

Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
Email: sec@dwd.wisconsin.gov



Scott Walker, Governor
Reginald J. Newson, Secretary

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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

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On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

Milwaukee Job Seekers Move Closer to Driver's License Recovery

*One-day event, part of Governor's Minority Unemployment Task Force,
seeks to address employment barrier*

MILWAUKEE – During the “Getting to Work: Driver’s License Recovery Event” held today at the Goodwill Center for Employment and Training, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson recognized the many partners who came together to help hundreds of community residents move along the path toward license reinstatement and transportation to and from work.

“We are helping individuals across the community take the steps to reinstate their driver’s license, which we know is instrumental in overcoming a barrier to employment,” Secretary Newson said. “On behalf of Governor Walker, I commend the many individuals and organizations who have come together to make this event a success for Milwaukee.”

The driver’s license recovery event, being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., was organized by a transportation workgroup that formed as part of Governor Walker’s Task Force on Minority Unemployment. The workgroup has been studying the impact of - and recommending solutions to – the issue of transportation as a barrier to employment among minorities in the Milwaukee area.

The Governor’s Task Force is co-chaired by Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and state Rep. Elizabeth Coggins.

Numerous organizations came together to organize and take part in today’s event, such as DWD; Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin; the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB), including MAWIB Coordinating Council agency partners; Milwaukee Municipal Court, including Judge Derek C. Mosley; the Helen Bader Foundation Inc., which will help certain individuals cover the \$60 license reinstatement fee; and the state Department of Transportation. Rep. Coggins joined Secretary Newson and other leaders at the event.

MAWIB Chief Executive Officer and President Donald Sykes said: “Our Coordinating Council did an outstanding job of pre-screening and assessing candidates. This event is just the first step in dealing with a significant barrier to employment, transportation.”

Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, Senior Vice President of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, added: “Goodwill is committed to the success of all residents in the community. As chair of the transportation workgroup, I look forward to working with state and local government to continue to address ways to overcome transportation barriers.”

(more)

Potential participants were pre-screened by local workforce partners to ensure eligibility to participate. As of Friday, over 350 potential attendees had been pre-screened, with event-day attendance expected to surpass 500. To participate, individuals had to meet certain criteria, including:

- A household income at or below 200% of the poverty level.
- A license suspension or revocation solely for failure to pay fines that have been imposed in the city of Milwaukee and can be solely addressed by the Milwaukee Municipal Court.
- Actively seeking employment or currently employed.

Event participants received 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.