehensive strategies focused on education, employment, family strengthening and violence prevention; and engaging young black men and boys in civic life and local government. Other participants will include Charlottesville, Va.; Chicago, Ill.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Louisville, Ky.; Oakland, Calif.; Omaha, Neb.; Orlando, Fla.; Philadelphia, Pa.; and Portland, Ore.

“Milwaukee made the cut for this critical assistance because the data makes it clear that the city has a lot of work to do when it comes to the achievement gap,” said Alderman Joe Davis, Sr., who also serves on the NLC Board of Directors. “These disparities will not go away on their own, and it’s up to this generation to right the ship.”

NLC's 16-month technical assistance initiative will assist city leaders as they develop and implement focused, cross-sector plans that are targeted toward meeting the needs of disadvantaged black male residents. Over the next four months, NLC will host monthly webinars and conduct individual conference calls with each city team as they hone their plans. NLC will then select a subset of this cohort to receive more intensive assistance.

Alderman Davis is currently drafting legislation that would create a black male achievement advisory council in the City of Milwaukee. The council, with members that would include Alderman Davis, Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Mayor Barrett and other community stakeholders, would work to pursue the outcomes that the NLC initiative advises the city to focus on.