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For Immediate Release

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Grow Milwaukee Recompete Coalition Announced as Phase 1 Awardee

Northwest Side Community Development Corporation (NWSCDC) is pleased to announce that the **Grow Milwaukee Recompete Coalition** has been selected as a Phase 1 recipient of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Recompete Pilot Program.

This coalition, led by the non-profit community development group NWSCDC, features key business, labor, workforce, local government and economic development groups including: the Milwaukee Bucks, Rockwell Automation, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Milwaukee Area Labor Council, WRTP | Big Step, JobsWork MKE, City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), Jonco Industries, MKE Tech Hub, Altius Building Company, Eaton Corp and more.

The EDA Recompete program will promote inclusive economic growth by targeting job creation and job training resources to address the Prime Age Employment Gap in qualifying areas. The Grow Milwaukee coalition is advancing a strategy to revitalize Milwaukee's 30th Street Industrial Corridor and nearby central city areas, returning vacant and underutilized sites to productive use. In doing so, the coalition will also expand tangible job-training and apprenticeship resources to enable nearby residents to access quality jobs.

"We're so excited to welcome President Biden to Milwaukee, so he can see firsthand the impact that EDA investment will create," said Willie Smith, Executive Director of NWSCDC. "President Biden's visit today really underlines the serious desire to invest in parts of the community that have been disinvested for decades."

Phase 1 of the Recompete Pilot Program will include further Strategy Development activities. This work will amplify an aggressive action strategy to clean up older industrial sites and increase pathways to business ownership and business investment in qualifying areas.

"The Grow Milwaukee Recompete Coalition has a vision for inclusive prosperity in Milwaukee," said Peter Feigin, President of the Milwaukee Bucks. "We know that manufacturing is still a growing economic driver for Wisconsin, and we can focus that growth in Milwaukee where good jobs are needed most. Even more than that, we can build supports to expand minority ownership and employee equity in firms, creating a community where prosperity is truly shared."

More details about the EDA Recompete Program are expected in January 2024.

About NWSCDC:

NWSCDC has a 40 year history of community economic development in Milwaukee. Based in the northwest side, NWSCDC is a certified Community Development Financial Institution making small business loans and assisting with urban revitalization and strategic planning initiatives. NWSCDC has lent over \$21 million to small business clients, who have created over 1,200 full-time jobs. www.nwscdc.org

About the Grow Milwaukee Recompete Coalition:

The Grow Milwaukee Recompete Coalition will focus on manufacturing business expansion for job creation. Creative and adaptive strategies will catalyze racial equity in economic opportunity, with accessible pathways for minority entrepreneurship and firm ownership, shared employee equity models, and intensive workforce and union connections for job placement in target neighborhoods. Local Recompete projects will be centered in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor, with a hub-and-spoke model catalyzing major site activation, and spokes connecting to investments in nearby commercial corridors and neighborhoods. Transformative investments will lead to increasing employment opportunities with pathways for unlocking upward mobility and family supporting wages. Tightly linking business expansion with investments in paid Union trades apprenticeships and paid training pathways with workforce partners in this region, Milwaukee will be a replicable model for cities elevating racial equity and inclusion in economic prosperity.

<https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/recompete-pilot-program/2023/Grow-Milwaukee-Recompete-Plan>

About the EDA Recompete Pilot Program:

The Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (Recompete Pilot Program) will invest \$200 million in persistently distressed communities to create and connect people to good jobs. This program will create renewed economic opportunity in communities that have for too long been forgotten. To do so, the program targets areas where prime-age (25-54 years) employment significantly trails the national average, with the goal to close this gap through large, flexible investments. As part of EDA's place-based economic development approach, the Recompete Pilot Program aims to meet communities where they are by offering grant opportunities that ensure sustainable and equitable economic growth across the United States.

<https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/recompete-pilot-program>