



Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE: 10/11/2021

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason requesting authorization to apply for a grant for up to \$10,000,000 from the Department of Workforce Development for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Workforce Innovation Grant for a workforce development project.

PREPARED BY:

Paul Vornholt, City Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Mayor Mason requests that the Finance & Personnel Committee recommend authorization to apply for a grant for up to \$10,000,000 from the Department of Workforce Development for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Workforce Innovation Grant for a workforce development project.

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Innovation Grant Program was announced on September 8, 2021, to make grants of up to \$10,000,000 to respond to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic has had on Wisconsin's workforce and industries to promote sustainable regional collaboration and local participation to address workforce challenges.

The grant application is due October 25, 2021.

ANALYSIS:

The City would like to site an integrated labor-training institute to train workers in pre-apprenticeship trades in the City for residents to access easily. Most building trades have their training centers located all over the state and makes transportation a barrier. Based on a model used in Kansas City, this brings multiple trade unions into a single facility for shared and specialized training. The proposal envisions training workers for the potential development in Racine. Potential projects or examples are RUSD building referendum of \$600 million, Belle City Square multiphase redevelopment, Community Health Clinic, Hotel Verdant, Porters, and the Hovde project. It has potential to include a training component that would take advantage of future federal dollars devoted to lead paint abatement and lateral replacement. These trainees will also increase the success of Racine Works Ordinance in providing more workers that are skilled.

As a requirement in the grant, the City seeks partnerships and collaboration with Southeastern Wisconsin Labor Trades Union Councils, Gateway, RUSD, WRPT/Big Step, First Choice, Higher Expectations and Racine County.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

No additional City funds will be allocated because of this action. The grant control number is #00406. The grant does not require a local match.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that authorization to apply for grant for up to \$10,000,000 from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Workforce Innovation Grant for a Workforce Development proposal be approved and be forwarded to the Common Council with a recommendation for approval.