



Fast Forward

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 Businesses and Private Organizations

STANDARD WISCONSIN FAST FORWARD GRANTS (Industry Sectors Worker Training Grants)

The objective of the **WFF standard grant program** is to award funds to businesses that reimburse the costs of customized occupational training for unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers. * WFF helps employers and communities thrive by investing in training to help workers qualify for full-time employment, higher level employment, or increased wages.

Award information:

- ▶ Awards range from \$5,000 to \$400,000 per grantee. A grantee serving as an applicant for a consortium of employment placement partners may apply for more than \$400,000.
- ▶ Short- to medium-term in nature, lasting no more than 12 months.
- ▶ Does not replace existing, routine business training nor on-going training that has been previously funded by other sources.
- ▶ Includes at least one Wisconsin employer with trainees based out of a Wisconsin location.
- ▶ Cash or in-kind match equal to 50% of the amount of the grant award is required.

*Employers need to be in business for at least 2 years to be eligible for a WI Fast Forward grant.

In State Fiscal Year 2024, 22 organizations received a total of \$3.9 million in WFF standard grants serving 49 businesses to provide training to 2,133 individuals.

There are **nine different industry sectors** that applicants can apply for funding through:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| ▶ Agriculture | ▶ Financial Services | ▶ Manufacturing |
| ▶ Construction | ▶ Health Care | ▶ Small Business |
| ▶ Customer Service | ▶ Information Technology | ▶ Transportation |

Eligible Applicants Include:

- ▶ A public agency.
- ▶ A private organization.
- ▶ A consortium of placement partners with the lead public or private organization serving as the applicant.

Grant Rubric:

Projects are scored for project need, capacity building, equity and economic opportunity, economic impact, training outcomes, and training design and implementation.

Visit the WFF website to view the full grant rubric.

Deliverables:

- ▶ Completion of training – 85%
- ▶ Placed into employment – 65%
- ▶ Increased wages – 75%
- ▶ Received industry recognized credential(s) – 75%

Successful training completion results in:

- ▶ Hiring unemployed workers to fill vacant or new positions;
- ▶ Improving employment for underemployed workers (seasonal to temporary/permanent or part-time to full-time); or
- ▶ Obtaining higher wages, more hours, and/or more permanent employment by incumbent employees.