

## Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Funding and Programs Available to Tribal Nations: August 2024 Update

The 2021 Tribal Consultation Policy states: each agency shall create a list of programs and services available to Tribes, including an overview listed by agency division/bureau/section, contact information, and summary. Below are DWD programs and funding opportunities available to tribal nations.

Program Name:	Registered Apprenticeships (RA)		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Education for employment services, on-the-job learning reimbursement, supportive services reimbursement administered by DWD		
Funding Cycle:	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding is annual. Federal grants have periods of performance.		
Description (Purpose):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To register apprenticeships in high-growth occupations including advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, financial services, healthcare, IT industries as well as expanding on existing programs. <a href="#">Apprenticeship - Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development</a></li> <li>To provide up to \$600 reimbursement to apprentices for costs incurred during an apprenticeship for work-related clothing, boots, tools, transportation, housing, childcare, etc. <a href="#">Grant Funding Flyer - SS</a></li> <li>To provide up to \$2,500 reimbursement per apprentice to the sponsor of the apprentice. <a href="#">Grant Funding Flyer - OTL</a></li> </ul>		
Target Population:	Anyone age 16 or above		
Program Requirements:	Apprenticeships, credential attainment, occupational training		
Funding Stream(s):	WIOA and US Department of Labor (DOL) competitive grants		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	David Polk, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards Director <a href="mailto:david.polk@dwd.wisconsin.gov">david.polk@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
Program Name:	Youth Apprenticeships (YA)		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Education for employment services coordinated locally by YA consortia. See <a href="#">DWD's YA website</a> for definition of local consortiums.		
Funding Cycle:	Annual		
Description (Purpose):	To provide grants to local school districts, partnerships, and/or consortiums for the implementation and coordination of local youth apprenticeship programs. YA programming provides hands-on instruction, while youth apprentices complete coursework that pertains to a specific career field.		
Target Population:	High schoolers ages 16 to 18		

Program Requirements:	Consortia must provide 50% matching funds up to \$550 per student served.		
Funding Stream(s):	General Purpose Revenue (GPR)		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	David Polk, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards Director <a href="mailto:david.polk@dwd.wisconsin.gov">david.polk@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
Program Name:	Apprenticeship Completion Award Program (ACAP)		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Reimbursement		
Funding Cycle:	Annual		
Description (Purpose):	The Apprenticeship Completion Award Program (ACAP) partially reimburses eligible apprentices or sponsors for partial reimbursement for the costs associated with a Wisconsin registered apprenticeship.		
Target Population:	Apprentices and sponsors		
Program Requirements:	<p>When the apprentice is eligible, the party or parties that incurred the costs (the apprentice or the sponsor) can request reimbursement from the Bureau.</p> <p>To be eligible, the apprentice must meet either eligibility event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year One: the apprentice is active and in good standing at the one-year anniversary of their contract registration.</li> <li>• Completion: the apprentice successfully completes, and is currently employed in the program they were trained in.</li> </ul> <p>Public sector apprentices and sponsors, such as protective services, utilities, and more, are excluded from ACAP by law.</p>		
Funding Stream(s):	General Purpose Revenue (GPR)		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	David Polk, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards Director <a href="mailto:david.polk@dwd.wisconsin.gov">david.polk@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
Program Name:	Apprenticeship Navigators		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Grant		
Funding Cycle:	One-time competitive federal grant awarded to DWD		
Description (Purpose):	The navigators plan to help people find appropriate apprenticeships, develop a portfolio, answer questions on qualifications and help businesses build a talent pool. One navigator helps people who are incarcerated find apprenticeships prior to their release with the state Department of Corrections.		
Target Population:	Navigators largely focus on underrepresented populations who have had historically low apprenticeship participation numbers. They serve as mentors, providing details of each apprenticeship program and guiding their mentees to an apprenticeship path that fits their interests.		
Program Requirements:	The team personally guides those interested in getting into a program through the Wisconsin Apprenticeship System and refers participants to opportunities that meet their specific needs and professional goals.		
Funding Stream(s):	U.S. DOL		

Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	David Polk, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards Director <a href="mailto:david.polk@dwd.wisconsin.gov">david.polk@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
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Program Name:	Vocational Rehabilitation to Native Americans with Disabilities		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	MOA with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC)		
Funding Cycle:	Annual		
Description (Purpose):	<p>Vocational Rehabilitation services are sensitive to individual cultural beliefs, strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, and abilities so each may engage in gainful employment. Support may include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational counseling;</li> <li>• Vocational evaluation and/or career exploration;</li> <li>• Job seeking skills;</li> <li>• Job development;</li> <li>• Transition from high school to post-secondary education or immediate employment;</li> <li>• Physical or technical aids needed to accommodate a disability in the workplace;</li> <li>• Tools and equipment; and</li> <li>• Other federally approved services needed to find, keep, or advance at a job.</li> </ul>		
Target Population:	Native American individuals with disabilities who have barriers to employment.		
Program Requirements:	Internships, apprenticeships, job training and placement, summer programs, childcare and transportation subsidies, career planning, and credential attainment.		
Funding Stream(s):	U.S. Department of Education grant and Tribal Gaming Revenue		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Vocational Rehabilitation	DWD Contact Name:	Delora Newton, DVR Administrator <a href="mailto:Delora.Newton@dwd.wisconsin.gov">Delora.Newton@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>

Program Name:	Unemployment Insurance (UI) Navigator Grant		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Grant in partnership between DWD and United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS)		
Funding Cycle:	One-time competitive grant awarded to DWD ending on June 30, 2025		
Description (Purpose):	<p>The partnership between DWD and UMOS supports improved access for individuals who face barriers to UI benefit receipt, including migrant and seasonal farmworkers workers, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals living in rural areas as well as urban areas such as Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, the Fox Valley area, and Green Bay who have been historically underserved. This includes people adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, including workers who receive low-pay and identify as Black, Hispanic/Latinx, American Indian, and other people of color. Additionally, UMOS stations staff in the rural Northwestern part of Wisconsin.</p>		
Target Population:	Employers, local economies, and people who have lost jobs through no fault of their own as they seek new employment.		
Program Requirements:	Provide historically underserved and eligible workers, including migrant and seasonal farmworkers, Tribal members, limited English speakers, and other communities of color with information and assistance in accessing, applying, and navigating the UI benefits process.		
Funding Stream(s):	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), competitive grant awarded to DWD		

Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	Michele Carter, Employment and Training Administrator <a href="mailto:michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov">michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
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Program Name:	Teacher Training and Recruitment		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Grant		
Funding Cycle:	Annual		
Description (Purpose):	The Teacher Training and Recruitment program is a state-funded annual grant program open to non-profit organizations that can demonstrate a critical need to recruit, train, and prepare individuals to teach in low-income or urban Wisconsin schools.		
Target Population:	Nonprofit organizations		
Program Requirements:	Funds may not be "passed through" or transferred from the grant award recipient to another entity or individual. Rather, awarded funds are used to reimburse grant award recipients for approved, eligible expenses.		
Funding Stream(s):	General Purpose Revenue (GPR)		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	John Roos, Office of Skills Development Director <a href="mailto:John.Roos@dwd.wisconsin.gov">John.Roos@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>

Program Name:	Career and Technical Education (CTE) Grants and Completion Awards		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Grant		
Funding Cycle:	Annual		
Description (Purpose):	Grants from this program incentivize school districts to offer high-quality career and technical education programs that mitigate workforce shortages in key industries and occupations. The grants reimburse schools up to \$1,000 for each recent graduate in the district earning an approved industry-recognized certification. Additionally, student completion awards of \$500 per eligible certification are permitted for graduates who earned certifications in EMT, EMR, Fire Fighter I, Fire Fighter II, and/or Fire Inspector. District incentives are paid to the school, and student completion awards are paid directly to the graduates.		
Target Population:	Students and schools		
Program Requirements:	Schools must apply annually to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by submitting eligible claims for certifications earned by their graduates and providing supporting documentation for each certification.		
Funding Stream(s):	General Purpose Revenue (GPR)		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	John Roos, Office of Skills Development Director <a href="mailto:John.Roos@dwd.wisconsin.gov">John.Roos@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>

Program Name:	Technical Education Equipment Grants		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Grant		
Funding Cycle:	Annual		

Description (Purpose):	Help schools equip their technical education classes with CNC (computer numerical control) augers, lathes, mills, routers, and water jet cutters; also, robotic arms and PLC (programmable logic control) computers to operate them and other machines. The list of items for school equipment includes 3D metal printers and an array of welding equipment.		
Target Population:	Students interested in advancement manufacturing careers		
Program Requirements:	A school district grantee must provide matching funds at a 2:1 rate.		
Funding Stream(s):	General Purpose Revenue (GPR)		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	John Roos, Office of Skills Development Director <a href="mailto:John.Roos@dwd.wisconsin.gov">John.Roos@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
Program Name:	Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF)		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	State-funded grant program for industry sector training and internship development		
Funding Cycle:	Annual		
Description (Purpose):	Grants to businesses and to business/workforce stakeholder consortiums from all Wisconsin industry sectors to reimburse the costs of customized occupational training for unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers. Additionally, grants are provided to increase student internship participation.		
Target Population:	Anyone age 16 or above		
Program Requirements:	See <a href="#">WFF Link</a> for details concerning industry sector training and/or internship coordination opportunities.		
Funding Stream(s):	General Purpose Revenue (GPR)		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	John Roos, Office of Skills Development Director <a href="mailto:John.Roos@dwd.wisconsin.gov">John.Roos@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
Program Name:	Worker Connection		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Federal funding provided to DWD through an MOU with the Department of Administration		
Funding Cycle:	Period of performance ends on December 31, 2024		
Description (Purpose):	The Worker Connection program provides free navigation services to expand career opportunities at the local level. Trained Career Navigators work one-on-one with clients to identify their interests, values, and conditions of work. Navigators then connect clients to resources, trainings, and in-demand career pathways in their area. The program also partners with community-based organizations and businesses to provide support and help employers with their workforce needs. Currently, the Worker Connection program is active in Milwaukee County (WDA 2) and the Green Bay area (WDA 5).		
Target Population:	Individuals with barriers to employment		
Program Requirements:	Career navigation services, including sector-based training and work-related supports		
Funding Stream(s):	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds		

Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	Michele Carter, Employment and Training Administrator <a href="mailto:michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov">michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
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Program Name:	Worker Advancement Initiative		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Grants to Workforce Development Boards		
Funding Cycle:	One-time grant		
Description (Purpose):	Serves people whose previous employment has not continued in the post-pandemic economy, as well as those who were not attached to or were not successful in the labor market prior to the pandemic, by offering subsidized employment and skills training opportunities with local employers. The program builds on the success of current transitional job programs in the state by launching a new, statewide effort to provide subsidized work opportunities to approximately 2,000 individuals.		
Target Population:	Individuals with barriers to employment		
Program Requirements:	Subsidized employment and skills training opportunities with local employers		
Funding Stream(s):	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Funds were awarded to each of Wisconsin's 11 workforce development boards, effective October 1, 2021, to operate a variety of projects.		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	Michele Carter, Employment and Training Administrator <a href="mailto:michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov">michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>

Program Name:	Workforce Innovation Grants		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Grants		
Funding Cycle:	One Time Competitive Grant Award		
Description (Purpose):	The Workforce Innovation Grant Program is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and DWD. The program provides up to \$10 million grants to regional organizations to design and implement innovative plans that help solve the workforce challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has caused in their regions. This program encourages the development of leading-edge, long-term solutions that enable businesses to more easily find workers and empower those workers to better prepare for and connect to the family-supporting careers in their regions.		
Target Population:	Governmental entities, non-profits and tribal governments		
Program Requirements:	<p>Funded programs must identify a region's most pressing pandemic-related challenges, and offer solutions through a myriad of ways, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and/or reskilling initiatives for in-demand jobs;</li> <li>• Transit solutions or broadband;</li> <li>• Planning;</li> <li>• Marketing;</li> <li>• Childcare solutions or supportive services;</li> <li>• Career counseling or coaching; and</li> <li>• Piloting or implementing replicable/sustainable ideas/best practices.</li> </ul> <p>Solutions must be reasonably related, and proportional, to the pandemic-related impact.</p>		
Funding Stream(s):	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)		

Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	Michele Carter, Employment and Training Administrator <a href="mailto:michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov">michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
Program Name:	Mobile Career Lab		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	N/A		
Funding Cycle:	N/A		
Description (Purpose):	The Mobile Career Lab delivers Job Center Services anywhere in Wisconsin. This new tool is equipped with computers and display screens that can be used as a classroom for training and employment workshops or as a resource room for resume and job application assistance.		
Target Population:	Businesses and job seekers		
Program Requirements:	To reserve the Mobile Career Lab for a recruitment or training event, job fair, as an employment resource, or for other workforce-related occasions, please fill out our reservation form at this link: <a href="#">Reservation Form</a> .		
Funding Stream(s):	The Mobile Career Lab is funded in part by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and State of Wisconsin workforce funds.		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	Michele Carter, Employment and Training Administrator <a href="mailto:michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov">michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>
Program Name:	DVR Career Pathways Advancement Initiative		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	One-time competitive federal grant awarded to DWD		
Funding Cycle:	Five years, ending in 2026		
Description (Purpose):	To create resources and opportunities to support vocational rehabilitation consumers to advance in a career in one of four fields: healthcare, digital/information technology, construction, and manufacturing.		
Target Population:	Former and current DVR consumers and individuals with disabilities who have an interest in one of the four career fields.		
Program Requirements:	DVR will be contacting former DVR consumers with a closed case that indicated an interest in one of the four career fields. Current DVR consumers will be apprised of this service. Individuals with disabilities, seeking employment, and with an interest in these four fields can apply for vocational rehabilitation services.		
Funding Stream(s):	US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration competitive grant.		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Vocational Rehabilitation	DWD Contact Name:	Meredith Dressel, DVR Deputy Administrator <a href="mailto:meredith.dressel@dvr.wisconsin.gov">meredith.dressel@dvr.wisconsin.gov</a>
Program Name:	Rapid Response		
Program Type: (Grant/Contract)	Grants to Workforce Development Areas		
Funding Cycle:	Annual		
Description (Purpose):	To respond to permanent closures, mass layoffs, or natural disasters which result in mass job loss. To prevent or minimize the impacts of layoffs and dislocations on workers, businesses, and communities.		

Target Population:	Age 16 or above and current employment is subject to a closure, mass layoff, or natural disaster.		
Program Requirements:	The DWD-Division of Employment and Training (DET) Rapid Response Team coordinates activities in each of DWD's eleven Workforce Development Areas when there has been a notice of a permanent closure, mass layoff, or mass job dislocation resulting from a natural disaster.		
Funding Stream(s):	DOL formula grant		
Lead DWD Division/Bureau:	Employment and Training	DWD Contact Name:	Michele Carter, Employment and Training Administrator <a href="mailto:michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov">michele.carter1@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a>