









"One of the greatest challenges facing Wisconsin now is bridging the skills gap and finding workers to fill jobs in high-demand sectors. Wisconsin Fast Forward grants incentivize state employers to implement training programs that provide workers with the practical skills they need to succeed. Programs like Wisconsin Fast Forward are crucial as we continue towards our goal of ensuring anyone who wants a job can find a job here in Wisconsin."

Scott Walker, Wisconsin Governor

Inside

- 2 Wisconsin Fast Forward Overview
- 3 Office of Skills Development
- 4 Grant Program Impact
- 9 Internship Program WisConnect
- 11 Appendix





Larson's Custom Cabinets Success Story

Larson's Custom Cabinets of Cornell was awarded two grants totaling \$58,949 to provide lean training for production workers and software training for cabinet designers. Co-owner Travis Glaus shares that grant training enabled the company to grow, hire more employees and plan for the addition of a new facility.

"Thanks to grant training, we were able to accomplish in a year what would have probably taken us five years to do it on our own. I don't know what company wouldn't need or want the extra help financially to be able to afford to get the training to benefit your company to let it grow."

Travis Glaus, Co-owner

"You can see through our company that we were able to grow through training. I mean, the training not only helps out one area that's given the training, but it helps out the whole entire company."

Brett Grill, Lead Residential Draftsman





December 29, 2017

Governor Scott Walker Room 115 East Wisconsin State Capitol Madison, WI 53703

Senator Alberta Darling Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee Room 317 East Wisconsin State Capitol Madison, WI 53703 Representative John Nygren Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee Room 309 East Wisconsin State Capitol Madison, WI 53703

Dear Governor Walker, Senator Darling, and Representative Nygren:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), I am pleased to submit the 2017 Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) Annual Report.

The 2017 WFF Annual Report highlights program activity and grant-funded training results per Wisconsin Statute 106.27 (3). The report covers investment and program activity through June 30, 2017, and provides a look to the future as the WFF program continues to grow and adapt to labor market needs. Highlights include:

- Delivery of technical assistance and grant management efficiencies that doubled the number of completed grants with trainee outcomes between late October 2016 and June 30, 2017.
- Rollout of the state's Internship initiative, including stakeholder meetings, policy development and technical work that culminated in the summer 2017 launch of WisConnect, the state's new free online internship resource available at InternshipWisconsin.com.
- Testimonials and success stories to illustrate the continuing positive impact that WFF has on workers' lives and employers' bottom lines.

Under your collective leadership, the WFF program today is a nationally recognized, business-driven talent development initiative that has helped hundreds of Wisconsin employers train and retain thousands of highly skilled workers since the first grants were awarded in 2014.

We look forward to even more program successes in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Secretary Ray Allen

Department of Workforce Development

TRAIN and RETAIN

Attract and motivate a capable staff: Training can improve business performance, profit, staff retention and morale.

The Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) program is an innovative talent development solution driven by Wisconsin businesses to train and retain highly skilled workers. Governor Walker signed the WFF program (2013 Wisconsin Act 9) into law in March 2013 with near-unanimous bipartisan support from the State Legislature, creating the Office of Skills Development (OSD) to administer WFF worker training grant program through a \$30 million total investment from the State of Wisconsin. WFF grants incentivize Wisconsin employers to implement customized training programs that provide workers with the practical jobs skills they need to succeed in a 21st century workforce. Applauded by business and industry leaders for cultivating a strong environment for private sector job creation, the WFF grant program is helping hundreds of companies across Wisconsin upskill thousands of workers to fill job openings and advance in the workplace.

Recognized by policy makers for quickly targeting and addressing workforce skills shortages, the WFF program was expanded in March 2014 through a \$35.4 million investment in the Blueprint for Prosperity (2013 Wisconsin Act 139) initiative to provide in-demand skills training to three target populations: Wisconsin technical college students, high school pupils and persons with disabilities, including service-disabled veterans.

The WFF program was further expanded in Spring 2016 when Governor Walker signed into law the Internship Coordination (2015 Wisconsin Act 283) program and legislation to consolidate Wisconsin's workforce investments into a single appropriation (2015 Wisconsin Act 348), including funding for Wisconsin's nationally-recognized Youth and Registered Apprenticeship programs.



Timeline

2013

FEB: WFF legislation introduced
MAR: Wisconsin Act 9 signed
OCT: Emergency Admin Rules start
NOV: WFF Round 1 GPA issued

2014

FEB: WFF grants awarded & GPA issued
MAR: → Blueprint for Prosperity enacted
→ High School Pupil (HSP) GPA issued

APR: Wait List Reduction GPA issued
MAY: → Permanent Admin Rules start

→ HSP GPA awarded

JUN:

WFF & Wait List Reduction grants

→ Training Workers with Disabilities (TWD) GPA issued

SEP: WFF GPA issued
DEC: → TWD GPA awarded

→ WFF grants awarded

→ HSP GPA issued

2015

APR: WFF and HSP grants awarded

MAY: WFF GPA issued

JUL: WFF FY 15-17 reauthorization signed

AUG: LMIS Focus Groups held SEP: LMIS Phase 1 launched DEC: WFF grants awarded

2016

JAN: → LMIS Phase 2 launched

→ HSP GPA issued

MAR: Internship Coordination legislation

enacted

APR: \rightarrow Funding Consolidation legislation

enacted

→ LMIS Phase 3 launched

JUN: HSP grants awarded SEP: WFF grants issued

2017

JAN: WFF GPA issued FEB: WFF grants awarded MAR: → WFF GPA issued

→ Wait List Reduction grants closed

JUN: WFF GPA issued

JUL: → WisConnect launched → WFF ongoing GPAs issued



OSD Facts

Purpose

- Administer WFF grant programs through a transparent and accountable process.
- Provide Wisconsin businesses with effective worker training solutions and technical assistance to improve talent development outcomes.
- Coordinate and increase the number of internship opportunities at Wisconsin businesses for college students.

Outreach

Inception to June 30, 2017:







Overview

OSD administers WFF grant programs through a transparent and accountable process. Grant Program Announcements (GPAs) are developed with expert guidance to address identified skills gaps and labor shortages by industry sector or occupational area. OSD offers technical assistance to Wisconsin businesses and their economic and workforce development partners for shaping customized worker training grant proposals to train and retain highly skilled workers.

Standard WFF grants support short- and medium-term employer-led worker training projects to fill current and ongoing job openings and place workers in long-term positions with opportunities for professional growth and increased pay. Grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$400,000 and require cash or in-kind match equal to the award amount, except for Wisconsin Small Business grant awards that range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and require cash or in-kind match equal to half of the award amount. Grantees are limited to receive \$400,000 in Standard WFF funds per calendar year.

Program Integrity

OSD launched two capacity-building strategies in late 2015 to effectively manage rapid WFF program growth. Completed in 2016, OSD has implemented a variety of process improvements that were identified through both exercises, including time-saving grant application and reporting enhancements. See Appendix – Table 1 for WFF Program Administration Allocations and Expenditures.

Success Story

WFF Brings True Wins to Fox Valley

Two Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) projects have resulted in sustainable industry aligned training programs at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC). Grants awarded by WFF were a catalyst to bring together the workforce system, education and employers in a collaborative effort to develop innovative programs for employers and FVTC students. Both projects were truly industry demand driven with training content jointly developed with the input of industry partners and college faculty.

As a result of the Plexus WFF soldering grant, partners saw the value of locally delivered, industry validated training taught by FVTC faculty. FVTC committed to installing a customized soldering lab that includes customized printed circuit board production equipment from two local industry partners. Due to the success of the grant, employers benefit from on going training opportunities available in a state-of-the-art training lab developed as a result of the grant.

Understanding the labor market challenges associated with finding skilled industrial maintenance employees, a group of 11 companies challenged FVTC to create a training program to address this need. Again, the WFF grant was the catalyst that engaged local employers, DWD and FVTC to collaboratively build a solution to address this skill gap. Northeast Wisconsin employers now have a workforce training solution that meets their needs on a schedule that works for their employees. Beyond the initial grant, for the last two years, new students have entered this training opportunity and two new higher levels of training have been created to assist employees to move to the next level of their career paths. To date more than 100 student registrations have resulted from this training initiative.

WFF cultivates a strong environment for private sector job creation

by helping businesses across the state train highly skilled workers to fill job openings.



Standard WFF Performance

Wisconsin's investment in the Standard WFF grant program cultivates a strong environment for private sector job creation by helping businesses across the state train highly skilled workers to fill job openings. As of June 30, 2017, nearly \$21.4 million or 72% of the \$30 million (\$29.6 million) WFF grant program allocation has been contracted for 235 customized worker training projects to enhance the skills of up to 19,472 workers at hundreds of Wisconsin businesses. OSD has processed approximately \$9.2 million in grantee reimbursement requests since the program's inception. Of the 142 grant projects that have closed, 12,215 workers completed training as of July 30,2017. See Appendix – Table 2 for WFF Grant Activity.

142 of 235 customized worker training projects closed as of June 30, 2017

Over 12,200 workers (and counting) completed training and developed in-demand skills for Wisconsin employers.



MANUFACTURING



HEALTH CARE



TRANSPORTATION



CONSTRUCTION



CUSTOMER SERVICE



AGRICULTURE

TRAINEE TYPES

Incumbent - Existing
Incumbent - New Hire

Underemployed Unemployed



FINANCIAL SERVICES



SMALL BUSINESS



INFO TECH



MILWAUKEE



SMALL MANUFACTURER

Trainee Outcomes

Standard WFF grants fund customized skills training to help unemployed and underemployed workers attain jobs, new hires retain jobs and incumbent workers receive wage increases. The number of closed grants with trainee outcomes more than doubled between October 31, 2016 and June 30, 2017, up from 64 closed projects with 2,940 trainees to 142 closed projects with 12,215 trainees who completed training. Trainee wages vary greatly depending on the occupational title and market demand for skilled labor by industry and region. Below find average pre- and post-training wages by trainee type for the closed grants:

Standard WFF Average Pre- and Post-Training Wages per Grant Close-Out Reports (64) by Trainee Classification WFF Inception to Date (2013 - 2017)

WFF Grant Program Post-Training Increase







Trainee Classification	Trainees¹	Pre-Training Avg Wage/Hr	Post-Training Avg Wage/Hr	Post-Training Avg Wage Increase
Unemployed Trainees Who Obtained Employment	467	\$0.00	\$13.05	\$13.05 per hour
Underemployed Trainees Who Obtained Employment	292	\$16.55	\$19.01	\$2.46 per hour
New Hire Trainees Who Retained Employment	5,564	\$11.88	\$12.98	\$1.11 per hour
Incumbent Worker Trainees Who Received Wage Increases	3,292	\$21.98	\$22.60	\$1.62 per hour
Total	9,615			\$1.90 per hour

Note:

¹Only includes trainees with complete pre- and post-training wages entered <u>and</u> who meet the statutory reporting criteria per Wisconsin Statute 106.27 (3).



Fast Forward to the Future

OSD is implementing high-value program enhancements to address the changing needs of Wisconsin businesses from a variety of industries and sectors. In June 2017, OSD announced the opening of two ongoing Grant Program Announcements (GPAs) benefitting Small Business Occupations and All Sectors effective July 1, 2017. The GPAs will remain open throughout the fiscal year, and OSD will release approximately \$2 million each quarter for grant awards. The changes provide more flexibility for businesses that may have training needs during specific times of the year, and support greater collaboration among employers to develop training projects in real time, rather than having to wait for a grant cycle to open. OSD is also exploring the use of Memorandums of Understanding with grant project business partners to ensure that all parties understand program requirements.

Additional Standard WFF grant program funds will be used to support new and ongoing training initiatives, including:

- Targeted GPAs to fill high-demand rural nursing and K-12 teaching positions.
- Expanded Department of Corrections and Wisconsin Technical College System partnerships.
- Increased opportunities for Wisconsin high school students to graduate with high-demand job skills and certifications through DWD's nationally-recognized Youth Apprenticeship program.

Upland Hills Health Success Story

Retooling the Workforce for the Ideal Rural Healthcare Experience

Today, patients are more involved with their health and related care, including over 50% who access their medical records electronically. Upland Hills Health (UHH) of Dodgeville identified the need to implement three new systems to provide rural patients with first class healthcare, including a state-of-the-art electronic health records system to ensure that patients and clinical staff have access to a complete, real-time medical record. To prepare workers for the implementation of these patient-centric tools and related business process improvements, UHH was awarded a \$175,393 WFF grant contract to deliver organization-wide training to up to 468 workers.

After implementing the new systems, a total of 459 UHH workers successfully completed training, resulting in a 2% to 3% average wage increase for incumbent workers and new hires. WFF training also enabled UHH to strengthen relationships with other healthcare providers and plan for future growth opportunities, such as the addition of Vein Treatment, Wound Healing and Pain Management clinics. In February 2017, iVantage Health Analytics and The Chartis Center for Rural Health named UHH among the 100 top critical access hospitals in the nation for managing risk, achieving higher quality, securing better outcomes, increasing patient satisfaction and operating at a lower cost than peers.

"Upland Hills Health is a critical access hospital in the Southwest region of Wisconsin. As a small, rural hospital, we have a limited budget for items such as electronic medical record technology. Receiving the grant from the Wisconsin Fast Forward program allowed us to provide a comprehensive training program for our staff. This would not have been possible otherwise, due to the lack of manpower and expertise in our area. Our partnership with the Wisconsin Fast Forward program helped us achieve our goals as a rural healthcare provider and enabled us to operate at the same level as our tertiary referral organizations, to better serve our patients in a rural setting."



- Lisa Schnedler, President & CEO, Upland Hills Health



Blueprint for Prosperity Performance

Wisconsin's \$35.4 million investment in State General Purpose Revenue expanded the WFF program, creating the Blueprint for Prosperity initiative to fund enrollment in high-demand skills training for three target populations: Wisconsin technical college students, high school pupils and persons with disabilities, including service-disabled veterans. Since the initiative's inception in March 2014, OSD has contracted nearly \$34.5 million or over 97% of the allocation, funding more than 190 grants to enhance the job skills of 7,416 individuals. As of June 30, 2017, a total of 9,504 trainees were enrolled in training, and OSD has processed nearly \$29.7 million in grantee reimbursement requests. See Appendix – Table 2 for WFF Grant Activity.

Outcomes by Program

Technical College Wait List Reduction Grants: OSD issued grant contracts totaling \$27,669,151 to the 16 Wisconsin technical colleges to reduce instruction wait lists for 4,890 students in 99 high-demand programs. Originally scheduled to end in June 2016, the Colleges were given an opportunity to extend training due to successful enrollment outcomes. By the time the grant program officially closed in Spring 2017, the technical colleges collectively exceeded the contracted enrollment goal by more than 150%, registering 7,416 students who earned 4,778 high-demand credentials. While many students continue pursuing their higher educational goals, nearly 2,500 students who self-reported their post-training employment status indicated that they are employed in their program area or field.

High School Pupil Worker Training Grants: OSD issued 83 grant contracts totaling \$5,291,384 over three rounds of funding to train high school pupils in high-demand fields. A total of 71 grants have closed, training 2,012 high school juniors and seniors across Wisconsin who earned a total of 1,629 industry-recognized credentials. Remaining grant projects will close in 2018.

Training Workers with Disabilities: Project SEARCH OSD issued 11 grant contracts to enhance employer-driven job opportunities for 210 individuals with disabilities. A total of 76 individuals with disabilities participated in grant training. Grantees overwhelmingly reported challenges with recruiting participants who had an interest in and desire to seek employment in the training field. Using grantee feedback, OSD modified Standard WFF GPAs and application evaluation criteria to incentivize employers for training special populations, including individuals with disabilities, service-disabled veterans and former offenders. This important change promotes a diverse workforce and retains quality workers who are loyal to their employer. See Appendix – Table 2 for WFF Grant Activity.

Blueprint for Prosperity Initiative
Training Enrollment Outcomes by Grant Program



Grant Program Impact

Milwaukee Job Training Transforms Lives

Overview

With the high number of working Wisconsinites and low statewide unemployment rate, the Blueprint for Prosperity initiative is helping employers fill skill requirements through innovative grant training for target populations, such as individuals under the custody or supervision of the Department of Corrections. OSD issued Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) a grant contract for nearly \$2.6 million to serve approximately 550 students in a variety of industries, including up to 45 inmates who received training in Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining. The grant project was designed to help reduce recidivism by providing trainees with the necessary skills to secure good-paying jobs with family-supporting wages post-release. MATC exceeded contracted grant training goals, enrolling 68 inmates of which 56 inmates graduated from the program.

Mike Williams' Training Success

Mike Williams was accepted to participate in MATC's Blueprint for Prosperity Initiative training while he was in a prison work release program and working full-time at Snap-On Tools in Milwaukee. Mike worked at his machining job on weekdays, returning to the pre-release center for a short time each afternoon before he attended overnight CNC machining classes. Mike graduated from the program near the end of his time served. After release, Mike returned to MATC to continue his studies, applying the credits he earned during grant training towards a CNC technical diploma. Today, he is the only training participant in MATC's grant project to hold a CNC machining certificate and a technical diploma from the college. Mike continues working at Snap-On Tools as a CNC Operator.



"The re-entry program and my MATC education have helped me out a lot. Without them, I wouldn't be making the money that I am. People gave me good advice. The teachers recognized my ability. More doors have opened up for me. It's been really good for me, and I am very grateful."

Mike Williams

Former inmate Mike Williams participates in MATC's Blueprint for Prosperity re-entry training grant in CNC machining.



Recognizing Talent

"What Mike has done with his life has been amazing. He got in trouble, but he has turned his life around and wants to share his story so that others know they can do so, too. He is an excellent communicator and trouble shooter and is very reliable. If I owned a shop and was looking for a good supervisor, he would be at the top of my list. He's well-rounded, has a strong knowledge base and a great work ethic."

Terry Wezyk, MATC Machining Instructor

Mike was hired by Snap-On Tools based on Terry's referral and recommendation.



"Internships allow college students to put classroom learning into practice, build professional networks and gain an edge in the talent market through direct workplace experience. With the state unemployment rate at a near-historic low of 3.1 percent and more people employed in Wisconsin than ever before, Wisconsin employers can help meet their workforce needs by growing tomorrow's talent today through internships. WisConnect provides an important tool to attract and retain college students here during and after graduation, which will support a strong Wisconsin workforce in the years to come."

- Scott Walker, Governor July 18, 2017

Internship Coordination

Overview

Governor Scott Walker signed 2015 Wisconsin Act 283 in March 2016, expanding OSD's role to increase the number of college students participating in internships with Wisconsin companies. OSD scheduled seven Workforce Alignment Workshops across Wisconsin through December 2016 to obtain feedback from businesses, economic and workforce development leaders and educators regarding the value of internships for building a loyal and reliable workforce. Over 350 individuals attended the sessions and discussed strategies for enhancing regional internship opportunities, including motivating testimonials from public and private college students and regional employers. At each workshop, participants overwhelmingly expressed the need for a free, user-friendly internship website to connect Wisconsin employers and college students. During the second half of SFY17, OSD developed the framework to support future internship coordination, culminating with the launch of WisConnect in July 2017.

WisConnect Launches

In July 2017, OSD launched WisConnect, a free, mobile-responsive online resource available at InternshipWisconsin.com to help Wisconsin employers meet their workforce needs by growing tomorrow's talent today through internships. OSD rolled out additional student functionality in October 2017. Open to all college students with an active .edu email address, the website offers cutting-edge tools to match employers with potential interns by location, college major, key skills and more. WisConnect makes it easy for employers and college students to create profiles, post internships and resumes and search for talent and opportunities. OSD plans to launch additional WisConnect features through 2018. With the IT and reporting framework now in place, OSD will track metrics and outcomes from WisConnect's inaugural "internship season" in the first quarter of CY 2018. WisConnect already has close to 900 employer sites and several hundred student profiles, with outreach continuing to tens of thousands of students attending public and private colleges during the academic year.



InternshipWisconsin.com

Find your intern today!

Internship Success at Sargento

Sargento in Plymouth is among the growing Wisconsin companies with a robust internship program to attract and retain talent. Many former Sargento interns have launched rewarding careers with the company, including Leah locco who was hired as an Associate Food Scientist after earning her degree at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Sargento CEO Louie Gentine says internship programs are crucial now, especially as the workforce transitions. He advises companies to take time to plan internship programs and use WisConnect to recruit interns.



- It's talent attraction, but as our manufacturing system continues to evolve and technology continues to evolve, we need to really make sure that we have the right skill sets and the right people to be able to operate that technology. We take lot of time to make sure that when we take on an intern, that we have the right program in place."
 - Louie Gentine, Sargento CEO

"Having a chance to be an intern gives you the confidence that you're soing into the field that you want to be in. You can get in there and prove yourself and build your network so that when the time comes to apply for a full-time position, they remember who you are and your work ethic."

- Leah Iocco, Sargento Associate Food Scientist and Former Intern



Learn more about the WisConnect, internship success at Sargento and Leah's story at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJrQ9Rw8sEc

WANT THE BEST & BRIGHTEST STUDENT INTERNS?

CONNECTWITH INTERNS

Go to InternshipWisconsin.com

"The most common theme from employers was the desire for a single resource to find information and resources on starting internship programs and find potential candidates to fill internship openings," Secretary Allen said. "WisConnect meets the demand for these services and more."

- Ray Allen, DWD Secretary





Table 1: Wisconsin Fast Forward Program Administration

	SFY13	SFY14	SFY15	SFY16	SFY17
Budget Allocation via Appropriation plus Prior Year Carryover	\$180,000	\$1,664,769	\$3,627,515	\$3,274,400	\$5,227,884
Total Spent and Encumbered Year-end Balance	\$174,902 \$5,098	\$1,197,529 \$467,241	\$3,627,515 \$0	\$1,524,253 \$1,750,147	\$3,980,891 \$1,246,994

Table 2: Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant Activity

Program	Life-to-date Budget Allocation	SFY14-16 Expenditures ¹	SFY17 Expenditures ¹	Total Expenditures ¹	Encumbered ²	Balance ³
Standard WFF	\$28,623,738	\$5,254,838	\$3,934,309	\$9,189,146	\$6,843,876	\$12,590,716
Blueprint for Prosperity						
Technical College Wait List High School Pupil Training Workers with Disabilities Project SEARCH	\$28,430,700 \$5,497,000 \$622,300 \$850,000	\$14,538,355 \$2,127,259 \$38,001 \$44,626	\$10,485,972 \$1,957,905 \$37,397 \$454,362	\$25,024,327 \$4,085,164 \$75,398 \$498,988	\$ - \$628,664 \$ - \$367,592	\$3,406,373 \$783,172 \$546,902 \$(16,580)
Blueprint for Prosperity Total	\$35,400,000	\$16,748,241	\$12,935,637	\$29,683,877	\$996,256	\$4,719,867
Career Tech Ed Pass Thru to DPI Act 348 Consolidated Training Grants	\$6,000,000 \$5,746,088	\$3,000,000 \$195,928	\$3,000,000 \$4,154,508	\$6,000,000 \$4,350,437	\$ - \$1,187,280	\$ - \$208,371

Notes:

¹Expenditures include grant reimbursements for all contracted grants.

²Encumbered includes contracted grant amounts not yet reimbursed or requested for reimbursement as of June 30, 2017.

³Includes previously contracted grant awards that were unencumbered at grantees' request; one-time grant funds that statute authorizes DWD to use for Standard WFF grants; grant funds that were made available and not awarded under previous "round" GPA system and made available under new "open" GPA system effective July 1, 2017; and grant funds that are available to support expanded WFF programs signed into law in the 2017-19 Biennial Budget.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Department of Workforce Development

201 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703
608-266-3131 | dwd.wisconsin.gov