



FastForward

WISCONSIN FAST FORWARD PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) grant program offers funding opportunities for businesses in all industry sectors, Wisconsin school districts, and other stakeholders. WFF grants* support innovative training programs and equipment to support statewide economic growth. The standard WFF program awards funds to businesses to reimburse the costs of customized occupational training. The expanded WFF program funds projects that focus on providing key resources to support the future growth and evolving needs of the Wisconsin workforce.

*Funds are released on a cost reimbursement basis for all WFF grants.

WFF Program Benefits

Trainees:

- ▶ Transferrable Skills
- ▶ Employment/Wage Increase
- ▶ Career Development
- ▶ Certifications

Wisconsin Businesses:

- ▶ Skilled Workforce
- ▶ Competitive Advantage

State of Wisconsin:

- ▶ Reimbursable Grants
- ▶ Return on Investment to Taxpayers
- ▶ Transparent and Accountable

WFF Program Statistics

Over \$49 million in WFF standard grant contracts have been issued to date, supporting more than 430 worker training projects and benefiting hundreds of employers and thousands of workers across Wisconsin.

- ▶ More than 34,000 employees have gained enhanced skills.
- ▶ \$1,423 average cost per trainee.
- ▶ \$1.25 average hourly wage increase after training.

Through the expanded WFF program, WFF has awarded 248 Advanced Manufacturing Technology Education Equipment grants for more than \$5.8 million and seven Teacher Training and Recruitment grants for a total of \$2.9 million.*

*Statistics do not include all expanded WFF grant awards.

WFF Application Process

Grant applications for the Standard WFF program are submitted by applicants online, using the WFF website. Expanded WFF applications are submitted via email.



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WFF Program Budget

- ▶ WFF is funded with state General Purpose Revenue funds and has an annual budget of approximately \$4.25 million for Industry Sectors Worker Training Grants.
- ▶ \$1 million annually for Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Equipment grants.
- ▶ \$1 million for Teacher Training and Recruitment Grants (biennial appropriation).

Statutory Authority: Statutory authority for the Wisconsin Fast Forward program is found at Wis. Stat. § 106.275 and Wis. Stat. § 106.277.

Administrative Rules: The rules governing the Wisconsin Fast Forward program are included in Wis. Admin. Code Chs. DWD 801 and DWD 802.



Grants for Schools and Nonprofit Organizations

EXPANDED WISCONSIN FAST FORWARD GRANTS

Expanded WFF grants are specialized projects focused on providing key resources to support the future growth and evolving needs of the Wisconsin workforce.

Current opportunities include:

- ▶ Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Grants
- ▶ Teacher Training and Recruitment Grants

Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Equipment Grant

The purpose of this grant is to reimburse school districts for the **purchase and installation costs of technical education equipment** used in vocational training and technical education in advanced manufacturing fields, including costs for equipment operation software and instructional materials to train students.

- ▶ Open to Wisconsin school districts.
- ▶ Grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per grantee.
- ▶ Cash or in-kind match equal to 200% of the amount of the grant award is required. (\$2 Match for each \$1 WFF award)

The Technical Education Equipment grants give high school students **the opportunity to train in advanced manufacturing fields** to help address Wisconsin's skilled worker shortage. It is also intended to **accelerate the transition of students into the workforce** by preparing them for stable careers.

Eligible applicants should visit the Wisconsin Fast Forward website to view the full rubric.

Since the program launched in 2018, WFF has awarded 248 Advanced Manufacturing Technology Education Equipment grants for more than \$5.8 million. For grants closed during state fiscal year 2023, 36 school districts provided 306 courses related to the equipment purchased with grant funds which served 8,440 students with 581 students receiving certifications.

Teacher Training and Recruitment Grant

The purpose of this grant is to **recruit, train, and prepare individuals to teach in low-income or urban Wisconsin schools**, which may include licensing teachers to meet Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's standard.

- ▶ Open to 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) non-profit organizations.
- ▶ Grant awards may be up to \$500,000 per grantee.

The goal of the Teacher Training and Recruitment Grants is to **increase the number of teachers working towards a teacher's license** and increase the number of licensed teachers in eligible Wisconsin schools.

Since 2018, the Department of Workforce Development's Office of Skills Development has awarded seven Teacher Training and Recruitment grants to nonprofit organizations for total of \$2.9 million to train a proposed 339 individuals to become teachers in low-income or urban school districts.



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