



Making a Difference for Youth, Families and Communities

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Center for Self-Sufficiency One of 21 Organizations Awarded Face Forward 2 U.S. DOL Grant**

Milwaukee, WI — The Center of Self-Sufficiency (the Center) announced today that it is one of 21 agencies nationwide, and only one in Wisconsin, that will share in a \$44 million award by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to provide education, employment, training and support services to assist youth, ages 14-24, involved in the juvenile justice system in Milwaukee. The Center will receive \$1.5 million through the Face Forward 2 grant.

The Center will use the funds to provide services to help improve the job prospects for youth who have committed crimes, been arrested or accessed the juvenile justice system in some capacity. These include diversion services that will prevent youth from being charged and convicted as juveniles, case management, mentoring, education and job training that leads to employment in industries and positions where the employers currently have job openings. The grant will also help individuals up to age 24 who have juvenile convictions clean up their records in order to improve their education and eliminate some of the barriers to employment opportunities.

"The Center is pleased to receive this award which enables us to provide comprehensive services that proactively address community safety and recidivism in Milwaukee, while helping youth set clear employment paths that will enable them to become skilled workers within specific industries," said Angela Turner, President and CEO of the Center.

Individuals who participate in the Face Forward 2 Program will be able to receive remedial education, including GEDs, and training and certifications with employers in such areas as culinary arts, manufacturing, construction and healthcare.

Face Forward 2 is a collaboration comprised of juvenile justice system partners (Milwaukee County Children's Court, DHHS Delinquency and Court Services Division, District Attorney's Office, WI Office of the Public Defender and Division of Juvenile Corrections); Workforce System Partners (Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB), United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS), and YWCA Southeast Wisconsin), legal service providers (Legal Action of Wisconsin and Centro Legal) and expungement screening partner, JusticePoint.

Additional program collaborators include education and employment/industry partners (Northcott Neighborhood House, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, Milwaukee Community Service Corp, GPS Education Partners and TransCenter for Youth).

Among the partners are employers/industry associations representing this project's demand positions, additional government agencies, alternative education providers, service learning and vocational rehabilitation services providers and over 10 nonprofit organizations providing an array of support services to youth.

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### **About the Center for Self-Sufficiency**

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*Based in Milwaukee, Wis., and founded in 1997, the Center for Self-Sufficiency (CFSS) is a nonprofit organization that promotes and facilitates the design, delivery, and growth of high-impact programs and partnerships that increase the self-sufficiency of individuals, families, organizations and communities. Under the leadership of President and CEO Angela Turner, CFSS partners with federal agencies, states, local governments and school districts, as well as community and faith-based organizations to develop effective service delivery models nationally in the areas of healthy relationships/marriage, teen pregnancy prevention, offender reentry, workforce development and organizational capacity building.*