

Footnotes...

THIRD QUARTER 2005

Latest Forum study

Milwaukee region ranks 29th among 50 largest metro areas in attracting federal economic development funds

In its most recent Research Report on economic development released in early September, the Forum found that the metro Milwaukee area is making significant progress among the nation's 50 largest metros in its ability to attract federal economic development funds.



Ryan Horton, M.U.P.

Nevertheless, despite ranking 4th in funding growth at 67.8 percent during the period, 1998-2003, the area still ranks 29th overall in federal economic development investment. That's up from 41st in 1998, but the area continues to lag in those spending areas that typically are associated with helping raise per-capita income: research & development (R&D) and business assistance. The study found a significant correlation between R&D and business assistance spending and per-capita income. In other words, incomes go up as spending in those categories increases.

Metro Milwaukee does well in attracting "formula" spending like Community Development Block Grants and transportation planning grants (read, Marquette Interchange reconstruction), but does poorly in "competitive" spending like R&D and business assistance. Metro Milwaukee ranks 36th in "competitive" spending. In 2003, competitive sources of money made up 65 percent of funding to metro areas nationally, but only 48 percent of the funding in metro Milwaukee.

In 2003, the five-county metro Milwaukee area (Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha counties) received \$508.2 million in federal economic development funding from all 358 federal programs. However, it still falls \$124.8 million short of the metro average.

"The region has to be more aggressive in going after the 'competitive' grants and loans because our 'formula' funding could decrease significantly in the near future, especially with completion of the Marquette Interchange," says Ryan Horton, co-author of this latest economic development report. "Milwaukee is out of sync with the rest of the country's major metro areas when it comes to attracting 'competitive' federal spending."

The study identified the following options to increase metro Milwaukee's share of federal spending:

- Capitalize on emerging funding trends in R&D and business assistance;
- Build on current successes like the Biomedical Technology Alliance;
- Follow the money to the appropriate federal agency;
- Match community needs with program goals and agency priorities;
- Focus on strengths;
- Foster regional partnerships.

For the full study, go to www.publicpolicyforum.org and then click on Research Reports. ❏

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Big crowd gets straight talk on TIF

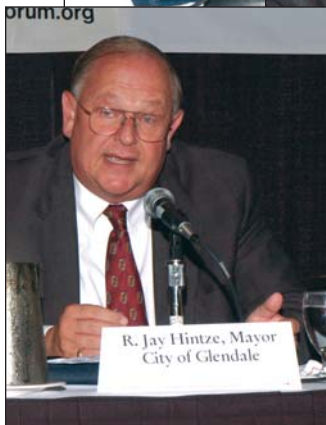
The tremendous turnout for the Forum's latest viewpoint panel discussion showed that TIF (tax incremental financing) is a hot topic in southeastern Wisconsin due to the failed Pabst City development and the need for greater economic development through regional cooperation. Panel member Michael Harrigan, of Ehlers & Associates, said the entire region would benefit from shedding the fear that suburban TIF districts threaten Milwaukee TIF plans. ❖

The Forum luncheon was sponsored by Foley & Lardner, the Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee, and Ehlers & Associates.



Kathryn G. Dunn, community investment officer for the Helen Bader Foundation, moderated the discussion among panel members (from left to right) Michael Harrigan, executive vice president, Ehlers & Associates; Richard "Rocky" Marcoux, commissioner, Milwaukee's Department of City Development; and R. Jay Hintze, Glendale mayor.

An animated Richard "Rocky" Marcoux proposed a Biomedical Technology Alliance for the Veterans Administration grounds. "It's going to take people sitting around the table and saying let's do this together," he said.



Panel member Glendale Mayor Jay Hintze said public suspicions about corporate largess must be eased and taxpayers protected from risk before a TIF district can be approved.



Following the panel discussion, the audience got its chance to ask questions.

Forum Chairman Rick White (at podium) introduced the panel and moderator for the viewpoint luncheon, "TIF: Tool for progress and improvement."



More than 200 attendees – the largest turnout ever for a Forum viewpoint luncheon – heard strong support for the continued and expanded use of TIFs to foster regional cooperation and economic development.

Kids can make or break the economy

Early childhood education leads to economic development was the premise of a panel discussion which the Forum’s research director, Anneliese Dickman, J.D., helped lead during the recent “Embracing diversity for children and families” conference held at the Midwest Airlines Center in downtown Milwaukee. In a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* editorial the day before the conference, Dickman was quoted, “Child care is part of the infrastructure of the economy as much as transit and telecommunications.”



Anneliese Dickman, J.D.

Also on the panel were Sara Slaughter, education program director for the McCormick Tribune Foundation, and Don Fraser, former Minneapolis mayor. ❖

Forum cited as family friendly

Milwaukee’s *metroparent* magazine recently named the Forum as a recipient of one of its Family Friendly awards, given to area employers who make it easier for working parents to maintain a healthy, happy work-life

balance. “Our policies are a way to make sure we can continue to do our work,” says Research Director Anneliese Dickman, J.D. Sixteen other Milwaukee area companies or organizations received the award. ❖

S.E. Wisconsin cities not business friendly

In the latest Forbes.com survey of the ‘Best Places for Business,’ southeastern Wisconsin cities are near the back of the pack. Among the 150 largest metro areas, Milwaukee ranks 86th. In the small metro category, Kenosha and Racine rank 69th and 93rd respectively. The ranking criteria include cost of doing business, job growth, and educational attainment. Among large metro areas, Boise is tops; Sioux Falls, South Dakota is number one in the small metro survey. ❖

Neither hot nor cold

Metro Milwaukee ranks 28th among the 50 most overpriced housing markets, according to a survey by www.economy.com, based on employment forecasts, population forecasts, and income level and growth. Fresno, California is #1. ❖

Forum business

Upcoming events:

Regional support of the arts

Thursday, November 10, 11:45 a.m., Pfister Hotel

Sponsored by Miller Brewing Company and Argosy Foundation

Vision for regional priorities

Date, time, and location TBA

Sponsored by US Bank

Upcoming research:

- Groundbreaking report on federal spending focusing on who receives funds in the region and how they're spent
- Report on policy options for Milwaukee County's General Assistance Medical Program (GAMP)
- Report — released to the city of Milwaukee — on the potential creation of a housing trust
- Annual report on public schooling in southeastern Wisconsin highlighting all 94 districts in the region
- Annual report card for the Greater Milwaukee Foundation on charitable giving in metro Milwaukee

Check out our Web site, www.publicpolicyforum.org, for the latest research.

New faces:

Laura Million, a former research analyst for the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, has her master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina and will be assisting the Forum's research on regional economic development.

James Robinson comes to the Forum from Public Allies, an AmeriCorps national program that identifies talented young adults for apprenticeships in non-profit organizations. James will be with the Forum through June 2006 supporting research projects.

New Forum members:

Companies/organizations

Crispell-Snyder, Inc.
Irgens Development Partners
Metropolitan Builders Association
Tall Pines Conservancy
United Healthcare

Government

Washington County

Individuals

Richard T. Anderson
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