



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***County Executive Abele Announces Grant of Up to \$5.4 Million
To County for Milwaukee Fatherhood Project***

New countywide program to aid fathers in developing employment, life skills

MILWAUKEE (October 7, 2011) – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele announced today that the county expects to receive more than \$5 million in federal funding for the Milwaukee County Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Project, a new program that will provide needed education to Milwaukee County's urban fathers in developing the life skills necessary to gain family sustaining employment, an ongoing issue in the county's urban communities.

The program funding of about \$1.8 million annually was secured from US Department of Health & Human Services. Based on currently available funds, officials expect to continue funding the program for three years.

"With nearly half of Milwaukee County's children being raised in a home without a father present – nearly twice the national average – and high unemployment levels among Milwaukee's African American fathers, there is a great need and value in this type of programming," Abele said. "I'm pleased to announce that Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood will begin addressing these issues with fathers and families in need."

Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood is a comprehensive and community-centered response designed to address the barriers to responsible fatherhood often found in urban areas, including low marriage rates and high rates of birth outside of marriage; high rates of father-absent households; high levels of male unemployment in some urban communities; and poverty.

A number of community partners are working together to meet the needs of Milwaukee County fathers and their families through this new program.

– more –

Fatherhood Grant to Milwaukee

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“Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood builds on community partnerships, including an important collaboration with the members of the Milwaukee Fatherhood Collaborative, now known as My Father's House,” says Angela M. Turner, President and CEO of the Center for Self-Sufficiency, the project's evaluation partner. “We are looking forward to working closely with Milwaukee County, as well as all of the other partners, to roll out these very important services to strengthen parenting, marriage and employment in Milwaukee.”

Nearly 2,000 families each year will be helped through the new program, which will include services to improve marriage and relationship skills; support fathers in developing the ability to take on a responsible parental role in the lives of their children; and assistance in seeking job and career advancement activities.

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