

Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward Technical Education Equipment Grant

Questions and Answers

1. Can you clarify the process and how I apply for the Technical Education Equipment Grant GPA?

Visit the Wisconsin Fast Forward web page (http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm) and scroll down to "Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward Grants." Below the description and details for "Technical Education Equipment Grants," you will find links from which to download the following:

- 1) the Grant Program Announcement (<https://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/DET-19985-EF252AM-P.pdf>), which provides information on the grant program and directions for the application;
- 2) the Application (<https://wisconsinfastforward.com/doc/det-19991-e.docx>), a Microsoft Word document that **must be submitted in Word format**, that is, with a .docx extension – NOT as a .pdf, Google link or Google document; and
- 3) the Evaluation Rubric (<https://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/DET-19987.pdf>), which provides the criteria with which applications will be evaluated.

Answer the questions in the Application by following the instructions in the Grant Program Announcement and the evaluation criteria in the Rubric. After completion, save the Application. To submit your application, email it along with your letters of support and any other documents, to WisconsinFastForward@dwd.wisconsin.gov, by 3 pm CST on February 18, 2025.

2. Why was my access to the WFF system as an application writer denied?

The Technology Education Equipment Grant GPA does not use the Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant online application portal. The application and GPA documents can be accessed from the Wisconsin Fast Forward website at http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm. For more information about how to apply, please see the response to question #1.

3. What is the percentage of match that is required for this grant? Will you explain how Match works?

As stated on page 2 of the Grant Program Announcement (GPA), matching funds are required, per Wis. Stat. 106.275(1)(c), and must be in an amount equal to one of the following:

1. Except as provided in subd. 2., if the Match is contributed from private sources, 100 percent of the grant amount awarded.
2. If any of the Match is contributed from school district funds, 200 percent of the grant amount awarded.

Match may be in the form of money or the monetary value of equipment that is contributed to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program from private sources or the applicant, or from both private sources and the applicant during the grant project period.

Identified matching funds must (a) be allowed to be used as Match for a grant by the funding source, (b) relate to the project being proposed in the application; and (c) be in the possession of the school's budget during the grant period. The grant period is the timespan occurring between contract execution date (the date the contract is signed by all parties) and contract end date.

Match dollars must be spent on the project described in the application during the grant period.

4. Please clarify the required public and private match requirements.**BUDGET**

- *Fund requests must range from \$5,000 to \$100,000.*
- *Matching funds-must be in an amount equal to one of the following:*
 - 1. If the match is contributed from private sources, 100 percent of the grant amount awarded.*
 - 2. If any of the match is contributed from school district funds, 200 percent of the grant amount awarded.*

Budget Line Items	Requested WFF Funds
Equipment (including software)	
Instructional Materials	
Equipment Installation (if not included with purchase)	
Facility Enhancements and Improvements	
TOTAL GRANT REQUEST	\$

Match Funds (either private sector or school district):**If Private Sector:**

Match Components:

\$ _____ Money

\$ _____ Value of Equipment

Total Match must equal Total Grant Request x 1 = \$ _____**If any part of Match from School District:**

Match Components:

\$ _____ Money

\$ _____ Value of Equipment

Total Match must equal Total Grant Request x 2 = \$ _____

If the matching funds are provided from private sources, 100% Match is required. For example, if the school district requested \$100,000 in funding and all the Match was coming from the private sources, \$100,000 in match funding would be required.

If any Match is from school district funds, 200% in matching funds would be required. For example, if the school district requested \$100,000 in funding, the school district would be required to contribute \$200,000 of school district funds to meet the Match requirements.

5. May applicants use WFF funding for the construction of auxiliary buildings to house instruction for the applicant?

Under the statute, WFF funds must be used for the enhancement or improvement of a technical education facility or for the acquisition of equipment that is used in advanced manufacturing or construction fields in the workplace. If auxiliary buildings are for the enhancement or improvement of a technical education facility, applicants may seek to use WFF funding under this GPA for the construction of those auxiliary buildings. The Technical Education Equipment Grant program is a competitive grant; therefore, please review the GPA and Rubric to make sure your project is proposing to achieve the goals of the program and addresses the areas identified and scored in the Rubric.

6. What are the minimum and maximum grant request amounts?

The minimum funding request is \$5,000. The maximum funding request is \$100,000.

7. Can the full amount of WFF requested funds be used for facility enhancements and renovations?

Yes, WFF funds may be used to fund facility enhancements or improvements to the technical education facility for the full amount of the grant request. The Technical Education Equipment Grant program is a competitive grant; therefore, please review the GPA and Rubric to make sure your project is proposing to achieve the goals of the program and addresses the areas identified and scored in the Rubric.

8. Can the district matching funds be in the form of facility enhancement and renovations costs (not brick and mortar)?

As specified in Wis. Stat. 106.275, Match must be in the form of money or the monetary value of equipment.

9. Can the infrastructure that will take to run the equipment (Computers, IT, shop air, etc.) be used for either the WFF funds or matching funds?

For the Technical Education Equipment grant, WFF funds are to be used for the enhancement or improvement of a technical education facility or the acquisition of equipment that is used in advancing manufacturing or construction fields, together with any software necessary for the operation of that equipment and any instructional material necessary to train pupils in the operation of that equipment. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 106.275, matching funds must be in the form of money or the monetary value of equipment.

10. We have earned a CTE Incentive Grant that we want to use as part of our matching funds. The dollars are in our account now and can be spent how we choose. Is it a possibility to use these dollars as Match?

You may use CTE Incentive Grant funds that have been paid to and received by schools by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as Match. Perkins Grant funds, donated funds, or funds allocated in a budget or a passed referendum are some other funding types that are allowable as Match, as long as the funds are in the district's budget or account during the grant period.

11. We are determining if we are going to write for another fast forward grant. It does not appear we can use an instructor's salary as a match beyond their training and any admin oversight, is that correct?

Teacher salary would not be an allowable match expense.

Grant funds may supplement existing funds but may not supplant existing funds. This also applies to Match. Teacher salary is an existing local expense – the school district pays that teacher a salary to conduct teaching activities, whether or not there is a grant. Therefore, use of the teacher salary as Match would be considered supplanting, as the salary is not a new, unique expense that is incurred specifically in support of the proposal.

12. Are private schools eligible to apply for the Technical Education Equipment Grant GPA?

While they may partner with a School District for use of the equipment, under the statute, private schools are not eligible to apply for the grant. Eligible applicants are a Wisconsin School District or a consortium consisting of multiple Wisconsin School Districts.

13. Do all parts of the WFF Technical Education Equipment grant need to be submitted as Word documents or if supporting documents can be attached or emailed as PDF documents.

The letters of support or describing Match may be submitted as PDF documents.