

2014 RES-575
ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES
DCDHS - ACS DIVISION

People face many forks in the road. Bumps or barriers in that road, like poverty, mental health, and non-violent often one-time offenses are unnecessarily setting people back, forcing individuals to play from behind or “catch-up” to their peers. These barriers drive disparities in employment, opportunity, and criminal justice. This plan is one that focuses on everyday nuts-and-bolts action steps that can be immediately taken to begin turning things around in our own County.

The most reliable vehicle out of poverty and toward upward mobility is accessing and maintaining family sustaining employment. Having access to a Driver’s License is a critical piece in qualifying for certain jobs, getting to work, and avoiding interface with the criminal justice system down the line. For some of our residents, lack of a drivers’ license becomes a major barrier to employment. Lower income youth can no longer receive drivers’ licenses in school, so they begin their career path at a disadvantage – simply because they cannot afford the cost. Others lose their licenses for various reasons (often non-driving related) and are never able to recover them due to legal and financial hardships. Also effective training and employment programs that address the barriers many have to becoming self-sufficient is critical.

To begin to address some of these very real barriers to work, the County Executive plans to work with the community, businesses, and other levels of government including the State to:

- Provide County funds to fund a pilot with the Madison Metropolitan School District to help students afford to take driver’s education.
- Provide County funds to assist those who have lost their driver’s license to regain their licenses through the highly successful “Driver’s License Recovery Program” at the YWCA.
- Provide County funds to support an evidence-based, successful, transitional jobs program operating in Southwest Madison that has demonstrated effectiveness in finding jobs for residents with multiple barriers to employment. Collaborators on this initiative include the City of Madison, the County, local businesses, churches, and community volunteers.

Due to the timing of the actual payments of the living wage funds to the various Purchase of Service (POS) providers verses the calculations needed for the adopted budgeted, there is underspending in the Human Services Living Wage line of \$59,000.

Another barrier that drives unemployment for men of color, in particular, is the disproportionately high incarceration rate and the inability to successfully reintegrate into society after incarceration. Challenges such as lack of affordable housing make it difficult, if not impossible, for many of these individuals to successfully reintegrate back into the community, avoid recidivism and become gainfully employed. It is well documented that that it is becoming increasingly problematic for someone with a criminal background to secure safe and affordable housing. As a result, this resolution also requests the Affordable Housing Development staff team to issue a request for proposal for transitional housing projects using funds that may be available following completion of the original RFP process outlined in the 2015 Capital Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the underspending in the Human Services Living Wage line be transferred to the General Fund and from the General Fund to the following expenditure accounts in the Department of Human Services:

From:

Expenditure	Account Number	Account Title	Amount
ACDCTTBD	LWBDAA	Living Wage	\$57,850

		Total	\$57,850
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1 To:

Expenditure	Account Number	Account Title	Amount
ACICLMMS	New	MMSD Driver's Education Pilot	\$22,150
ACICLCWD	DLREAA	YWCA Driver's License Recovery	\$20,700
ACICLCWD	New	Commonwealth Transitional Jobs	\$15,000
		Total	\$57,850

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3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Affordable Housing Development staff team will issue an
 4 Request for Proposal (RFP) for transitional housing using funds that may be available following
 5 completion of the RFP process directed in the 2015 Capital Budget.