

WISCONSIN



DWD

Wisconsin Fast Forward Program Overview

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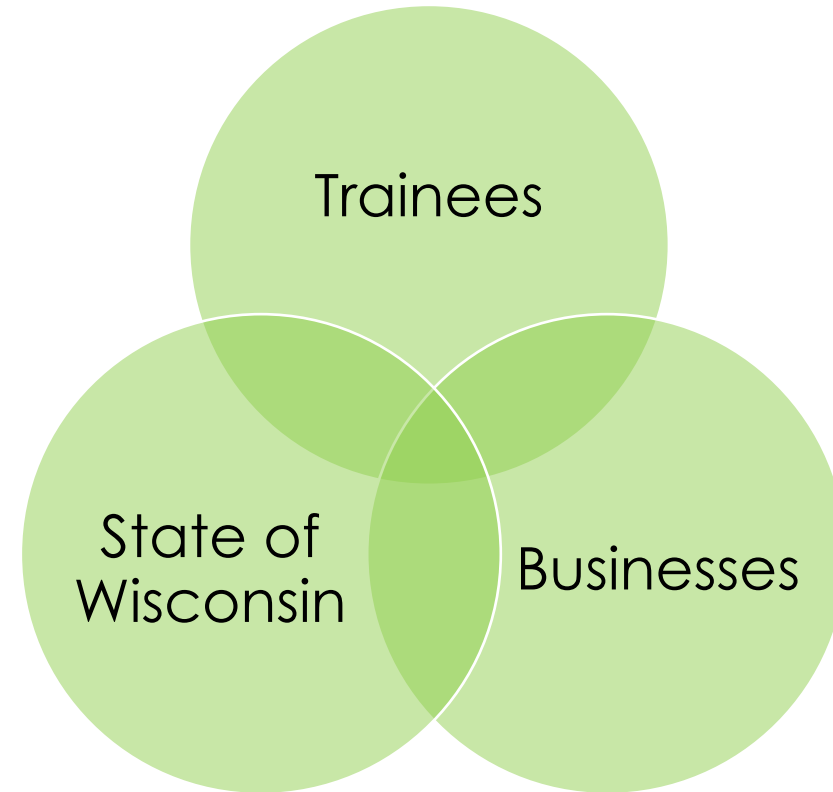
Overview

- 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
- WisconsinFastForward.com



Wisconsin Fast Forward Benefits

- Trainees:
 - Transferrable Skills
 - Employment/Wage Increase
 - Career Development
 - Certifications
- Wisconsin Businesses:
 - Skilled Workforce
 - More Competitive
- State of Wisconsin:
 - Reimbursable Grants
 - Return on Investment (ROI) to taxpayers
 - Transparent and Accountable



Today's Agenda

- Wisconsin Fast Forward Programs
 - WFF Standard Grant Program – Industry Sectors Worker Training Grants
 - WFF Expanded Grant Programs
 - Annual Budget \$6.5 million



Statistics

- \$31,960,411 (315 grants) awarded
- \$1,230 average cost per Trainee
- More than 20,000 employees have gained additional enhanced skills
- Top three training curriculum areas are Manufacturing, Construction, and Transportation occupations
- \$1.08 average hourly wage increase after training



Standard Grant Program

- Worker training grants to prepare workers for jobs available today and in the years to come
- Grants are available to support employer-led worker training
- Demand-driven: Must include employers and training for in-demand occupational skills for new/existing workers
- May include other workforce stakeholders
- Primarily “hard skills”
- Reimbursement grant program



Standard Wisconsin Fast Forward

\$5,000 to
\$400,000

\$0.50:\$1
match

Any size
company



Grant Application

- **Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants include the following:
 - A public agency
 - A private organization
 - A coalition or partnership of entities under the auspices of a public agency or a private organization
 - The tribal governing body of a federally recognized tribe or band of Indians, or an organization appointed by the tribal governing body



Application Requirements

What makes a successful WFF grant application?

- The basics:
 - Why do they NEED this grant?
 - Who is impacted by the grant?
 - What is going to be accomplished through the grant?
 - How does a grant help the applicant achieve goals?
 - Includes a clear and concise project timeline leading to outcomes defined in the application and GPA.
 - Are Employment Partner(s) included?
 - What is their capacity? We require letters of support.



Grant Evaluation Guidelines

Rubric is posted

- Project Need
- Capacity Building
- Equity and Economic Opportunity
- Economic Impact
- Training Objectives and Outcomes
- Training Program, Design, Cost, and Implementation



Grant Outcomes



Deliverables:

- Completion of Training - 85%
- Received Industry Recognized Credential(s) - 75%
- Placed Into Employment - 65%
- Increased Wages - 75%



WFF Standard Grant GPA's

- For the first round in this fiscal year, DWD awarded 13 projects for a total of \$1.65 million.
- A second round of funding was released with an application due date of April 8, 2021. We are finalizing the funding decisions for this round, which should be announced later this month.
- OSD released a third round on April 16, with a due date of May 6, 2021. We are currently in the process of reviewing application and doing due diligence with expected award announcements in early June.



Grant Application Schedule

- As applications are entered:
 - Technical Assistance
 - wisconsinfastforward@dwd.wisconsin.gov
- As applications are submitted:
 - Background Checks
 - Clarifications
 - Determine if fits WI Fast Forward Program Criteria



WFF Expanded Grant Programs

- Shipbuilders Training Grants - \$1 million available in FY21
 - Announced in January of 2021
 - Awarded \$1 million to Fincantieri Marine Group
- Teacher Training and Recruitment - \$1 million available in FY20 & FY21
 - Announced in December of 2019
 - Awarded 2 grants for \$999,850 in FY20.
- Project Search - \$250,000 available in FY21



WFF Expanded Programs

- Technical Education Equipment Grants - \$1 million available in FY21
 - Grants from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to Wisconsin school districts
 - Released a GPA for the Technical Education Equipment Grants in November 2020, awarded 14 projects for \$440,000
 - Released a second GPA in February and awarded 17 grants for \$560,000
 - DWD has awarded approximately \$2.8 million for 97 projects for school districts located throughout the state.
- Workforce In County Jail Facilities - \$75,000 available in FY21
 - GPA Announced in January of 2021
 - Awarded one grant to for \$74,745



DWD Grants Administered by OSD

- Workforce Equity Grant program - \$947,000 available
 - Released a GPA round in January
 - Awarded two grants for \$369,950
 - Proposing a second round in July



WFF FY22 GPA Timeline

- Governors budget proposal includes \$10 million for Wisconsin Fast Forward Pandemic Training Grants for the next fiscal year.
- DWD is proposing to offer 3 GPA rounds of WFF standard program with release dates in August, November, and March.
- For the Technical Education Equipment grants, DWD is proposing to release a GPA in September and, if needed, a second round in January.



Questions?

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