November 19, 2018

Technical College System Grant Program

Program Grant for the Wisconsin Technical College System

Grants up to $250,000

Office of Skills Development
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
201 E. Washington Ave, G100
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
WisconsinFastForward.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Grant Program Announcements: Rita Atkinson, Director, 608.266.2721
Rita.Atkinson@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Grant Administration: Andy Heidt, 608.266.0174
Andrew.Heidt@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Tracy La Haise, 608.267.7889
Tracy.LaHaise@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Maria Maize, 608-266-5453
Maria.Maize@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Andrew Wusler, 608-266-0689
Andrew.Wusler@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Technical College System Grant Program

The Wisconsin Fast Forward program encourages increased collaboration between Wisconsin's workforce, employers, local or regional economic development organizations, workforce development boards, post-secondary institutions, and private training providers to develop and execute business-led training programs. These training programs are designed to provide sustainable, short- and medium-term training and placement of workers in positions that offer trainees long-term professional growth and economic opportunity. To maintain a strong environment for private-sector job creation, Wisconsin must train workers to fill the employment demands of growing and expanding employers. It is anticipated that the relationships developed through Wisconsin Fast Forward funded training programs will continue to flourish after the Wisconsin Fast Forward grant has ended.

Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward Program: The standard Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) program is a state funded grant program to provide employer-focused worker training grants. The Office of Skills Development (OSD) at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) administers the grant program. Additionally, OSD works to encourage the development of innovative solutions at the local and regional level that bring together employers, educators, workforce development entities and economic development organizations to meet area workforce demands. The 2018-19 biennial budget allows for expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward initiatives to meet identified needs.

Legislative Authority: Find a summary of expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward initiatives on pages 716-723 in the 2017-17 Wisconsin Biennial Budget at:
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2017_19_biennal_budget/045_comparative_summary_of_budget_recommendations_governor_and_joint_committee_on_finance_by_agency/workforce_development.pdf .

Grant Program Announcement (GPA) Summary: This reimbursement funding opportunity is offered as part of an expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward program. Only government entities representing all 16 Technical Colleges may apply, for a maximum award of $250,000.

OSD will ensure accountability and transparency of program outcomes by working with grantees to track and monitor program participants. Grantees will be required to collect and submit to the DWD enrollment and post-program completion information on all trainees, which may include data related to, academic status, student risk factors, demographics, type of training program(s), program completion date(s), certification(s) earned, and other indicators, as needed.

Application Forms, Instructions, Checklists, and Process: Applications must be submitted using the application form associated with the grant opportunity. You can access the application and related guidelines at: http://www.wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm.

Project Period: December 17, 2018 – December 31, 2020

Grant Amount: Up to $250,000 is available. Grant expenditures must be incurred during the Project Period. All eligible grant expenses will be reimbursed as per the contract specifications when expenses are:
- Documented by the grantee per their contract
- Approved by OSD

Match/Cost Sharing Requirement: There is no match/cost sharing requirement

Grant Evaluation Rubric and Scoring: Wisconsin Fast Forward is a competitive grant program. All applications will be reviewed by internal and/or external reviewers and rated on a 100-point scale, based upon the following point values:
- Project Need (up to 25 points)
- Program Design, Cost and Implementation (up to 25 points)
- Program Objectives and Outcomes (up to 25 points)
- Economic Impact (up to 25 points)

The Evaluation Rubric and Scoresheet is available at: http://www.wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm.

Important Dates: Grants are due by Monday November 26, 2018 at 3 p.m. Complete applications must be submitted electronically to WisconsinFastForward@dwd.wisconsin.gov.

GPA Released:	November 19, 2018
Proposals Accepted Via Email:	Email complete applications and attachments to WisconsinFastForward@dwd.wisconsin.gov by 3 p.m. on November 26th, 2018.
Intent to Award Announcement:	December 7, 2018
Anticipated Contract Start Date:	December 17, 2018
Funding Disbursement:	On a rolling basis, upon verification of approved submitted purchases, purchase orders, invoices, and related project costs.
Contract End Date:	December 31, 2020

Eligibility: For an application to be considered for funding, the following conditions must be met:
- Only a government entity that represents all 16 technical colleges in the state can apply.

Eligible Expenses: Expanded WFF funds shall be used for direct project expenses. These include:

Grant Eligible Expenses (See Budget Guidelines for details):

- Instructional delivery and related materials.
- Supplies and materials for training and/or instruction (an item must cost less than $5,000 and have a lifespan of less than one year).
- Activities associated with overall project coordination, recruitment, marketing to stakeholders and mentor training.
- Participant transportation costs.
- Tuition reimbursement (may use this expense as cash/in-kind match).
- General grant administration activities (not to exceed 10% of grant amount requested).

Ineligible Expenses (See Budget Guidelines for details):

WFF funds may not be used for:

- The purchase of real estate or other capital assets/equipment.
- Facility construction or remodeling.
- Traditional public or private Kindergarten–12th grade education (existing and/or general core curriculum).
- Participant incentives/rewards.
- Participant wages and fringe benefits (may use this expense as cash/in-kind match).

Supplement not Supplant: All funding identified as "leveraged" or "in-kind" must be new funds and cannot replace existing federal, state or local government funding. Substituting existing funds with state grant funds will result in additional fiscal monitoring and may result in an audit. Violations of permissible expenses may result in suspension of current or future funds under this program, repayment of monies awarded under this grant and possible civil and/or criminal penalties.

Contract: The Expanded WFF Technical College System Grant Program applications that are funded under this GPA will be required to execute a binding contract with DWD before any expenses are incurred for which reimbursement is expected.

Grant Reporting Requirement: Grantees will be required to submit regular project updates with reimbursement requests, trainee progress reports, pre- and post-training reports, and a final project report.

Additionally, applicants and their partners may be subject to program and fiscal audits by the DWD as defined in the contract. The funded project should produce quantifiable outcomes and areas of impact for the State of Wisconsin.

The applicant should address the goals and projected outcomes for the proposed training program, such as:

- Plans for working with disadvantaged populations, to include: at-risk students, students with disabilities, students with economic disadvantages, and/or minority students.

- Description of recruitment methods
- Description of the activities and/or certifications that will be targeted and may be pursued by program participants
- Regional or local labor market data to support the selection of specific industry sectors or career pathways for occupational training certification.
- Sustainability plan for program continuation after the grant ends.