

Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward Technical Education Equipment Grant

Questions and Answers

1. Can you clarify the process and how I apply for the Technical Education Equipment Grant GPA?

Visit the Wisconsin Fast Forward web page (http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm) and scroll down to "Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward Grants." Below the description and details for "Technical Education Equipment Grants," you will find links from which to download the following:

- 1) the Grant Program Announcement (<http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/gpa-tech-edu-equip-grant.pdf>) which provides information on the grant program and directions for the application;
- 2) the Application (<http://wisconsinfastforward.com/doc/tech-edu-equip-application.docx>), a Microsoft Word document that **must be submitted in Word format**, that is, with a .docx extension – NOT as a .pdf, Google link or Google document; and
- 3) the Evaluation Rubric (<http://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/grant-eval-rubric-scoresheet.pdf>), which provides the criteria with which applications will be evaluated.

Answer the questions in the Application by following the instructions in the Grant Program Announcement and the evaluation criteria in the Rubric. After completion, save the Application. To submit your application, email it along with your letters of support and any other documents, to WisconsinFastForward@dwd.wisconsin.gov, by 3 pm CST on April 8, 2021.

2. Why was my access to the WFF system as an application writer denied?

The Technology Education Equipment Grant GPA does not use the Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant online application portal. The application and GPA documents can be accessed from the Wisconsin Fast Forward website at http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm For more information about how to apply please see the response to question #1.

3. What is the percentage of match that is required for this grant? Will you explain how Match works?

As stated on page 2 of the Grant Program Announcement (GPA), matching funds equal to 200 percent of the awarded grant amount are required per Wis. Stat. § 106.275 (1)(c) and Wis. Admin. Code § DWD 802.06. Match may be in the form of money or monetary value of equipment that is contributed from private sources, the applicant, or both.

As stated on page 5 of the GPA, funding identified as "match" or "in-kind" must be **new funds**. Match is considered an expense, just like an equipment purchase. "New funds" means that the Match expense, just like the purchase of the equipment funded by the grant, must be incurred during the grant period. The grant period is the period of time occurring between the contract execution date (the date the contract is signed by all parties) and the contract end date.

Match must be allowed to be used as Match for a grant by the funding source; must relate to the project being proposed in the application; and must be in the possession of the school's budget during the grant period. The grant period is the timespan occurring between contract execution date (the date the contract is signed by all parties) and contract end date. If eligible, Match dollars must be spent on the project described in the application during the grant period.

4. What are the minimum and maximum grant request amounts? Is Match included?

The minimum funding request is \$5,000, which would require \$10,000 in Match. The maximum funding request is \$50,000, which would require \$100,000 in Match. Match is not included in the grant request amount. Match can be cash or the cash value of additional or donated equipment that may be provided by the school district or by private sources.

5. We are currently remodeling our Technical Education classrooms; could the district monies that are being used for this remodeling be considered a match?

Yes, as long as the remodeling expenses are incurred during the grant period; that is, the period of time occurring between the contract execution date (the date the contract is signed by all parties) and the contract end date.

6. We have earned a CTE Incentive Grant that we want to use as part of our matching funds. The dollars are in our account now and can be spent how we choose. Is it a possibility to use these dollars as Match?

You may use CTE Incentive Grant funds that have been paid to and received by schools by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as Match. Perkins Grant funds, donated funds, or funds allocated in a budget or a passed referendum are some other funding types that are allowable as Match, as long as the funds are in the district's budget or account during the grant period.

7. We are determining if we are going to write for another fast forward grant. It does not appear we can use an instructor's salary as a match beyond their training and any admin oversight, is that correct?

Teacher salary would not be an allowable match expense. The allowable match expenses are stated in the GPA:

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Grant funds may supplement existing funds, but may not supplant existing funds. This also applies to Match. Teacher salary is an existing local expense – the school district pays that teacher a salary to conduct teaching activities, whether or not there is a grant. Therefore, use of the teacher salary as match would be considered supplanting, as the salary is not a new, unique expense that is incurred specifically in support of the proposal.

8. We currently have a piece of technical equipment; however, we have not had it installed yet. Installation will require modification to the power supply as well as other minor modifications. Is this an allowable cost under this Program?

Eligible expenses for the Technical Education Equipment grants are outlined on page 5 of the GPA and are limited to the acquisition of equipment that is used in advanced manufacturing fields in the workplace, together with any software necessary for the operation of the equipment, and any instructional materials necessary to train pupils in the operation of that equipment. Unfortunately, installation or building modification expenses are not considered an eligible expense for this program.

9. Are private schools eligible to apply for the Technical Education Equipment Grant GPA?

Per Wis. Stat. § 106.275 and Wis. Admin. Code § DWD 802.06, eligible applicants are limited to Wisconsin School Districts and may apply for no more than one grant for this round of funding.

10. Do all parts of the WFF Technical Education Equipment grant need to be submitted as Word documents or if supporting documents can be attached or emailed as PDF documents.

The letters of support or describing Match may be submitted as PDF documents.