

Youth Employment Memorandum

To: City of Madison Community Services Committee and CDD Staff

From: Casey Behrend, CEO, Briarpatch Youth Services, Inc.

Date: November 13, 2017

Re: Draft – 2018 Youth Employment Staff Recommendations

Briarpatch Youth Services has provided youth employment programming in Madison for more than 25 years. Our target population for these services has consistently been youth of color from low income families who have multiple barriers to employment. These youth live in neighborhoods throughout the City of Madison including Darbo-Worthington, Brentwood, Seven Oaks, Meadowwood, Park Edge/Park Ridge, and Allied Drive.

During the summer of 2017, funding from the City of Madison helped Briarpatch provide part-time employment to 50 youth with (90%) percent of these youth being youth of color. Twenty (20) of these youth (40%) were from neighborhoods not included in the staff's recommendations for 2018.

While we understand the premises behind the draft recommendations made by staff, it important to understand the unintended consequences of not fully funding our request. First, the level of funding recommended for Briarpatch is not sufficient for us to provide the administrative and staff support for Bayview and Root to Rise as outlined in our proposal. In addition, we will not have resources to support Brentwood as outlined in their proposal. Second, staff recommendations will substantially reduce employment opportunities for youth not living in one of the targeted neighborhoods. Again, the funding request submitted by Briarpatch proposes to recruit youth from throughout the City of Madison.

Please consider the information provided above during your discussions about funding for youth employment. Your decisions will impact youth employment programming for the next 3-5 years. This is a long time to limit City supported employment opportunities for youth not living in one of the targeted neighborhoods.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of Madison!