

## Wisconsin Fast Forward

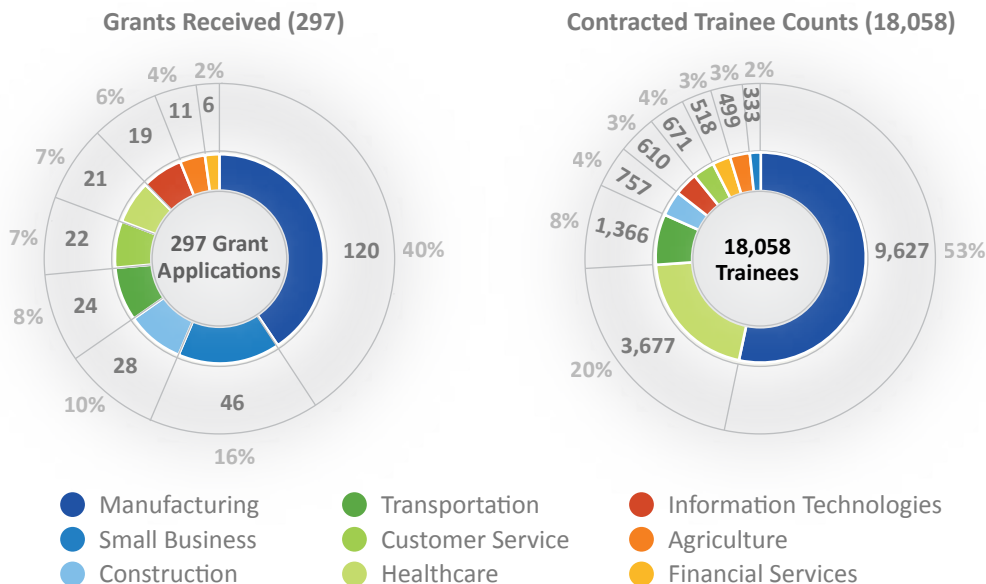
The State of Wisconsin's \$30 million total investment in the Wisconsin Fast Forward (2013 Wisconsin Act 9) program serves as a national best practice model for assisting hundreds of employers and thousands of employees with addressing the skill gap through customized skills training grants. With overwhelming support from the State Legislature, Governor Scott Walker signed the program into law in March 2013 to:

1. Create the Department of Workforce Development – Office of Skills Development to serve any Wisconsin business seeking skilled workers.
2. Authorize staff positions to administrate the grant program and serve as a technical resource for Wisconsin businesses.
3. Fund, develop and implement an enhanced Labor Market Information System.

The Wisconsin Fast Forward grant program cultivates a strong environment for private sector job creation by helping businesses train highly skilled workers to fill current job openings and meet ongoing skill requirements. As a catalyst for talent development, the program encourages increased collaboration between Wisconsin's businesses and workforce training partners for the development and implementation of customized and sustainable short- and medium-term training programs that place workers in long-term positions with opportunities for professional growth and economic advancement.

Program	Allocation	Applicant Requested	Contracted Grant Amount
<b>Round 1</b>	\$2,700,000	\$4,071,700	\$2,599,158
<b>Round 2</b>	\$7,500,000	\$5,622,313	\$3,424,005
<b>Round 3</b>	\$8,000,000	\$11,048,041	\$6,322,427
<b>Round 4</b>	\$8,000,000	\$12,014,939	\$5,725,580
<b>Milwaukee 2017</b>	\$1,000,000	\$835,964	\$476,319

### Occupational Areas Addressed in Grant Rounds 1-4 and Milwaukee 2017:



## Program Success

### Fox Valley Workforce Development Board

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board received a \$229,000 grant to train current employees of 11 businesses for career-advancing jobs and higher wages in Industrial Maintenance. Participating businesses selected training content for delivery by Fox Valley Technical College in an accelerated format across multiple shifts. Trainees were paid by their employers to attend training once a week for eight hours over two semesters.

In May 2016, 46 Industrial Maintenance trainees graduated from the program. Program graduates earned 10 technical college credits, a completion certificate and the skills required for career advancement with wage increases of up to \$3 per hour.

Learn more about available grants at

[WisconsinFastForward.com](http://WisconsinFastForward.com)

## Blueprint for Prosperity

The *Blueprint for Prosperity* initiative was enacted in March of 2014 to invest \$35.4 million in the Wisconsin Fast Forward program to:

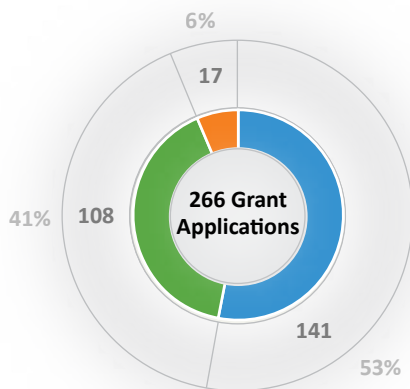
1. Reduce Wisconsin Technical College System waiting lists for high-demand occupation training.
2. Provide high school pupils with skills and industry-recognized certification for high-demand occupations.
3. Enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, including service-disabled veterans.

With these enhancements, Wisconsin Fast Forward granting authority increased to include additional training program funding for targeted audiences.

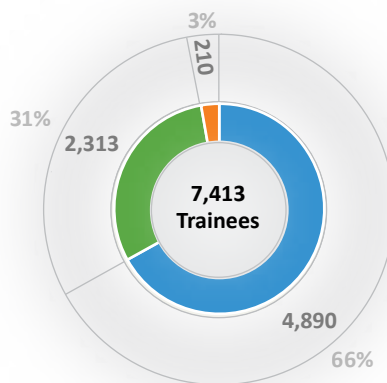
Program	Allocation	Applicant Requested	Contracted Grant Amount
<i>Technical College Wait List</i>	\$31,000,000	\$38,696,551	\$27,669,151
<i>High School Pupil Round 1</i>	\$1,500,000	\$3,209,450	\$2,065,652
<i>High School Pupil Round 2</i>	\$3,000,000	\$3,124,924	\$2,422,220
<i>High School Pupil Round 3</i>	\$3,000,000	\$2,086,823	\$803,512
<i>Training Workers w/ Disabilities</i>	\$1,000,000	\$1,189,112	\$621,385
<i>Project SEARCH</i>	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000

The below graphs demonstrate the demand for high value job skills training provided through the *Blueprint for Prosperity* initiative.

Grants Received (266)



Contracted Trainee Counts (7,413)



- Training Workers w/ Disabilities
- High School Pupil Training Rounds 1-3
- Technical College Wait List Reduction



## Program Success

### Gateway Technical College

Gateway Technical College received *Blueprint for Prosperity* initiative funding to provide Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining instruction for up to 40 inmates at Racine Correctional Institution prior to their release. Inmates who were selected to participate in training were required to have a record of good behavior and must have been within 18 months of their release. Training occurred in DOC's self-contained mobile CNC lab that can be moved between DOC correctional facilities.

"Wisconsin and DWD have pursued several initiatives in partnership with job centers and corrections officials to assist citizens in overcoming barriers and realizing successful re-entry into the community. Through this partnership, with funding from a Wisconsin Fast Forward – *Blueprint for Prosperity* grant, men and women under the custody or supervision of the Department of Corrections have an opportunity to learn the job skills that employers demand."

- DWD Secretary Ray Allen