



**June 2018**

**WORKER TRAINING GRANTS  
for  
Manufacturing  
Transportation  
Logistics  
and  
Construction Sectors  
for  
The City of Racine**

Award Amount: \$5,000 to \$400,000

Deadline is Wednesday June 13 at 4:00 p.m.

## Contact Information

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Racine County is experiencing unprecedented economic development, and that economic development is translating into high demand to increase substantially the number of residents entering the construction and advanced manufacturing industries and/or enhance the skill of incumbent workers already in these sectors. As part of its proactive strategy to respond rapidly to the extraordinary job growth and partner with regional businesses to enhance their competitiveness, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is issuing this Grant Program Announcement (GPA).

**Wisconsin Fast Forward Program:** The Wisconsin Fast Forward 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.

This grant opportunity is for employers who can demonstrate a critical need for skilled workers and are seeking Wisconsin Fast Forward training grants for a customized skills training program. A skilled workforce is vital to economic development and community growth in Wisconsin. The need for skilled labor is typically driven by local and regional markets, requires specific expertise and/or skill credentials and must be readily available to meet work schedules and work plans.

The Wisconsin Fast Forward program encourages increased collaboration between Wisconsin's workforce trainers and employers 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 employer(s).

The long-term goal of the Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training grant program is to encourage partnership between employer(s) and local or regional economic development organizations, workforce development boards, post-secondary institutions, and private training providers. 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.

**Legislative Authority:** Find Wisconsin Fast Forward legislation in state statutes at: [Reports & Resources](#).

**Administrative Rules:** The rules governing the Wisconsin Fast Forward program are included in [Chapter DWD 801](#).

**Grant Program Announcement Summary:** OSD is seeking grant applications that address a specific workforce need in the City of Racine. According to job forecasts, Construction related employment typically pays a life-sustaining wage that is projected to continue growing through 2024. Racine County average annual manufacturing wage is \$69,690 as compared to the average wage of \$45,700 for all jobs. Racine County average annual construction wage is \$55,440 as compared to the average wage of \$45,700 for all jobs. Wisconsin average annual transportation and warehousing wage is \$41,230.

This Grant Program Announcement (GPA) is open for the construction, manufacturing, transportation, and logistics industry sectors and related occupations targeting the City of Racine.

Applications must propose a *customized training program* that:

- Serves City of Racine residents and businesses;
- Connects with training providers in Racine County;
- Has not been previously offered by the applicant/consortium;
- Mitigates an employer's critical workforce problem;
- Addresses a documented workforce demand;
- Is supported by local, regional, or statewide labor data;
- Results in training participants finding and retaining employment and/or results in incumbent workers earning higher wages post-training completion;
- Provides trainees with the education and skills determined necessary by the employer(s) to enhance the stability and growth of the business;
- Provides opportunities for income and career growth for trainees; and
- Includes at least one City of Racine employer committing to the employment of these workers and/or incumbent worker wage increases, unless precluded under an existing union contract.

Employment categories and trainee cohorts to be identified in the application include the following:

- Unemployed Individual: Trainees who are not employed at the time of training.
- Underemployed Worker: Trainees who currently work below skill level or part-time, but desire full-time work at the time of training. Underemployed worker trainees will gain new and better employment because of the training.
- New Hires: Trainees who are employed at an employer placement partner after the application date and will be on the payroll of the employer placement partner at the time the training starts.
- Incumbent Workers: Trainees who are employed at an employer placement partner prior to, and at the time of, application.

Grant applicants are encouraged to consider recruiting potential trainees from at-risk, vulnerable or special populations, such as: chronically unemployed individuals, economically disadvantaged individuals, ex-offenders (trainees reintegrating into communities, or about to reintegrate into communities, when they are released after correctional time is served), first time graduates (trainees who have received a high school diploma or equivalent within the last two years), minorities, people with disabilities, veterans (trainees who have been discharged or released from active duty in the Armed Forces under honorable or general discharge conditions as defined in 5 U.S.C. 2101(2), "Armed Forces" is defined under 5 U.S.C. 2101(2) as the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard) and W-2 recipients. If the trainee cohort includes individuals from these populations and effectively identifies strategies for recruiting and retaining these trainees, the grant review committee may award additional points when scoring the application.

Successful grant applications will include customized training programs defined by employers and developed to meet special requirements of their business (or the consortium of employers participating in the grant program), it being recognized that *training does not become "customized" simply by rearranging or reconfiguring training that is otherwise available through existing educational and training resources. The OSD recommends that customized training programs focus on skills attainment and certifications.* Skills attainment develops skills that directly benefit the workers receiving the training by increasing their mastery of their occupation in their field of employment and/or provide new skills for new product lines or business expansion.

**Geographic Location:** This funding opportunity is targeting the City of Racine. The application must include at least one City of Racine employer committing to the employment of successful trainees under this grant and/or incumbent worker wage increases, unless precluded under an existing union contract.

**Application Forms, Instructions, Checklists, and Process:** Applications must be submitted online. You can access the online application, along with the application instructions, informational webinars, related guidelines and checklists at: [http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff\\_standard.htm](http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm).

**Due Diligence:** All applicants are required to complete a Due Diligence form prior to gaining access to the application.

**Duration of Training Courses:** Grants support short- to medium-term training with each course or module lasting no longer than 12 months.

**Training Project Period:** All grant activities must be conducted during the Training Project Period. These activities include curriculum development, training, pre- and post-training activities, wage increases and meeting match requirements. The Training Project Period can be no longer than 2 years. *The Training Project Period begins no earlier than the date the contract is fully executed by all parties.*

**Grant Amount:** From \$5,000 to \$400,000 per Grantee. Grant and match expenditures must be incurred during the Training Project Period. All eligible grant expenditures will be reimbursed when grant and match expenses are:

- Documented by the Grantee in accordance with the guidelines available at [http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/guidance\\_to\\_file%20reimbursement\\_request.pdf](http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/guidance_to_file%20reimbursement_request.pdf); and
- Approved by OSD.

If awarded, 5% of each reimbursement will be retained until grant closure. Final disbursement of this retainage amount will be made when the Grantee complies with all conditions of the grant as stipulated in the contract and may be pro-rated or withheld based on the extent to which contract conditions are met.

**Match/Cost Sharing Requirement:** Cash or in-kind match equal to the amount of the grant award is required. Letters of Commitment from the employers, partners and/or applicant documenting match are required in the application.

**Grant Evaluation Rubric and Scoring:** Wisconsin Fast Forward is a competitive grant program. All applications will be reviewed by internal and external reviewers and rated on a 100-point scale, based upon the following point values:

- Project Need (up to 20 points)
- Training Program Design, Cost and Implementation (up to 20 points)
- Training Objectives and Outcomes (up to 20 points)
- Economic Impact (up to 15 points)
- Capacity Building (up to 10 points)
- Economic Opportunity Enhancements (up to 15 points)

The Grant Evaluation Rubric and Score Sheet is available online at: [http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/wff\\_eval\\_rubric\\_score\\_sheet.pdf](http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/wff_eval_rubric_score_sheet.pdf).

**Important Dates:**

Application Opens	June 11, 2018
Applications Due	June 13, 2018 at 4:00pm
Evaluation Committee Meets	June 15, 2018
Intent to Award	June 18, 2018

**Eligibility:** For an application to be considered for funding, the following conditions must be met.

- The application must include at least one employer with a City of Racine location with a stated commitment to hire successful trainees or to increase wages for successful incumbent worker trainees.
- Post-training wages must be at least 200 percent of individual federal poverty level wages (\$11.60 per hour). If post-training wages are below this amount, please provide the reason they are lower.
- The application must include a complete description of the customized training program and anticipated outcomes for individuals.
- The employer must have at least one City of Racine location and the trainees must be based out of that City of Racine location.
- Occupations trained must be occupations that are in-demand in Wisconsin now or will be in-demand within the next ten years, as determined by labor market information specific to Racine County.
- Applications must include one or more partner(s), including: local or regional economic development organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, workforce development boards, post-secondary educational institutions or private training providers. The applicant must designate a fiscal agent in the application.

**Cost per Trainee:** Below is the average cost per trainee by industry sector. This amount is not a firm limit to the cost per trainee, as individual occupations within these sectors can be more costly to train; these are simply historic averages. Costs *significantly* higher than these averages should be explained.

Transportation, Logistics, Distribution	\$2,839
Construction	\$1,669
Manufacturing	\$1,144

**Eligible Expenses:** Wisconsin Fast Forward funds shall be used for training-related expenses, which may include instructor salaries and fringe benefits, consultant/contractual expenses and training materials and supplies. For details on eligible expenses, see

[http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/guidance\\_to\\_file%20reimbursement\\_request.pdf](http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/guidance_to_file%20reimbursement_request.pdf).

**Ineligible Expenses:** Wisconsin Fast Forward 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, tuition or trainee wages, stipends or fringe benefits. For details on ineligible expenses, see [http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/guidance\\_to\\_file%20reimbursement\\_request.pdf](http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/guidance_to_file%20reimbursement_request.pdf).

**Supplement not Supplant:** All funding identified as "match" 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.

**Letters of Commitment:**

- **Employer Letters of Commitment to Hire:** Letters of Commitment to hire trainees from the proposed training program or to raise wages for incumbent workers will be required from the participating Employer Placement Partners. The letter should clearly indicate the number of successful trainees to be hired and/or incumbent worker wage increases. The employer's letter

should also include commitment to any match funding and/or participation in the planning and implementation of the training program.

- **Partner Letters of Commitment or Support:** Training and Other Partner Letters of Commitment should include an attestation regarding match resources that are available to contribute to the project. In addition, partners who are not willing to commit to job placements, wage increases, or match funding, but support the proposed training model, may submit a Letter of Support for the project.

**Contract:** The Wisconsin Fast Forward 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, documentation of match contributions, 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 Department of Workforce Development as defined in the contract. The customized training project should produce quantifiable outcomes and impacts for the employer, training participants and the State of Wisconsin. The applicant should address projected outcomes for the proposed training program, such as: training new hires, incumbent workers retaining employment, earning higher wages, increasing their skill attainment and/or receiving industry-recognized credentials.

The Grantee will be responsible for tracking and monitoring individual workers receiving training under the grant through the completion of pre- and post-training reports and a final report on the net jobs; including type of trainee served as defined in the *Type of Trainees* section of this GPA and their related wages and/or wage increases. The anticipated result is a skilled workforce that is well-suited for employment and advancement opportunities in Wisconsin.

**Grant Application Tools:** Information on submitting a grant application and other grant writing tools can be found on the Wisconsin Fast Forward website:

[http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff\\_standard.htm#adminTools](http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm#adminTools)