



## City of Racine, Wisconsin Agenda Briefing Memorandum

**AGENDA DATE:**

Intro to Council Date: March 4, 2025

Standing Committee Date: March 10, 2025

Final Action Council Date:

**PREPARED BY:** La’Neka Horton & Kisha Buford

**REVIEWED BY:**

**SUBJECT:** Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason on behalf of the Human Resources Department, to apply for Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) grant at the WI Department of Workforce Development and accept if awarded.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

WFF grant opportunity is for employers who are seeking to provide sustainable, short-and-medium term training to place workers in positions that offer long-term professional growth and economic opportunity. This grant will assist with adding new individuals into the workforce and increasing wage growth for the trainees. The intent of the grant is to train unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers to qualify them for full-time employment, higher-level employment, wage increases, and/or industry-recognized credentials.

**The following City of Racine Departments and positions will benefit from the WFF grant opportunity:**

**Fire Department:** Fire Cadets- The cadets will be sponsored for classes to prepare them to become part of a City of Racine firefighting crew as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or as a more highly trained EMT-Paramedic; as well as opening nationwide doors in the firefighting industry. This addresses an anticipated labor shortage due to an aging firefighter workforce. Trainees will be supported with tutoring to pass the NREMT and CPAT exams to be eligible for employment as City of Racine EMT or EMT-Paramedics.

**The City of Racine CDL Program** is a new program that will make our underserved and underemployed employees more qualified and employable to obtain full-time long-lasting careers with the City of Racine as well as potential future employers. WRTP Big/STEP will tutor candidates to pass the DMV CDL permit exam. After obtaining their CDL permit, over a two-year period a total of 28 trainees will receive further training provided by the **Department of Public Works**, and the **Water and Wastewater Departments**.

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:** To grant permission for the Human Resources Director to apply and accept the WFF grant if awarded.

**FISCAL NOTE & BUDGETARY IMPACT:** Required cash or in-kind match is 50% of the amount of the grant award. Grant control# 00628 (HR/Fire Dept.) \$202,510.18 Grant control# 00629 (HR/CDL program) \$174,948