
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WIWorkforce>

On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

Secretary Newson Seeks Proposals to Enhance Nationally Recognized School-to-Work Program, Alert More Students to Career Opportunities

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today invited local partners, community leaders and employers across the state to apply for one-year grants in support of Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program. A total of \$1.86 million in funding is available for the upcoming program year.

"We want to build on the success of Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship program by engaging more students," Secretary Newson said. "This tried-and-true program lets students gain work experience while they earn a wage and explore career options. Good as it is, we can improve it with innovative strategies that increase participation and help more students focus on the future and develop the skills they need in Wisconsin's expanding economy."

Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship program has received national recognition and was most recently cited as an "Exemplar of Employee Engagement" in the [2011 "Pathways to Prosperity" report](#) released by Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

To encourage even greater innovation and usage of best-practice models in Wisconsin, DWD has made the following YA policy enhancements for the current fiscal year. Key highlights include:

- School districts may now choose to affiliate with more than one YA consortium.
- Each local consortium must have a member of the regional Workforce Development Board on its steering committee.
- YA grant proposals will undergo review by a team including the DWD adult Apprenticeship program, the state Department of Children and Families, the state Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Technical College System, and Juvenile Corrections.
- Consortia are encouraged to serve non-traditional, at-risk, and disabled students.
- Consortia are encouraged to align programs with employment sectors that will be in high demand.

Secretary Newson noted that thousands of junior and senior high school students have benefited from the program since it began in 1991. Students interview with local, participating employers in one of ten program areas. Once enrolled in the program, they receive on-the-job training with the employer. Students also receive technical college-level instruction at their high school and graduate from the program with the skills to accept an entry-level job in the program area they chose.

DWD last year awarded \$1.6 million in grants to local consortia that operate the program. Local YA steering committees include school districts, chambers of commerce, technical colleges, employers, and other non-profit organizations.

Proposals are due to DWD by May 31st and late proposals will not be accepted.

For more information: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/youthapprenticeship/rfp.htm>