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The City of Wausau Selected for Juvenile Justice Reform Leadership Academy

Wausau, WI - The National League of Cities (NLC) has selected Wausau to participate in the Municipal Leadership for Juvenile Justice Reform Leadership Academy in Minneapolis, Minn., this week, September 23 – 25. Wausau will join nine other cities for the meeting, where participants will discuss proven practices and innovative ideas related to juvenile justice reform. This opportunity will benefit the City of Wausau and Marathon County as a whole.

The City of Wausau was selected for the leadership academy based on the city’s demonstrated commitment to improving outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Police officers from the Wausau Police Department have been engaged with United Way’s Partnership for Youth, offering insights into the current youth citation process, and exploring with other Coalition partners about what community-based strategies might divert local youth from the justice system. In addition, there is a meeting facilitated by the Wausau Police Department, Wausau School District, and Marathon County Department of Social Services to discuss current youth risk situations to try and reduce further criminal behavior or community harm.

“The City of Wausau is proud to be awarded this opportunity and eager for the Leadership Academy to support us in shaping new approaches that minimize youth risk”, says Mayor Jim Tipple. “These approaches will further law enforcement contact, and provide them with appropriate interventions that both reduce future behavior issues, and inspire their hopefulness in their own personal potential,” Mayor Tipple added.

With the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s [Models for Change](#) initiative, the Municipal Leadership for Juvenile Justice Reform Leadership Academy will provide program participants access to juvenile justice reform experts and opportunities to engage in peer learning and networking around strategies for local action planning.

Following the leadership academy, Wausau will be invited to join the NLC Juvenile Justice Peer Learning Network, a group that provides ongoing opportunities for city leaders to learn and receive support from nationally-recognized experts in the field and from peers in other cities.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

