



GOODWILL-EASTER SEALS MINNESOTA  
553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55104

March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Xiong and members of the House Workforce Committee,

Thank you for including the FATHER Project in the Workforce Development Finance Budget bill. As a trusted community partner, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota and our partners have a solid track record of meeting community needs and being good stewards of the state's resources. With additional investment in the FATHER Project, we will be able to serve 500+ dads and their children across the state.

Our proven model has been implemented with partners including Family Service Rochester in Olmsted County, Goodwill-Easter Seals in St. Cloud and partners in other locations. Our shared outcomes are strong. In the past year, 75 dads have obtained employment at an average wage of \$19.12 per hour. 75% of enrolled fathers have completed an intensive 12-week parenting class with nearly all gaining stronger parenting skills and healthier co-parenting engagement with the mother of their child. The program is solid and positioned to grow to meet the needs of even more dads in the coming years.

Supporting fathers means supporting kids! With this additional investment, The FATHER Project will assist hundreds of dads in completing job training, obtaining employment and advancing in careers. In each community we have forged strong partnerships with local employers, as well as other service agencies to create solutions in helping low-income fathers support their children financially and connect with them emotionally.

As a leader in employment services for over 100 years, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota provides customized programs to eliminate barriers to work and independence. Our FATHER Project has served dads for almost 25 years through a powerful combination of: 1) Economic Stability and Work supports, 2) Parenting Support and 3) Legal/Justice Support. With your support, we will continue to support dads and their families for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wirth-Davis".

Dr. Michael Wirth-Davis, D.P.A.  
President & CEO

cc: Representative Hodan Hassan