

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
MARK KESSENICH 414-270-1773
DOMINIQUE FISHER 414-270-1732

MILWAUKEE BUILDS BREAKS GROUND
\$1.0 MILLION AWARDED

City of Milwaukee trains workers to prepare for influx of green jobs and construction, a move that will boost the economy and restore homes in the central city.

Milwaukee - The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board a \$1.0 million Youth Build Grant to fund the Milwaukee Builds Initiative. Milwaukee Builds is a program that prepares young adults for careers and employment in the construction industry. The two-year grant will provide 60 individuals with skills to integrate “green” construction techniques into the building of two new homes and the rehab one dilapidated home. Milwaukee Builds is an extension of the city’s goal to address unemployment and community development. “Providing job training is an integral part of empowering our people and making our communities stronger,” said Mayor Barrett.

The Milwaukee Builds program is the direct result of a new mission of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) to become the planning, coordinating and monitoring workforce development agency for the Milwaukee area. MAWIB CEO, Don Sykes, wants to see more workers trained to meet the demands of high-growth industries in energy and technology. “Milwaukee Builds recognizes one of the key barriers limiting workers in the energy efficient and renewable technologies is a shortage of a trained and skilled workforce for the specific industry”. Sykes envisions the Milwaukee Builds as a national model for providing a pathway out of poverty for many under skilled workers. “The model can be used to put people back to work by providing employment and training/education for youth and adults in the construction sector” said Sykes.

Milwaukee Builds partners include the MAWIB, the Milwaukee Christian Center, Milwaukee Community Service Corps, Northcott Neighborhood House, Esperanza Unida and the Wisconsin Regional Training Program/BIG STEP. Key supporting partners to the project are Milwaukee Area Technical College, Housing Authority City of Milwaukee and the City of Milwaukee’s Community Development Grants Administration. All of these partners are united in the goal of providing a seamless program that leverages community resources in a coordinated fashion to yield stronger results and meaningful skills and job opportunities for the program participants.

