



June 6, 2018

Office of Skills Development
Division of Employment and Training
Department of Workforce Development

- Wisconsin Fast Forward overview
- Wisconsin Fast Forward success stories
- New Wisconsin Fast Forward initiatives
- Partnership opportunities

- The Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) program was signed into law in March 2013 with the near-unanimous support of the State Legislature, creating the DWD Office of Skills Development (OSD)
- Addresses Wisconsin's skills gap through an investment in grants to employers for customized skills training to fill current job openings and ongoing skill requirements
- <http://wisconsinfastforward.com/>

Early in 2017, we kicked-off a number of program changes:

- Open application format
- Grant-writing assistance and resources
- Revised evaluation process
- Contract changes
- Grant administration training and resources
- Curriculum-sharing
- Administrative Rule changes proposed

Program Improvements

Grant Application Schedule



- Grants were previously issued in “Rounds” by industry sectors or geographic areas (i.e. Manufacturing or Milwaukee)
- Effective July 1, 2017, grant applications are accepted year-round for Small Business Occupations and All Sectors
- Intent to award will occur within 60 days of the end of each quarter as follows:

Submission Date	Intent to Award on or Before
January 1 – March 31	May 31
April 1 – June 30	August 30
July 1 – September 30	November 30
October 1 – December 31	February 28

Program Improvements

Grant Writing Assistance



- Grant-writing training
- Grant-writing resources and tools:
 - Sample Application
 - External Grant Writer Information
 - Scoring Rubric
- Technical assistance prior to application submission



Program Improvements Evaluation Process



- Pre-screening of applications
- Due diligence changes:
 - Attestation
 - Dun & Bradstreet
- Evaluation team
- Evaluation day schedule
- Concurrence meeting format
- Outreach to unsuccessful applicants

Program Improvements

Contract Changes



- List of deliverables in Intent to Award
- Addendum to Contract with List of Deliverables
- Special Condition added to Addendum
- Timeframe for Reimbursement Requests added
- Schedule for reporting Post-Training Wage Data added

- Reimbursement and reporting training
- Reimbursement resources:
 - FAQ's and reimbursement guidelines
 - New spreadsheet
 - Online invoices coming soon
- Use of Quarterly Reports:
 - Early warning system
 - Contract modifications

Program Improvements

Curriculum-Sharing



- ▶ Curriculum list in progress:
 - ▶ Wisconsin Fast Forward-funded curriculum list is online
 - ▶ Request method



Program Improvements

Proposed Administrative Rule Changes



- Definition changes/clarifications:
 - Administrative costs
 - Evaluation Committee
 - Grant Program Announcement (GPA)
 - Incumbent employee
 - Underemployed worker
 - Grantee

- Add language about the match Requirement:
 - Cite match amount included in GPA
 - Match criteria

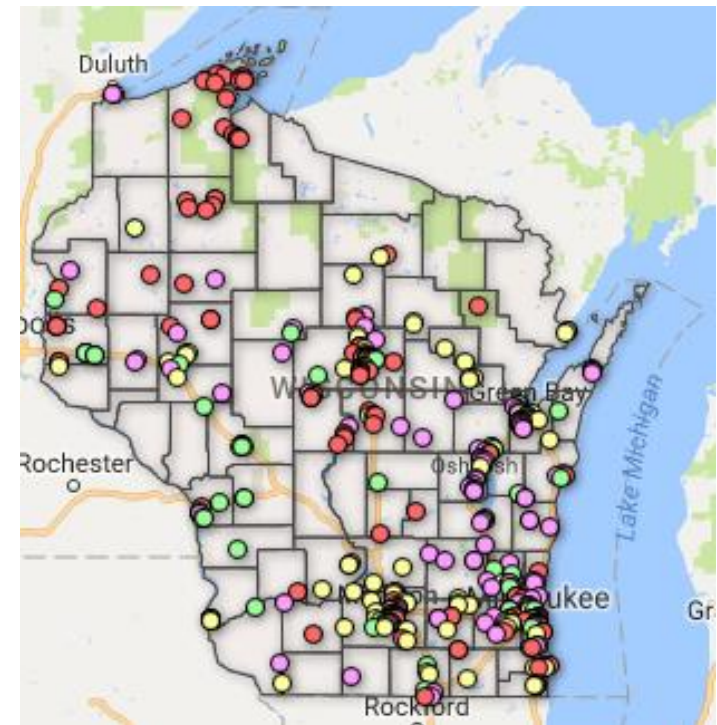
- Clarification on \$400,000 per year award cap

- Changed limit on administrative costs

➤ Awards in 62 of 72 Wisconsin counties

➤ Grants in all sectors:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Customer Service
- Financial Services
- Health Care
- IT
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Small Business (50 employees or less)
- Geographic (Milwaukee Corridor)



Fox Valley Workforce Development Board



- ④ Winnebago County
- ④ Manufacturing Grant
- ④ Partnered with 11 area companies upskill workers to fill high-demand Industrial Maintenance positions
- ④ 46 incumbent workers completed training, of which 45 received a wage increase of \$1.83 per hour
- ④ Fox Valley Technical College took lessons learned to create a new training track for Industrial Maintenance

Merchants Delivery Moving & Storage

- Racine County
- Transportation Grant
- Contracted to train 45 new hires to become movers and qualified CDL drivers
- 52 people trained
- 42 trainees retained employment and received wage increases of \$2.74 to \$2.86 per hour



Wisconsin Marketing Services

- Milwaukee County
- Small Business Grant
- Contracted to train 3 incumbent print finishing workers
- 7 people trained
- 4 trainees retained employment and received wage increases averaging \$1.38 per hour



Upland Hills Health

- Iowa County
- Health Care Grant
- Contracted to train 468 rural healthcare workers in a variety of roles (456 incumbent workers, 12 new hires)
- 516 people trained and 459 received wage increases of just under \$1 per hour
- Cost of funded training was less than \$350 per trainee



YWCA Madison

- Dane County
- Information Technology Grant
- Contracted to train 20 unemployed individuals in web development and design
- Emphasis on minorities and women
- 65 people trained and 28 received employment
- Average wage of more than \$15.00 per hour



Northern Concrete Construction

- Brown County
- Construction Grant
- Contracted to train 65 new employees in concrete construction
- 59 completed training and all 59 retained employment



Applied Data Consultants

- ▶ Chippewa County
- ▶ Information Technology Grant
- ▶ Contracted to train 7 incumbent employees in iOS app development with emphasis on GPS technology
- ▶ All 7 completed training and received a wage increase of \$1.75 per hour



SMC Ltd.

- St. Croix County
- Customer Service Grant
- Contracted to train 9 incumbent employees to improve customer services standards
- Trained 10 employees and all 10 got a wage increase averaging \$5.23 per hour



The 2017-2019 Biennial Budget added several initiatives:

- ▶ Teacher Training and Recruitment
- ▶ Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Equipment
- ▶ Nursing Training in Middle and High Schools
- ▶ Training Teachers to Teach in Dual Enrollment Programs
- ▶ Workforce Retention Pilot
- ▶ High School Student Certifications
- ▶ Teacher Training and Development

How can you help?

- Conferences
- Handouts
- Daily interactions
- Contact Rita Atkinson to collaborate



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Fast  **Forward** 



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