



## Office of the Mayor

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July 8, 2021

Ananda Mirilli, Chair  
City of Madison Education Committee  
215 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Ananda and Education Committee Members,

Thank you for your letter asking that I work with other executives to ensure that federal funding streams available to Madison and MMSD result in a positive impact to young people in our city.

I wanted to let you know that I met on June 29<sup>th</sup> with MMSD Superintendent Carlton Jenkins for an initial discussion on collaborative approaches for youth employment programming.

First, I wanted to highlight some of the things we are currently doing. The City of Madison supports 11 different community-based organizations that run 19 different youth employment/internship programs during the summer, 7 of these programs are year round learning opportunities for youth. The city currently invests over \$950,000 annually in this area. Through this investment, this summer over 480 youth will be offered the opportunity to open non-custodial bank accounts, have their paycheck paid via direct deposit and receive financial empowerment education throughout the summer. Also, this summer we are for the first time offering all youth free summer bus passes to assist with transportation needs - a partnership between Metro Transit and MMSD.

Additionally, I have proposed using federal ARPA dollars to increase programming for our young people.

It allots:

- \$465,000 to expand youth employment opportunities through partnerships with community agencies through next summer.
- \$650,000 to expanding youth employment in summer of 2022 through new internship opportunities, a possible Summer Service Corps, and a wage subsidy program for targeted employers.

**Common council approved these allocations on 7/6/2021.** Furthermore, the City will have a number of public engagement meetings to discuss all the proposed ARPA allocations. The dates have been determined but we do not yet have a website or zoom link, but mark your calendars for:

- Thursday, July 22nd 4:30pm – 6:00pm
- Tuesday, July 27th 4:00pm – 5:30pm

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As we develop programming in this area, we agree that we need to be in good coordination with MMSD as we want young people to be able to access school credit for appropriate programming options. At our meeting, there was initial agreement on the need for improvements in the area of “Career readiness and Community readiness” learning opportunities for students. We also discussed the need for more support to provide a pathway to careers and training that result in employment with family supporting wages. As MMSD undertakes a review of the Personal Pathway program, both the city and MMSD agreed to continued collaboration to facilitate alignment of goals and programming.

MMSD and city staff will meet to work on a framework for moving forward and another meeting will be scheduled soon.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please feel free to be in touch with Deputy Mayor Linda Vakunta as this issue moves forward [lvakunta@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lvakunta@cityofmadison.com).

Be Well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Satya", written in a cursive style.

Mayor Satya

CC: Superintendent Carlton Jenkins  
Deputy Mayor Linda Vakunta  
CDD Community Resources Manager Yolanda Shelton-Morris  
Community Development Specialist Hugh Wing