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Applications for Wisconsin Fast Forward Customer Service Worker Training Due Dec. 9th

Deadlines for grant applications in manufacturing worker training also approaching

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today urged Wisconsin companies interested in applying for customer service worker training funds through the Wisconsin Fast Forward program to submit their completed applications by the December 9th due date.

The Wisconsin Fast Forward grant program was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Walker earlier this year. The program includes a total of \$15 million over the 2013 – 2015 biennium for employer-led worker training programs.

Training funds are made available through grant program announcements reflecting an analysis of workforce needs from labor market data, input from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and the Wisconsin Technical College System, and documented skill needs shared with the Office of Skills Development by companies around Wisconsin. Businesses, in concert with local workforce and economic development organizations and training providers, can apply for grants to fill a skill need not currently met by an existing program.

On November 6, Governor Walker announced \$2.7 million in worker training funds would be available to Wisconsin businesses in the first round of Wisconsin Fast Forward grants. The customer service worker training grant program announcement is one of four that was announced:

- \$300,000 to train construction workers due December 2nd.
- \$1 million to train customer service workers due December 9th.
- \$400,000 to train manufacturing workers specifically for businesses with 50 or fewer full time employees due December 16th.
- \$1 million to train manufacturing workers due December 16th.

Applications will be reviewed over the next several weeks and awards will be announced early in 2014. The second round of grant program announcements will also be made available at that time.

For more information, visit WisconsinFastForward.com.