



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., 1st District

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FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE APPROVES “READY TO WORK” INITIATIVE

Biddle-Lipscomb plan to create up to 1,000 jobs in Milwaukee County

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisors Eyon Biddle, Sr., and Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., are thanking the County Board’s Finance & Audit Committee for approving the [Biddle-Lipscomb Ready to Work](#) jobs initiative as an amendment to the 2012 County Budget. Ready to Work aims to create job access for Milwaukee County residents who have demonstrated prior success, such as attaining a high school diploma (or GED) and maintaining a valid Driver’s License, yet cannot seem to reach the high-wage, family-supporting jobs that are currently available.

“The County Board adopts the budget on November 7th, and we call on all Supervisors and the County Executive to support this initiative. We need to get our residents back to work, and this amendment makes an investment in our infrastructure to support workforce development,” Supervisor Lipscomb said. “Our initial investment of \$1 million will allow us to identify current opportunities, create new entry-level jobs and provide work experience opportunities with a sustainable career pathway.”

If adopted by the full Board, the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership & BIG STEP will provide training opportunities for work-ready individuals to gain access to County and private-sector positions with clear advancement opportunities. The partners involved will provide the educational training and on-the-job work experience needed to allow Milwaukee County residents to advance to the next level on the path to higher-level positions.

“We plan to seek another \$1 million in dollar-for-dollar grants from private foundations and organizations to expand the number of participants and job placement opportunities,” said Supervisor Lipscomb. “Through Ready to Work, our goal is to train and place 1,000 people into jobs and career path opportunities.”

“We have all seen the numerous reports about a perceived skills gap. There are millions of public works dollars sent outside of Milwaukee County because we don’t have workers in our community who can do the job. We should all be outraged that projects funded by taxpayers – that could create a multitude of local jobs – are instead going to individuals outside Milwaukee County because of a perceived lack of skills,” Supervisor Biddle said. “We’re closing that gap with a comprehensive program that doesn’t use a single property tax dollar, yet it can benefit people from all backgrounds in all neighborhoods across this great County who are looking for work, but may lack the necessary skills.”

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