



## **EMPLOY MILWAUKEE MESSAGE ON RACIAL INEQUITIES AND DISPARITIES**

It is with our deepest sincerity that we extend our thoughts and hearts to the families and loved ones of those affected by police brutality and systemic racial violence against people of color in our country. For hundreds of years, people of color have carried the burden of being mistreated simply because of the color of their skin. The recent tragic deaths have brought to light again the ways many members of our community are suffering. We are reminded again that our work requires understanding, action and urgency each day to bring about the necessary transformation that will end the suffering caused by racial injustice.

At Employ Milwaukee, we believe that every person and every worker deserves a fair shot at achieving economic stability and success. We take pride in the diversity that makes us unique and we believe it is our diversity that makes us strong. Although workforce development is not the sole answer to racial and ethnic inequities or disparities, workforce training and education are crucial tactics in addressing employment, income, and wealth disparities that preclude too many people of color from economic and family security.

To that end, we pledge to work with our partners to continue to prioritize:

- Strengthening partnerships, especially those with employers and the business community, that are ready to address opportunities around equity in the economy;
- The pursuit of additional funding for employment and skill training programs for disenfranchised workers, especially programs that incorporate trauma-informed care and other relevant support services;
- Advancing racial equity through postsecondary training policies, including career pathways and stackable credentials of value;
- Removing barriers to correctional education and training connected to re-entry populations;
- Employing apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs to advance racial equity;
- Implementing upskilling policies for adults with foundational skills gaps;

Employ Milwaukee is uniquely positioned to help address the racial inequities and disparities that exist in Southeastern Wisconsin and we are committed to aligning our resources with actions that support true change.