

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 28, 2018

The Honorable Alex Acosta
Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Acosta:

I am pleased to support Employ Milwaukee's application for YouthBuild funding through the U.S. Department of Labor. YouthBuild funding provides education, occupational skills training, and employment services to at-risk youth, ages 16 to 24.

Employ Milwaukee (EM) is the largest Workforce Development Board in Wisconsin and serves the most racially and economically diverse area in the state. EM's mission is to build a strong workforce development system by planning, coordinating, collaborating and monitoring workforce initiatives with businesses, partners and community stakeholders at the local, regional and state level to ensure a skilled and productive workforce for the 21st Century. EM connects job seekers to employment opportunities, provides education and training options in high-growth, high-demand sectors, and provides a skilled and sustainable workforce to attract, retain and grow diverse businesses in the region.

Employ Milwaukee will use approved YouthBuild funding for their Cream City YouthBuild (CCYB) program. It is my understanding that this program will serve 82 youth ages 16-24 over a two year implementation period in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Participants will be high school dropouts, adjudicated youth, youth aging out of foster care, youth with disabilities, youth of color, and other disadvantaged and/or marginalized youth living in target neighborhoods with an average poverty rate of 29%, graduation rate of 53% and a total unemployment rate of 22% for persons between the ages of 16-24.

The YouthBuild program has a proven record of bringing the most disadvantaged urban and rural youth, who have dropped out of high school, into productive employment, higher education, and civic engagement. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to Employ Milwaukee's application. Please keep Jessica Sielaff in my Madison office updated on the progress of this application and contact her should you have further questions or concerns. She may be reached at 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 700, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, by phone at 608-381-4934, or by email at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator