

**Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office**
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Tony Evers, Governor
Amy Pechacek, Secretary

Feb. 6, 2026

Dear Stakeholder,

Following four years of consecutive of record-breaking participation for the program, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is again pleased to announce the release of the 2026-28 Youth Apprenticeship Grant Program Application. Applications are now open, and the deadline to apply is April 1, 2026.

The Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Program combines hands-on learning with rigorous coursework and mentorship that equips participants with the education and experience needed to thrive in their chosen careers. DWD incorporates industry-developed skill standards to ensure students gain valuable, real-world work experiences while still in high school. Participants are paired with an experienced workplace mentor, take related coursework, and apply their learning on the job. These opportunities provide students with critical insights as they plan their post-secondary education and training.

For over 30 years, this program has been an essential pathway for the state's students, fostering career readiness and skill development. Today, over 10,000 students statewide participate in this program each year, and with this year's grant announcement, we look forward to its continued growth and impact.

The deadline to submit grant applications is April 1, 2026. Late applications will not be accepted. Direct questions about the application process to Youth Apprenticeship program staff at YA@dwd.wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Pechacek".

Amy Pechacek
Secretary