

# FAST Fund

*Believe in Students!*

FAST Fund is an economic emergency fund for MATC students

## MEDIA RELEASE

December 19, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The MATC FAST Fund's Christmas Diaper Distribution**

The MATC FAST Fund and the Milwaukee Diaper Mission will provide diapers to MATC students with diaper need on Tuesday, December 20th from 9 am to 2 pm at the FAST Fund office, on the downtown MATC campus at 928 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> floor.

According to Liz Franczyk, the FAST Fund's Executive Director and an MATC Spanish instructor, "The holidays can be a difficult time for MATC's parent students who are pursuing an education and raising children on very tight budgets. Diaper prices have soared by 184% since November 2022. We are providing diapers to help reduce the financial stress on our students and their families so they can enjoy the holidays."

From 2000 to 2021, the average unmet financial need of Wisconsin college students grew by 135.6% adjusted for inflation. And Wisconsin Technical College students like those who attend MATC have the greatest unmet need at \$8,103.

"Approximately 1/3 of U.S. families with young children are unable to afford the diapers necessary to keep their babies clean, dry, and healthy," said Meagan Johnson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Diaper Mission, a non-profit organization that believes that diapers are a necessity not a choice."

Diaper need leads to a multitude of problems for both baby and caregiver, affecting not only physical health but also mental and economic health.

"Families who cannot afford diapers miss work or school because childcare providers require the parents to supply a daily supply of diapers. Low wage parents and caregivers often face impossible choices between buying food, paying rent, or purchasing diapers. In Milwaukee, diaper need is a hidden consequence of poverty," said Franczyk.

The FAST Fund is a faculty- led non-profit organization that was initiated by the American Federation of Teachers Local 212, Milwaukee Area Technical College's faculty and professional staff union in 2016. The FAST Fund is committed to helping MATC students succeed and to promoting financial aid and other policy reforms so that every MATC student has an opportunity to succeed.

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All Contributions are Tax Deductible

