



September 17, 2021

Dear President Johnson, Chairman Murphy and Members of the Finance & Personnel Committee:

As you well know, COVID-19 has had a profound impact on Milwaukee families, creating a real and urgent need for families to have additional access to supportive services throughout the city. Triple P - Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) is a successful, evidence-based program currently being implemented in Milwaukee to provide early and comprehensive support for families to address youth behavioral concerns and work to strengthen the family relationship. The grant that is currently funding the delivery of Triple P through Children's Wisconsin and The Parenting Network will expire in June 2022. With a one-time investment of \$1.4 million, Children's Wisconsin, along with The Parenting Network, will be able to deliver Triple P at two Children's Wisconsin clinics - one on Milwaukee's North side and one on the South side. This is a tremendous opportunity for the Common Council to put American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to work immediately for Milwaukee families that are in the most urgent need of support.

By increasing access to Triple P, we believe we can help parents to manage their concerns more immediately. For some families, receiving Triple P support now will alleviate the need for further intervention including clinical mental and behavioral care for their children. For other families, Triple P will provide an opportunity for parents to receive support now to manage through some of their concerns while they wait for an appointment for higher level care. To illustrate the general crisis around kids' mental and behavioral health care access, **there are more than 800 children on the waitlist for outpatient therapy** at Children's Wisconsin. The demand for mental and behavioral health services outpaces the availability of providers and this waitlist is largely a result of the increased need for these services brought on by the pandemic. In addition to providing family support and addressing behavioral health, Triple P addresses some of the core issues that affect youth involvement in crime, interpersonal violence and child abuse and neglect. With the Council's directive for the City to find alternative methods to address violence, this program is a proven, effective alternative to reducing crime down the road.

With the City's investment, our organizations will also provide Triple P services at various community settings like libraries and community centers. These in-person services will be supplemented with a self-directed online Triple P program available to those throughout the city. This multi-modal strategy allows for an approach that meets parents and caregivers where they are with the strategy that best aligns with their preference for receiving parent education and support. This approach is designed to reach an estimated 6,000 individuals.

Using ARPA funds to increase access to Triple P will provide much needed support for families during these unprecedented and challenging times while fitting seamlessly within the guidelines established by the U.S. Treasury for the use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. **Perhaps most importantly, this program is already being delivered in the city and is producing positive outcomes. If this proposal is funded, the money will go directly into bolstering this existing framework and will reach residents immediately.**



The missions of all three of our organizations are centered around growing healthy children and families and building resilient communities. This proposal is aimed at doing just that and would represent an investment in the future of Milwaukee and our children. We respectfully request your support for funding for this initiative so that we may continue to deliver valuable care and support through our Triple P program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Troy".

Peggy Troy  
CEO  
Children's Wisconsin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Felker".

Joyce Felker  
Executive Director  
The Parenting Network

Bradley Thomas  
CEO  
Triple P America

Cc: The Honorable Tom Barrett, Mayor  
The Honorable Kristen Johnson, Commissioner of Health