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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DWD Secretary: Applications for Round 2 of Wisconsin Fast Forward Worker Training Grants Due Second Week of April**

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

The Wisconsin Fast Forward grant program was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Walker in early 2013. 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 independently, or in partnership 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. Funds can be used for instructors and to develop the curriculum necessary for this new, customized training.

On February 12, Secretary Newson announced \$7.5 million in worker training funds would be available to Wisconsin businesses in the second round of Wisconsin Fast Forward grants. Among those announced are:

- \$1.5 million to train workers in information technology occupations due April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- \$2 million to train workers in health care and related occupations due April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- \$500,000 to train workers at small businesses with 50 or fewer full-time employees due April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Applications will be reviewed over the next several weeks and awards will be announced when finalized.

For more information, visit [WisconsinFastForward.com](http://WisconsinFastForward.com).