



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 16, 2012

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

Governor's Task Force on Minority Unemployment Empowers Milwaukee Residents to Restore Driver's License, Remove Employment Barrier

State, local partners join forces to pre-screen customers in advance of Aug. 25 event

MILWAUKEE – As part of Governor Walker's Task Force on Minority Unemployment, state and local partners today unveiled plans for an event on Saturday, August 25, to help hundreds of job seekers and others who meet certain criteria move quickly toward reinstating their driver's license and get back on the road to employment. The event, titled "Getting to Work: Driver's License Recovery Event," will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Goodwill Industries Center, 6055 North 91st St.

"We know through the Task Force's ongoing research that transportation to work is a significant barrier for minority job seekers who otherwise are skilled and ready for that next opportunity," said Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, who co-chairs the Task Force with state Rep. Elizabeth Coggs of Milwaukee. "This one-day event is an important step to move beyond identifying issues and to implement solutions."

Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, Vice President of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin and chairperson of the Task Force's Transportation Work Group, stated: "Having a driver's license is a critical first step in securing a job. Goodwill believes in eliminating barriers to employment and is excited to participate with various partners on the effort."

During the event, Milwaukee Municipal Court Judge Derek C. Mosley will join dozens of trained volunteers in meeting with and reviewing transportation records of as many as 500 individuals who will have been determined through pre-screening that they:

- Have a household income at or below 200 percent of the poverty level.
- Have a suspended license solely due to failure to pay fines that have been imposed in the city of Milwaukee and can be addressed by the city of Milwaukee Municipal Court.
- Are actively seeking employment or are already employed.

The Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) Coordinating Council agency partners are overseeing pre-screening activities in the weeks before the event and will provide eligible customers with an entry "ticket."

Event participants will receive information on court obligations, payment plan options including existing sources of potential financial assistance, and a future date and time to appear in court for possible lifting of the suspensions. Once the suspension is lifted, the job seeker will be directed to the state Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to pay the associated reinstatement fee so that a current and valid license can be issued.

The Governor's Task Force on Minority Unemployment consists of numerous Milwaukee community and business leaders who are examining the causes of and recommending solutions to high minority unemployment in the city of Milwaukee.

(more)

Other members of the Transportation Work Group include leaders from MAWIB, the Northcott Neighborhood House Inc., state Department of Workforce Development (DWD), state Department of Transportation (DOT), McDowell Construction Corp. and Allied Community Solutions.

“This event is reflective of Governor Walker’s strong commitment to work collaboratively with employers and community organizations to connect all job seekers to jobs, particularly minorities in Milwaukee,” DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. “We look forward to a successful event, even as we continue to concentrate on additional strategies to address minority unemployment in metro Milwaukee.”

“Wisconsin DOT is proud to partner with community organizations who are helping individuals understand the steps they need to take to obtain a valid driver’s license,” added WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb. “A license can be a critical factor in obtaining or retaining employment.”

Find out more about the event here:

http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2012/120816_dlrs_flyer.pdf