



**For Immediate Release  
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**Metropolitan Family Service' Ways to Work® Affordable-Loan Program in Portland, Oregon Wins Award for Excellence**

*Metropolitan Family Service has shown strong results helping low-income families obtain an affordable, reliable car and achieve financial stability*

**Portland, Oregon** – Metropolitan Family Service in Portland, Oregon has been recognized as one of the best-performing Ways to Work programs in the organization's national network. Metropolitan Family Service was awarded the Premier Program Award, Honorable Mention for outstanding performance for its Affordable Loan Program.

Metropolitan Family Service' Ways to Work program, which has served 480 people since 2004, was one of 16 sites to be awarded national recognition and a \$2,500 grant from Ways to Work Inc. The awards were announced Sept. 24th at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Ways to Work Institute in Milwaukee.

Ways to Work, Inc. is a Milwaukee, Wisconsin based social purpose lending organization which partners with local non-profit agencies around the country to provide low-interest loans, financial education, and high-touch support to working poor families who are trying to move out of poverty and build financial stability and self-sufficiency. Clients use the loans primarily to purchase reliable, used cars to better manage work and family obligations.

The Performance Awards recognize local affiliates of Ways to Work, Inc. that have shown exceptional performance, particularly in new loan production and successful management of an active group of Ways to Work clients.

"Metropolitan Family Service has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to supporting the success of families they serve through their Ways to Work program. The award-winning performance of Metropolitan Family Service is a reflection of the commitment they have made to providing high quality, self-sufficiency assistance to at-risk families in their communities," said Ways to Work President, Jeff Faulkner. "And

because they understand that core value so well, they are able to improve operations and outcomes, and ultimately better serve our clients.”

Milwaukee-based Ways to Work is a unique, federally-certified Community Development Financial Institution. Through a network of loan offices across the country, the Ways to Work program weaves focused financial education with small, short-term, low-interest loans to serve working poor families with challenging credit histories.

Clients use Ways to Work loans mainly to buy a car to help them obtain or retain good jobs, reduce lateness and absenteeism at work, access additional education or job training and meet their family’s needs, such as transporting children to child care, doctor’s appointments and school activities.

“Ways to Work’s loans are critically important to low-income families in Portland and across the country,” said J. Hunter Atkins, the CEO of the Bank of Nashville and the chairman of the Ways to Work board. “Particularly during the recession, when credit has gotten tighter, our local offices are providing an extremely valuable service, and we are pleased to honor some of our best programs with these awards.”

“I was on the verge of getting evicted from my apartment and unable to make car payments. Ways to Work approved a small loan to help me get caught up by meeting my transportation needs. Today, I am happy to say my home is financially stable,” says Annie, a Ways to Work client.

More information about the national Ways to Work program is available at [www.waystowork.org](http://www.waystowork.org).

***Editor’s Note: The Ways to Work office in Portland can provide reporters with contacts to interview a local resident who has benefited from Ways to Work services. Contact: Pat Kaczmarek, Marketing & Communications Manager at 503.232.0007 ext. 170 for more information.***