



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
 **DWD**  
Department of Workforce Development

**Fast**  **Forward** 

ANNUAL REPORT  
2020





**Fast**  **Forward** 

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December 30, 2020

The Honorable Tony Evers  
Office of the Governor  
115 East, State Capitol Building  
Madison, WI 53702

Senator Alberta Darling  
Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee  
Room 122 South, State Capitol Building  
Madison, WI 53707

Representative Mark Born  
Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee  
Room 324 East, State Capitol Building  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Governor Evers, Senator Darling, and Representative Born:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, I am pleased to submit the 2020 Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) Annual Report.

The WFF program is an innovative talent development grant program driven by Wisconsin businesses to train and retain highly skilled workers. WFF exists to provide workers specialized skills to thrive in the workforce. WFF grants encourage Wisconsin employers to implement customized training programs that provide workers with the practical and customized job skills they need to succeed in a 21st century workforce. The WFF grant program is helping hundreds of organizations across Wisconsin upskill thousands of workers to fill job openings, advance in the workplace, and earn higher wages.

This year's annual report focuses on the program activities occurring during the 2020 state fiscal year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020). For these programs, WFF issued 27 grants, totaling \$6.25 million. These awards represent grantee commitments to benefit more than 4,000 individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of this report.

Sincerely,



Secretary-designee, Amy Pechacek  
Department of Workforce Development

# Wisconsin Fast Forward Overview

The Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) program is an innovative talent development solution driven by Wisconsin businesses to train and retain highly skilled workers. Since 2013, the Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) Office of Skills Development (OSD) has helped hundreds of organizations across Wisconsin upskill thousands of workers to fill job openings, advance in the workplace, and earn higher wages.

In state fiscal year (SFY) 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), 27 grants were awarded, totaling \$6.25 million. The Activities sections provide detailed information.

Training grants and administration of these and other statutorily authorized programs are supported by funds appropriated under s.20.445(1)(b) and s.20.445(1)(bm), respectively. Below is a table showing SFY 2020 amounts allocated and expended by appropriation.

Budget Reference	Statutory Reference and Description	Amount Allocated SFY20	Amount Expended SFY20
20.445(1)(b)	106.27 (1) Workforce Training	\$ 2,640,386	\$ 3,880,270
20.445(1)(b)	106.27 (1j) Re-entry	2,359,614	323,884
20.445(1)(b)	47.07 Project SEARCH	250,000	192,833
20.445(1)(b)	106.27 (1u) Shipbuilders	1,000,000	-
20.445(1)(b)	106.27(1g) Blueprint for Prosperity	-	115,561
20.445(1)(b)	Non-106.27 programs <sup>1</sup>	-	4,296,927
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 6,250,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,809,475</b>
20.445(1)(bm)	Workforce Training Programs Administration	NA	\$ 1,743,488
20.445(1)(bm)	Apprenticeship Administration	NA	810,930
20.445(1)(bm)	LMIS Administration	NA	347,582
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,536,100</b>	<b>\$ 2,902,000<sup>2</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes expenditures from funds obligated prior to SFY20 for Youth Apprenticeship, Apprenticeship Completion Award Program (ACAP), WETAP, Advanced Manufacturing Equipment Grants, and Teacher Training and Development. Grants under these programs are no longer made from funds appropriated under s.20.445(1)(b), nor are these programs authorized under s.20.106.27. Expenses for administration of these programs continue to be authorized under s.20.445(1)(bm).

<sup>2</sup>An additional \$99,421.09 was lapsed as a portion of DWD's total required GPR lapse in SFY20.

# Wisconsin Fast Forward Activities

## Workforce Training

**s.106.27(1)**

Standard training grants provide employers resources to attract and retain workers who need specialized skills to succeed in the workplace. Grantees may offer a single training or a series of trainings to meet their business objectives and employee training needs. Organizations are awarded two-year grants to train their incumbent employees or to train unemployed and underemployed workers. In most cases, organizations share in the training costs through a one-to-one match of grant dollars. In SFY 2020, 18 organizations received \$2,565,386 in WFF standard grants to provide training to 1,466 individuals. The success of worker trainees is measured in three categories: (1) unemployed workers obtaining a job; (2) underemployed workers improving their employment status; and (3) incumbent workers building their skills and growing their salaries. DWD measures success by a completed trainee's employment status and income at the end of training.

DWD awarded \$74,916 to Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) to assist Waukesha County Jail inmates. The project, led by a consortium comprised of WCTC and Forward Careers, Inc. (formerly Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Workforce Development, Inc.), will provide job training for commercial truck driving and food preparation occupations, transitional support, job placement assistance, and post-release employment case management.

## Industry-Recognized Certifications

**s.106.27(1)(a)**

Grants totaling \$1.3 million were awarded in SFY 2019 to 14 technical colleges across the state to benefit an estimated 535 sophomores, juniors, and seniors enrolled in Wisconsin high schools with workplace readiness and technical skills, leading to industry-recognized certifications in high-demand fields. In SFY 2020, 395 industry-recognized credentials were awarded.

## Training Teachers to Teach Dual Enrollment

**s.106.27(1)(b)**

In SFY 2019, OSD provided \$3.7 million in grants to 14 technical colleges across the state to train high school teachers in 209 school districts to meet the accreditation standards needed to teach dual enrollment courses. Work continued in SFY 2020 with funding covering the cost of training 641 teacher-students.

## Nursing Training for Middle and High School Students

**s.106.27(1)(e)**

The public-private partnerships that OSD awarded \$1.5 million in grants in SFY 2019 for nursing training programs for middle school and high school students exceeded their goal of training 877 students. By the project close in SFY 2020, the programs trained 1,294 students.

## Re-Entry Initiatives

**s.106.27(1j)**

Grants were awarded in SFY 20 to Department of Corrections (DOC) to meet the critical and growing need for workforce training and career preparation for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated populations. Funding was provided to DOC in June of 2020, to: (1) add another mobile career lab (\$600,000) and another mobile training lab (\$1,109,614); (2) support related training expenses (\$208,000); (3) provide Mobile Training Lab Case Management IT (\$250,000); and (4) provide upkeep of the mobile facilities (\$50,000). Funds will also be used to support creation of job centers in correctional facilities throughout the state and to address the career and workforce needs of soon-to-be released inmates (\$142,000).

DWD continues to assist ex-offenders with training and preparation to achieve successful return to their communities and to partake in the opportunities present in Wisconsin's labor force. In 2020, 24 participants at Taycheedah Correctional Institution and Jackson Correctional Institution received training in welding and mechanical maintenance, in continuing training initiatives from last year's \$400,000 WFF training lab grant to DOC. In the fall of 2020, these training labs will be transferred to Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution and New Lisbon Correctional Institution to train other cohorts of inmates prior to their release.

## Project SEARCH

s.47.07

Administered by DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), this business-led collaboration enables young adults with disabilities to gain and maintain employment through training and career exploration. Each Project SEARCH project involves a partnership between DVR, a local business, a school, a vocational services agency, and a disability services agency (e.g. a managed care organization). DVR awarded Project SEARCH grants to Superior School District, Superior, WI; Kimberly School District, Kimberly, WI; and ASPIRO, Inc., Green Bay, WI. The grants totaled \$215,868 and benefitted 241 interns during the reporting period.

## Shipbuilder Training

s.106.27(1u)

DWD awarded a \$1 million grant to Fincantieri Marine Group to train 342 new and incumbent employees in the areas of leadership development, marine welding, ship fitting, internal auditing, enterprise resource planning, and other critical areas in partnership with the Bay Area Workforce Board to create a more diversified and productive resource amid an expanding local marine industry.

## Blueprint for Prosperity

s.106.27(1g)(c)

In SFY 2019, Commute to Careers grants totaling \$338,350 were awarded to organizations that provide employment services to individuals with disabilities: Grand Avenue Club, Milwaukee, WI; New Hope Center, Chilton, WI; and Curative Connections, Green Bay, WI. During the SFY 2020 reporting period, 19,836 rides were provided to 85 riders with disabilities enabling them to maintain their employment.

## Labor Market Information System

s.106.27(1m)

DWD's Labor Market Information systems (LMIS) are accessible to everyone and are used to identify employment opportunities in the state. These systems include the Automated System Support for Employment and Training (ASSET) application, the state's Job Center System (JCS), the Job Center of Wisconsin (JCW), Skill Explorer, and WisConomy.

## Implementation of Programs

s.106.27(2g)

In SFY 2020, DWD updated applications, forms, procedures, and criteria for applying for and awarding grants for its WFF program. Specifically, DWD developed new specific reporting requirements and outcomes for each type of grant.

## Workforce Training Administration

s.20.445(1)(bm)

In SFY20, these funds supported, in addition to the workforce training programs listed above, administration of Youth and Registered Apprenticeship programs, the Youth Summer Jobs Program, Wisconsin Employment Transit Assistance (WETAP) program, Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, Technical Education Equipment Grants, and the Wisconsin Internship Initiative (WIIN).

## Other Programs

There are no outcomes to report for the following programs that were inactive in SFY 20:

- ◆ Building modifications under subsection (1)(f).
- ◆ Internship grants under subsection (1)(d) and internship coordination under subsections (1r).
- ◆ Waiting list reduction under subsection (1g)(a). All designated funding has been expended. Grants closed.
- ◆ Industry certification under subsection (1g)(b). All designated funding has been expended. Grants closed. Industry recognized certification is also authorized in subsection (1)(a).

# Trainee Outcomes SFY 2020

## ALL ACTIVE TRAINEES SFY 2020 s. 106.27(1)

Employment and wage results below are for trainees from the subset of programs within this statutory category that completed training in SFY 2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30,2020), for which metrics in the required reporting elements are available:

Participated in training programs	854
Trainees who completed training	591
Unemployed to Gainful Employment	123
Average Wages Before	Not Applicable
Average Wages After	\$14.85
Underemployed to New Employment	51
Average Wages Before	\$12.07
Average Wages After	\$15.44
Incumbent Increased Wages	92
Average Wages Before	\$17.54
Average Wages After	\$18.93

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**



**Department of Workforce Development**

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