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TO: Councilmember Whitfield-Calloway

FROM: Terri A. Weems, Group Executive, Workforce Development and Detroit at Work (DAW)
Dana Williams, President, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC)

DATE: April 2, 2025

CC:

**Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation
FY 2025-2026 Budget Analysis**

- 1. The Employment Solutions offices at the Northwest Activity Center, in District 2, offers many services including:**
 - a. Photo ID**
 - b. Proof of eligibility to work or SSN**
 - c. Help with transportation**
 - d. Childcare resources**
 - e. Career services of justice involved residents**
 - f. Expungement**
 - g. Resume writing**
 - h. Marijuana use**

Please explain how the services provided are coordinated with other city departments or organizations for better efficiency.

Detroit at Work services are coordinated with various City departments and organizations to enhance efficiency and streamline service delivery. We work closely with partner agencies such as Project Clean Slate, United Way of Southeast Michigan, City of Detroit Housing Outreach, DWIHN (Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network), and many others, through a coordinated referral process across all Career Centers, adult and youth. These partnerships are formalized through Memos of Understanding (MOUs). The Barrier Removal team meets regularly with our partner agencies to ensure that the process is followed, metrics are achieved, and the partnership is functioning effectively. This referral process is unique because we can also accept referrals from the partner agencies to address employment and training needs for their participants.



Equal opportunity employer/program. Supported by the State of Michigan, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. A Michigan Works! Agency and proud partner of the American Job Center network. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. 1-800-285-WORK. TTY: 711.

2. Can the MI Tri Share Program offered by the State of Michigan assist with childcare concerns?

The MI Tri-Share Child Care Program is an innovative approach to increasing access to high quality affordable childcare for working families, with the cost of childcare shared between an employer, the employee, and the State of Michigan. The program also seeks to increase the labor market by allowing employers to offer a childcare subsidy to help retain and attract talent. At present, our team is seeking out potential employer partners who would be open to establishing this program as outlined and operated by the State as we place DAW participants into jobs.

DAW also offers other key support for our customers to aid in assisting with childcare barriers such as:

Connect4Care Kids (2-1-1): Online tool to search for and apply to early childhood education (Early Head Start, Head Start, and Great Start to Readiness Program). Provides childcare resources for children 5 years old or younger.

Great Start to Quality: Supports childcare and early education providers through quality rating system and resources. Links families with childcare providers throughout the state of Michigan. Online tool to search for childcare and early childhood education for children aged 0 to 12 years old.

Starfish Family Services: Early Childhood Education (ECE) Programs include Early Head Start (up to 3 y/o), Head Start (3 y/o through kindergarten), Great Start Readiness Program (4 y/o). They have 13 centers in Wayne County. Services are free if eligible based on income (under Federal Poverty Guidelines) or if you receive Public Assistance benefits.

Detroit at Work will also utilize our federal and state funding to assist with childcare costs for participants who are employed, unemployed or in training.

3. Please explain the “Marijuana use” programs offered and the costs of the programs.

Detroit at Work staff provide participants with guidance and education on the use of marijuana, focusing on how it can affect job search and long-term employment retention. Staff work closely with participants to help them understand the potential impact of marijuana use on their professional life. While the use of marijuana is allowable in the State of Michigan, it remains illegal at the federal level, which prevents Detroit at Work from utilizing our federal funding for marijuana specific programming.

4. ARPA funding will end in December 2026. What ARPA funding programs will need general fund support to continue beyond ARPA?

The Detroit at Work Scholarship Program funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding was designed to be a one-time infusion of resources for the workforce system and Detroit residents – particularly those individuals who needed very comprehensive readiness, skilling, and barrier removal in order to complete training, and secure and retain a job. The JumpStart, Skills for Life, and Learn to Earn programs will sunset no later than June 2025, as those contracts with the City and funding periods come to a close. However, we will continue providing math, reading, and GED support, paid job training, and barrier removal as we have in the past prior to the DAW Scholarship Program, leveraging learnings from operating ARPA-funded programs where applicable.

As we move into the next phase of workforce development program and service delivery to Detroit residents, we will continue providing our breadth of services, and also be specifically focused on three (3) key areas. Our funding and personnel will be directed accordingly:

Skilling: Foundational and occupational training for high-demand jobs with middle-class wages and swift connection to employment. This includes overall career readiness (resumes, interviewing, and conflict resolution) and both improving reading, math, and critical thinking, as well as technical knowledge and credentials.

Youth: Engaging new and existing partners in outreach to and career navigation for youth to ensure they are aware of the pathways they have and resources afforded them as a Detroit resident in order to keep our future workforce talent connected to the city. Partnerships with our K-12 system as well as higher education institutions are key to this effort.

Retention: Systematically providing support services that not only mitigate but seek to remove barriers so that Detroit residents not only secure employment but also retain and advance in those jobs.