



Employ Milwaukee

IMPACT REPORT

2025



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DEAR PARTNERS,

As the Workforce Development Board serving Milwaukee County, Employ Milwaukee champions workforce development through programs that connect participants to employers and essential resources, adapts to the times, and delivers data-driven outcomes. These features exemplify the five pillars of workforce development at the federal level: **accountability, flexibility and innovation, industry-driven strategies, integrated systems, and workforce mobility.**

2025 brought with it a few changes; we have diversified our funding sources, a new President & CEO was announced, and we kicked off new programs: Growth Opportunities, FORWD (Fostering Opioid Recovery through Workforce Development), and BioHealth Tech Hub. Throughout it all, the heart of our work has remained the same, and **we have continued to serve nearly 12,000 members of the community annually through our range of programming.** Our Camp RISE program even received an award from the Wisconsin Policy Forum, which you can read about on page 6.

Although 2025 presented its own unique challenges, we got creative with our problem-solving and continued delivering our quality programming, together with our valued partners and stakeholders, providing opportunities for both job seekers and local employers by launching individuals on their career pathways. **We look forward to continuing this important work in 2026, united in our mission to build a strong Milwaukee workforce for both job seekers and employers.**

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust in Employ Milwaukee.

Sincerely,



JULIE CAYO
CEO



CARLA Y. CROSS
Board President



MAYOR CAVALIER JOHNSON
Chief Local Elected Official

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

Employ Milwaukee collaborates with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and other partners to operate three American Job Centers and multiple satellite locations across the city. These centers, established under federal workforce legislation, act as the “front door” to employment services, providing job seekers with access to career counseling, job listings, training referrals, and other employment-related services, ensuring that more residents can connect to opportunities for skill-building and long-term career success.

American Job Center Locations

Job Center Central (MAXIMUS)

4201 N. 27th Street, 4th Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53216

Milwaukee Southeast Job Center (Chase St.)

2701 S. Chase Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin Job Center

1915 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Employ Milwaukee Pop-Up & Satellite Locations

Jericho Church Without Walls: 8086 N 76th St, Milwaukee, WI 53223

City on a Hill: 2224 W Kilbourn Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Office of African American Affairs (Reentry Hub): 4830 W Fond du Lac Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53216

Good Hope Library: 7715 N Good Hope Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53223

Villard Square Library: 5190 N 35th St, Milwaukee, WI 53209

Atkinson Library: 1960 W Atkinson Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53209

Center Street Library: 2727 W Fond du Lac Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Washington Park Library: 2121 N Sherman Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53208

Mitchell Street Library: 906 W Historic Mitchell St, Milwaukee, WI 53204

Bay View Library: 2566 S Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207

Capitol Library: 3969 N 74th St, Milwaukee, WI 53216

East Library: 2320 N Cramer St, Milwaukee, WI 53211

Tippecanoe Library: 3912 S Howell Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207

Zablocki Library: 3501 W Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53215

Brown Deer Library: 4301 W Brown Deer Rd, Brown Deer, WI 53223

Cudahy Family Library: 3500 Library Dr, Cudahy, WI 53110

Shorewood Public Library: 3920 N Murray Ave, Shorewood, WI 53211



Reentry Hub

Employ Milwaukee opened its new Reentry Hub at the City of Milwaukee's Office of African American Affairs (OAAA), located at **4830 W. Fond du Lac Avenue**. It will serve as the main office for Employ Milwaukee's Reentry Team, which includes Wylbur Holloway, Reentry Manager, and dedicated career navigators who reduce individuals' barriers to employment through coaching, training, and connections to local employers. This co-location creates a space where residents returning from the justice system can access coordinated support, job readiness services and pathways to meaningful employment. Services offered through the Hub include career assessments, resume support, job placement assistance, and referrals to education and skills training opportunities.

Learn more about
our Reentry Services!



YOUTH PROGRAMS

CAMP RISE

Camp RISE is a first-of-its-kind program that pays youth ages 10-13 to participate in career exploration activities over the summer. This past summer, campers met with professionals in healthcare, IT, hospitality, manufacturing, and more, and participated in hands-on activities to learn more about career opportunities. Campers built confidence as well as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills through engaging exercises and workshops.

In 2025, Camp RISE was recognized by the Wisconsin Policy Forum with the Innovative Approach to Problem-Solving Award as an example of a promising practice for addressing Milwaukee's youth disconnection crisis through summer youth employment. At present, no other workforce development board is known to offer paid summer enrichment and career exploration for youth as young as 10-13 years old, making Camp RISE a distinct national model.



940 applications received	346 youth enrolled
\$152,600 earned by campers	94 participants eligible for Earn & Learn in 2026



Scan the QR code to watch Camp RISE visit PepsiCo as one of their many field trips for career exploration.

Success Story



2025 was the fourth year of Camp RISE, which means seven campers participated in every year of Camp RISE since its inception. We were thrilled to see so many returning campers, who made up 65% of total participants. Those who age out of Camp RISE receive priority for participating in Earn & Learn starting at age 14, like camper Jace plans to do next year- scan the QR code to read his story.



EARN & LEARN

Earn & Learn provides youth aged 14-24 with meaningful paid summer work experiences and career exposure, serving over 41,000 participants since it began in 2007. The program introduces youth to a variety of industries, helps them build connections with employers while also offering employers a local talent pipeline, and gives them experience to put on a resume.

680 PARTICIPANTS started work experience

35 PARTICIPANTS enrolled after graduating from Camp RISE

74 WORKSITE organizations hosted Earn & Learn participants

63 PARTICIPANTS opened their first bank account

Success Story

Nhazi began as a Camp RISE participant and is now entering his third and final year as an Earn & Learn participant. Each year, he has worked with the DNR at Havenwoods and has been directly referred back by DNR staff.



"I am forever grateful for the role Earn & Learn has played in my journey, and I proudly continue to refer families I work with to this invaluable resource." - Alexis H.



"This experience has been a turning point for both my academic journey and my future career path"- Chyna J.G



CREAM CITY YOUTHBUILD

Cream City YouthBuild equips young adults with the skills and credentials needed for success in construction and road-building. The program serves 18 to 24-year-olds with a focus on those who are not in school or have not obtained their high school diploma. Participants receive GED instruction while gaining hands-on experience and industry-recognized credentials and receive mentorship and career readiness training.

This year, the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW) assisted with paid work experience placements, creating a pathway for participants to gain employment at the city as General Laborers, with high-quality average wages and benefits. Beyond personal growth, construction track participants work with Habitat for Humanity to gain hands-on experience by building affordable properties for first-time home buyers who are often unable to find affordable homeownership opportunities in the open market.

WIOA YOUTH

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth program is designed to help young people between the ages of 14 and 24, both in-school and out-of-school, gain the skills and support they need to succeed in today's job market. WIOA is a federal program to enhance the nation's public workforce system, providing a coordinated network of services to help young people more easily access employment, training, and supportive services.

Both in-school and out-of-school youth incorporate the **14 Youth Program Elements**, designed to provide a holistic approach to career and education development. Scan the QR code to read about these elements.



Success Story

Gisella came into the WIOA Youth program as a high school graduate seeking a training opportunity that would lead to a career pathway. Her WIOA Career Planner gave her options to choose from, including Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training, which she enrolled in. Gisella completed the program and started her own business, GG's Trucking LLC. She takes on contracts from various businesses and enjoys being her own boss.

GO MKE (GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES)*

New in 2025, the Department of Labor-funded Growth Opportunities (GO MKE) program provides services to youth and young adults aged 15-18 who are at a high risk of involvement in violence.

This includes:

- Current or previously juvenile justice-involved individuals
- Individuals who dropped out of high school before completion without prior involvement in the juvenile justice system
- Individuals referred from a juvenile justice system or mandatory violence prevention partner with no prior involvement in the juvenile justice system

Participants will identify career interests, learn relevant skills, gain work experience, and gain income to start down the path of earning living wages and getting high quality jobs in high-demand industries.

**Growth Opportunities Grant program is supported by the U.S Department of Labor. A total of \$2,000,000 or 88% of the program is financed with federal funds.*

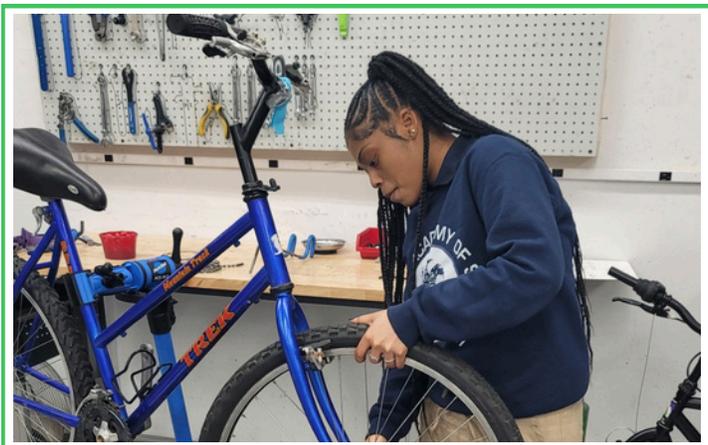


Scan the QR code to learn more about all of our youth programs!

BRIGHTER FUTURES

In partnership with the **Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee**, Brighter Futures (BFI) prepares high school students at risk of dropping out, truancy, or criminal involvement for graduation and post-secondary success. The program offers academic tutoring, career and college exploration, workforce readiness training, financial literacy, and paid work experience, helping young people develop the skills needed for life after high school. **Over 200 Milwaukee high school students were enrolled this past year** and offered leadership development, adult mentorship, and social-emotional learning to help launch them on the path to success.

New this year, BFI partnered with Concordia University to facilitate five Intro to Pharmacy Tech pre-apprenticeship training cohorts and Carlton Butts Electric for Electrical Lighting pre-apprenticeships. BFI's **nearly 20 employer partners** helped facilitate career exploration and hiring fairs and hosted participants for paid work experiences. The BFI program benefits both participants and employers, providing participants with hands-on training, and employers with qualified, job-ready young adults who have earned industry- and state-recognized credentials in healthcare, food service, childcare, mechanical repair, and more.



EMPLOYER PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- Children's Wisconsin
- Advocate Aurora
- Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin
- Versiti
- Dream Bikes
- Goodwill of SE WI & Greater Chicago
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Urban Ecology Center- Washington Park
- Black Arts MKE
- Child Care Matters, LLC
- Cousins Subs
- Outpost Natural Foods
- MKE Video
- Old Navy
- Kohl's
- Milwaukee World Festival, Inc.
- Immy's African Cuisine
- Carlton Butts Electric



SUCCESS STORY

Earn & Learn: Chyna G.

Chyna worked as the Marketing and Communications Intern at Rooted & Rising Washington Park, a community-focused organization dedicated to addressing the needs of residents in Washington Park, this summer as a part of Earn & Learn, a youth program designed to provide meaningful work experiences and career exposure to young adults ages 14-24 years old in Milwaukee.

Chyna is starting her junior year at Marquette University this fall, majoring in Corporate Communications and minoring in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, with a concentration in communication leadership.

In her role this summer, she attended community events, created content for newsletters and social media, and focused on storytelling—ensuring the message they shared truly represented the community and the mission of Rooted & Rising. Chyna learned skills like content creation, strategic communication, and public engagement giving her real-world experience that deepened her understanding of her major.

“Before this, I didn’t fully grasp how valuable my degree could be,” Chyna said. “Now, I’m leaving the program not only with hands-on skills, but with a new sense of purpose and appreciation for what I’m studying.”

In the future, Chyna wants to launch her own nonprofit that focuses on providing affordable housing for single families and a community center for youth to engage in safe, enriching activities. Earn & Learn gave her a clearer vision and the foundational tools to take real steps toward her goal after graduation.



Scan the QR code
to see all of our
success stories!



“This experience has been a turning point for both my academic journey and my future career path,” Chyna said. “I’ll carry everything I’ve learned with me, and I’ll never forget the impact it made.”

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Strengthening Milwaukee's Workforce Ecosystem

The Business Solutions Team works with employers to understand their needs and provide tailored talent solutions including labor market information, recruitment, pre-screening, On-The-Job (OJT) training, Rapid Response services, and more. Rapid Response services, which support workers experiencing layoffs, were provided to 396 affected workers due to businesses downsizing or closing.

The team also holds hiring events, hosting 12 across the region this year that engaged nearly 100 employers and connected more than 350 job seekers with employment opportunities, strengthening workforce connections and supporting local hiring needs. Community service providers also table at hiring events to streamline resources for job seekers.

The final hiring event of the year in December connected more than 150 job seekers with 27 employers and community resources. This successful event connected the community to sustainable wage employment opportunities and valuable training pathways that support long-term career growth.

The Business Solutions team partnered with 215 employers in 2025, establishing new partnerships with the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Wisconsin, and Menomonee Valley Partners to maximize impact and reach.



Learn more
about the
services
Business
Solutions offers!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement Team expanded its reach in the community this year and prioritized flexibility and innovation by meeting residents where they are and connecting them to meaningful career pathways and workforce resources. Through more than 160 workforce resource pop-ups, satellite site office hours, and outreach efforts, the department engaged nearly 600 individuals across Milwaukee, including youth, adults, and older adults, at community events, schools, faith-based organizations, correctional facilities, and hiring events, understanding the importance of being a workforce system that adapts to community needs.

Signature initiatives included the annual Juneteenth celebration, which drew thousands of attendees. Community Engagement staff maintained a presence on both the north and south ends of the event to make it easier for attendees to access Employ Milwaukee's resources.



To mark Workforce Month in September, the team held a Workforce Summit and brought together a coordinated network of more than 100 job seekers, employers, and organizational leaders.

The team further extended its community impact through Thanksgiving outreach that provided nearly 100 individuals with career information, hiring opportunities, and food for the holiday, such as turkeys, hams, and dry goods, through faith-based partnerships.

At this year's Rise & Shine: Leaders & Legacy Breakfast, community leaders Mr. Mark Wade and Pastor Robert Pyles honored the dynamic legacies of Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, Dr. Maria Monreal-Cameron, and the Honorable Vel R. Phillips and celebrated the dedication of the iconic Mr. Reuben Harpole to the foundation of Milwaukee youth's education. This event not only supported the ongoing efforts of Employ Milwaukee but also fostered a strong spirit of unity and collective upliftment among all those in attendance.

Donations to the event supported programs that empower youth and adults on their career journeys through high-demand sector trainings, paid work experience, on-the-job training and job readiness skills. Director of Community Engagement and Agency Impact Mildred Coby strives to honor local leaders in workforce and education, both past and present, who laid the foundation for the community growth of today.



Learn more
about our
Community
Engagement
team!



ADULT PROGRAMS

QUEST

The QUEST program was created to address the post-pandemic shortage of childcare providers by training individuals to become certified childcare teachers through a comprehensive curriculum and hands-on paid work experience at local childcare centers. Through these efforts, **nearly 500 participants gained industry-relevant skills** designed to support successful entry and advancement in the workforce in 2025. Employ Milwaukee further expanded QUEST's impact by co-enrolling 161 eligible Earn & Learn participants and placing them in early childhood education (ECE) settings to gain work experience in a structured career pathway. QUEST also partnered with Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee to place youth in Assistant Teacher roles where they earned ECE credentials and participated in paid work experiences, strengthening workforce mobility and the local talent pipeline. In addition, the program ran a cohort-based training model in collaboration with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and Next Door to align training with employer needs and create an efficient transition from training to employment for job seekers.

WIOA

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) offers training, support, and other career services for adult and dislocated workers, helping participants become self-sufficient and succeed in the workforce. As the designated workforce development board for Milwaukee County, Employ Milwaukee develops and executes a comprehensive four-year WIOA Local Plan as required by the U.S. Department of Labor. The plan outlines regional workforce development needs, provides labor market analysis and projections, establishes workforce program goals, defines governance structures and local policies, identifies service providers and locations, and conveys the performance and accountability measures for Wisconsin's Workforce Development Area (WDA) 2. Targeted staff training strengthened program oversight and compliance, resulting in improved Department of Workforce Development (DWD) monitoring outcomes, fewer errors, and zero disallowed costs. All WIOA program tracks exceeded their employment rate goals this year, with the dislocated worker track with **an actual rate of 81.6%, surpassing the goal by 13.6%**. Additionally, WDA 2's WIOA programs met all five federal performance measures for Program Year 2024, reflecting strong program effectiveness.



WIOA participants Kimyatta (left) and Lamar (right) earned Class A CDLs and quickly gained full-time employment.



FORWD (FOSTERING OPIOID RECOVERY THROUGH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT)

New in 2025, the FORWD program supports individuals impacted by the opioid crisis. Through specialized training, supportive services, and real-world work experience, FORWD helps participants rebuild their careers and their futures. Participants work towards roles in recovery-based careers, such as Peer Specialists or Recovery Coaches, where they can use their lived experience to help others. Of the 37 individuals enrolled in the FORWD program in 2025, **22 engaged in formal training activities**, progressing towards credentialing and employment readiness. Seven secured temporary, disaster-relief employment, which offers individuals the opportunity to make a significant impact in communities affected by disasters, including four Peer Specialists with Wisconsin Community Services' Supported Housing Division, two Recovery Coach interns with Meta House, and

one placement with the Hospitality Center in Racine. These outcomes highlight FORWD's continued success using industry-driven strategies to connect participants to employment within the behavioral health and recovery support workforce.

BANKWORK\$

BankWork\$ connects adults to training and well-paying jobs in financial services that can lead to a lasting career. This free, eight-week course equips participants with the skills needed to succeed in an in-demand industry.

Employer engagement is a foundational element of BankWork\$'s success. While BankWork\$ operates as a national initiative across twelve cities, Employ Milwaukee's program distinguishes itself by maintaining the largest network of employer partners among all participating sites, with 17 financial institutions who play an active role in training and hiring events, ensuring that students receive up-to-date industry insights.



Learn about BankWork\$ graduate Amber's new career with BMO Harris!

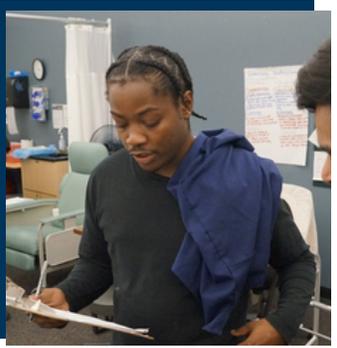


In 2025, 70% of BankWork\$ trainees gained employment after graduation, and the program expanded its reach into the south side of Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha in partnership with Southeast Works, WOW Works and DWD- Bureau of Job Service. These expansions allowed more individuals in the Greater Milwaukee area to access training, employer connections, and support services that set them up for long-term success.

MILWAUKEE EQUITABLE NURSING DEVELOPMENT (MEND)

MEND addresses the local and national nursing shortage through multiple entry points, accepting participants who are just starting out in healthcare as well as those already working in the field. In 2025, MEND served over 500 participants, teamed up with Ascension St. Francis Hospital for bilingual CNA placements and began offering services to students at Mount Mary University and Alverno College. MEND partners with Hispanic Collaborative and the Greater Milwaukee National Association of Hispanic Nurses (GMNAHN) to train participants in the bilingual CNA program. GMNAHN President Erika Colón and her mentors established and maintained strong connections to MEND participants, helping students with test preparation, job searching, and work, school, and life balance issues. In addition, MEND collaborated with PhD nursing faculty at UW-Milwaukee and Forward Careers in Waukesha to create and test a fully online preceptor training for RN's.

Learn more about MEND participant Elijah's story.



CHC Medical Assistant Program Stats

- Received between **700-1,000 applications** each cycle for 12-14 spots
- **Nearly 100% of participants** passed the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant exam, and all participants who passed gained employment
- **90% of participants** completed the course

SKILLS TO BUILD

Funded by the Department of Labor, Skills to Build prepares job seekers for careers in information technology (IT), advanced manufacturing, and professional/technical services. Students are paired with local employers for paid work experiences that connect them to high-demand careers. In the past year, Skills to Build expanded its advanced manufacturing focus. Through collaboration with Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) and Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC), the program now supports training models that allow participants to gain technical credentials while remaining actively engaged with employers. One participant who was both employed and enrolled in school reported that, without access to the supportive serves Skills to Build provides, he would have had to pause his degree program. Skills to Build's resources remove barriers so that participants can focus on their career path. Halfway through the grant period, Skills to Build has served 307 participants and is on track to exceed its goal of 600, and the median paid work experience wage of \$29 per hour has surpassed the goal of \$15.54 per hour.

** Skills to Build Grant program is supported by the U.S. Department of Labor. A total of \$1,500,000 or 75% of the program is financed with federal funds.*

BIOHEALTH TECH HUB

The Wisconsin BioHealth Tech Hub focuses on job creation, training and development, and collaboration with leading institutions in biotechnology and personalized medicine. Partners include Milwaukee and Madison Area Technical Colleges, the University of Wisconsin System, and major industry players like GE HealthCare and Rockwell Automation.

Over the next decade, BioHealth Tech Hub is projected to create more than 30,000 direct jobs and 111,000 indirect jobs. Opportunities will include youth apprenticeships, summer youth employment, scholarships, skills training, and wraparound support.

FRESH COAST TECH UP

Fresh Coast Tech Up (FCTU) offers accelerated IT occupational skills training taught by MATC professors at no cost to the student, removing a barrier to education, and is equivalent to a 12-credit college semester. Graduates earn an MATC IT Service Center Technician Certificate and Wisconsin Certified Pre-Apprenticeship Program Certificate with potential to also earn CompTIA A+ and CompTIA Network+ certifications. This year, 24 students completed the program and earned credentials.

MILWAUKEE WATER WORKS COMMUNITY PROJECT*

The Department of Labor-funded Milwaukee Water Works Community Project (MWWCP) accelerated efforts in 2025, training workers for well-paying jobs in the water industry and filling vacancies for essential positions at Milwaukee Water Works (MWW). Over 1,200 people expressed interest in the program and nearly 150 were enrolled. MWWCP also collaborated with Milwaukee Community Service Corps to provide job readiness training and career coaching for two Fresh Coast Ambassador cohorts.

This year, MWWCP created an Industrial Machine Repair Mechanic pre-apprenticeship program to help MWW fill open positions. Nearly 30 students enrolled in the program, with an MATC-taught curriculum determined in collaboration with MWW. MWWCP also collaborated with the City of Milwaukee for on-the-job trainings (OJT's) and paid work experiences (PWE's); of the 73 OJT's and PWE's in 2025, over 90% took place with MWW and DPW.

**Milwaukee Water Works Community Project Grant program is supported by the U.S. Department of Labor. A total of \$2,000,000 or 100% of the program is financed with federal funds.*

WORK WISE

Work Wise provides unemployed adults ages 55+ with training and part-time paid work experiences in community service organizations, helping experienced workers return to the workforce. In 2025, Work Wise served 55 people and provided computer literacy training to seniors. After a pause in funding, Employ Milwaukee is looking forward to re-launching this program for older adults in 2026.

BIOHEALTH TECH HUB CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

- *Accuray*
- *BioForward Wisconsin*
- *Exact Sciences Corporation*
- *GE HealthCare*
- *Madison Area Technical College*
- *Madison Regional Economic Partnership (MadREP)*
- *Milwaukee Area Technical College*
- *Milwaukee7*
- *Plexus*
- *Rockwell Automation*
- *University of Wisconsin-Madison*
- *University of Wisconsin System Administration*
- *Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)*
- *WRTP Big Step*



SUCCESS STORY

Skills to Build: Khin Maung Aye

Khin Maung Aye first enrolled in Employ Milwaukee's Skills to Build program in April 2024, and co-enrolled in the Milwaukee Water Works Community Project (MWWCP) shortly after. Skills to Build serves jobseekers interested in careers in advanced manufacturing, information technology, and professional/technical services, and MWWCP focuses on municipal careers relating to roles at Milwaukee Water Works. Khin's focus of study, civil engineering, qualified for each program.

Khin, a student of Rohingya ethnicity, moved to Milwaukee from Myanmar to escape educational restriction, ethnic persecution and genocide. He arrived in Milwaukee without a job, despite years of experience in civil engineering back home. He enrolled at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) to get an associate degree in civil engineering technology.

Through Skills to Build, Khin received financial assistance with tuition and textbooks and help with his resume and job interviewing skills. Khin's foremost goal while attending school was to find an internship and advance into an engineering job. MWWCP connected Khin with the City of Milwaukee Water Works for a grant-subsidized engineering internship in the fall 2024 semester. Khin excelled in the role, and the City retained him for the entire school year, training him on their processes.



Khin applied for a permanent, full-time job with the City, and in preparation for his job interview, both the Skills to Build and MWWCP specialists coached him in interviewing skills. He successfully passed the interview process and was hired full-time as a CADD and GIS Technician III. Khin is finishing up the last few credits of his associate's degree outside of work hours and will graduate in December 2025.

Through Skills to Build and MWWCP, Khin advanced from student intern to full-time, quality employment in a high-growth field.

"Today I am attending college and working in the civil engineering field as I have always dreamed of," Khin said. **"Without Employ Milwaukee, I would not be here today working as a professional."**

REENTRY SERVICES

Reentry refers to the process of individuals returning to the community from jail or prison and/or being within the community on supervision. Employment greatly reduces the risk of reoffending, but many still face challenges due to limited education and occupational skills. Employ Milwaukee's Reentry Services address these barriers through a coordinated network of workforce and community resources, offering support and training to help individuals transition successfully into the workforce. Close collaboration with employers ensures they are equipped to support reentering citizens.

WINDOWS TO WORK

Employ Milwaukee is a proud partner of the Windows to Work program, a statewide Wisconsin Department of Corrections-funded initiative serving individuals across the state who are returning to Milwaukee. The program assists individuals with employment, supportive services, cognitive restructuring, financial literacy, and workplace competencies. Since 2008, case managers have been contracted out, but in 2025 Employ Milwaukee hired on permanent staff for the roles. Case Managers work with individuals six to nine months before release to ensure readiness for reintegration and provide twelve months of follow-up support post-release to offer ongoing guidance and resources for long-term success. This year, the Reentry team introduced incentives to motivate participants to meet certain milestones, including attending intake, getting hired, and completing the program. Participants also received Welcome Home kits from United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County filled with essentials like hygiene and cleaning products. New supportive services also became available, including driver's license recovery and financial assistance with car insurance, a cell phone, and a phone plan.

REENTRY SIMULATIONS

Employ Milwaukee collaborates with JustDane to run reentry simulations that give participants, including local employers and elected officials, an understanding of the challenges faced by individuals reintegrating into society through realistic scenarios. The simulations aim to engage with employers to identify any policies or organizational norms that could stifle their hiring and retention needs with this applicant pool and work to resolve them.

This program year, Employ Milwaukee became a member of the National Reentry Workforce Collaborative (NRWC), which supports organizations that promote opportunities for justice-impacted job seekers. Through the NRWC, all Reentry department staff received their Reentry Specialist Certification, and will get recertified every two years to keep up with learnings in the field. Learn more:



Success Story



Windows to Work participant Dimitrios was released from incarceration in August 2025. In September, he began working with his Windows to Work transfer coach on developing employability skills. Dimitrios secured a job through a temp service in October, where he worked until he was laid off. He persisted towards his goal of finding stable employment and received a job offer from Western Building Products in November, impressing them with his involvement in Windows to Work and the skills he was building through the program.



Dimitrios works as a General Laborer making \$17 an hour and will participate in forklift training once he reaches six months of employment.

COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION CENTER

Employ Milwaukee provides pre- and post-release services to individuals who are released from the Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center (CRC). This program provides career planning, job readiness and skills trainings, all informed by Labor Market Information, assessments, and an employment action plan. Participants are referred to American Job Centers so that they may access WIOA programming to guide them through their transition immediately upon release.

MILWAUKEE REENTRY NETWORK

In 2025, the Milwaukee Reentry Network (MRN), chaired by Employ Milwaukee, began work on its Strategic Plan to integrate neighborhood-based diversion, reentry and employment strategies. The MRN provides opportunities to reduce criminal thinking and increase healthy family relationships for adults and youth returning from corrections facilities or living under county, state, or federal supervision. MRN members include representatives from state and county departments, local nonprofits, and returning citizens.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT & PARTNERS

Employ Milwaukee actively manages and stewards funding from federal, state and local sources to strategically serve employers and individual job seekers in our community.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES *for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025*

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Government & Service Contracts	\$14,409,905
Contributions	\$214,504
Other Revenue	\$1,444,315

TOTAL REVENUE **\$16,068,724**

EXPENSES

Youth	\$5,659,098
Adult	\$6,996,320
Dislocated Worker	\$1,204,476
Management & General	\$1,465,331

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$15,325,225**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$743,499

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cavalier Johnson, Mayor of Milwaukee, Designated Chief Elected Official of Employ Milwaukee
Julie Cayo, President & CEO, Employ Milwaukee
Deshea Agee, Emem Group
Dan Bukiewicz, Building and Construction Trades Council
Shannon Chestnut, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Unemployment Insurance
Carla Cross, Cross Management Services, Inc., Chair of Employ Milwaukee
Randy Crump, Prism Technical Management and Marketing Services
Dr. Anthony Cruz, Milwaukee Area Technical College
Rodrick Cureton, Milwaukee Bucks
Edgard Delgado, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Job Service
Gregory Fritsch, Center for Veterans Issues
Dr. Thomas Gibson, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Andres Gonzalez, Froedtert Health Care
Houston Jamison, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Kevin Jaskie, United Steelworkers District 2
Ernest Jones, Columbia Savings & Loan
Erik Kennedy, MKE Tech Hub Coalition
Mark Kessenich, Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee
Matt Martin, Marcus Corporation
Jose Martinez, United Migrant Opportunity Services
Jeff Mehrhoff, IUPAT DC7
Ugo Nwagbaraocha, Diamond Discs International
Alan Perlstein, Lily Pad Gallery
Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent, Milwaukee Public Schools
Karen Spindler, Duracell

FUNDED PARTNERS

160 Driving Academy
 4C - For Children
 Alliance Specialty Healthcare Services
 Alma Center, Inc.
 Badger CDL, LLC
 Better Days Ahead, LLC
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
 Brew City HDI
 Carlson Tool and Manufacturing
 Center for Healthcare Careers of Southeast Wisconsin
 Center for Self-Sufficiency
 Comfort Home CBRF Training Center, LLC
 Community Advocates
 Concordia University
 Cutting Edge Staffing, LLC
 Dynamic Workforce Solutions
 Educational Healthcare Trainings, LLC
 Equus Workforce Solutions
 Exclusive Health Services, LLC
 Five Star Educational Training Center, LLC
 FOR-M Foundation, Inc.
 Future Logistics & CDL Training
 Gateway Technical College
 Gener8tor Management, LLC
 Greater Milwaukee National Association of Hispanic Nurses
 Greater Milwaukee Urban League
 HeartLove Place
 Home Builders Institute
 Innovative Educational Solutions Institute
 J. Johnson Education Center Ltd.
 JobsWork MKE
 Journey House, Inc
 JustDane Inc.
 Literacy Services of Wisconsin
 Living Made Easy Homes, LLC
 ManpowerGroup
 Marquette University
 Medical College of Wisconsin
 Menomonee Valley Partners
 Milwaukee Area Technical College
 Milwaukee Community Crossroads

Milwaukee Community Service Corps
 Milwaukee Recreation
 Milwaukee Water Works
 Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
 Moraine Park Technical College
 Multicultural Entrepreneurial Institute
 Network Training Academy
 New Beginnings Adult Learning Center
 Next Level CDL Institute
 Nicolet College
 On Your Way CDL Training, LLC
 Prestige Healthcare Academy
 Professional CDL Training, LLC
 Project RETURN, Inc.
 Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee
 Revitalize Milwaukee, Inc.
 RoMalli LLC MKE
 Rose Education Center
 Standard of Excellence
 Teens Grow Greens, Inc
 Testudo LLC
 The Community
 The Early Education Station
 Trinity Allied Healthcare Academy
 United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee
 Upper Iowa University
 UW-La Crosse
 UW-Milwaukee
 UW-Parkside
 UW-River Falls
 UW-Stout
 Waukesha County
 Waukesha County Technical College
 Wisconsin Community Services
 Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership
 Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce





THANK YOU!

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