

Helen Bader Foundation distributes \$1 million - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (WI) - August 29, 1997

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A community-based organization charged with increasing economic clout in Milwaukee's central city and other low-income areas will be able to reach more people, thanks to a \$205,000 grant from the **Helen Bader Foundation**

The Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin was one of 13 organizations to receive more than \$1 million in funding from the foundation.

"We were elated," said Bob Wynn, an organizer of the program who works in the Wisconsin Department of Commerce's Bureau of Minority Business Development.

He said the organization formed almost three years ago with the goal of improving the coordination and quality of programs and services that are available to support the creation and development of business enterprise in the central city.

The additional funds through the grant, which will be spread over a three-year period, will allow the organization to begin partnerships with various organizations so their resources can be leveraged for a greater impact, Wynn said.

This is the first year for the foundation to approve such grants, and they plan to make it an annual event, said Kathryn Cairney, the foundation's program officer for economic development.

"We're trying to stimulate the creation of wealth in distressed communities, and our two primary strategies for doing that are by facilitating job development and job creation and also business development and creation," Cairney said.

She said the traditional approach has been to have social service agencies help people out of poverty.

"Our strategy is through economic initiatives to try and help people get out of poverty, and that's really through asset accumulation, employment and the creation of wealth," she said.

Other agencies receiving grants over a three-year period and their amounts are: MMAC Community Support Foundation, Inc., \$135,000 and UWM Foundation Inc., \$105,000.

Agencies receiving grants over a two-year period are: Wisconsin Early Childhood Association Inc., \$75,000; Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corp., \$60,000; Day Care Advocates of Milwaukee Inc., \$50,000; and Milwaukee Community Service Corps Inc., \$95,000.

One-time award recipients include: Historic Third Ward Association Inc., \$50,000; 4C Community Coordinated Child Care Inc., \$79,000; Walker's Point Development Corp., \$70,000; Martin Luther King Economic Development Corp., \$55,000; Spirit of Milwaukee Corp., \$40,000; and Latino Health Organization Inc., \$35,000

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