



Wisconsin Fast Forward – Blueprint for Prosperity

Updated April 2014

Governor Scott Walker proposed an additional \$35.4 million in funds for the Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training program as part of his "Blueprint for Prosperity" initiative announced during the 2014 State of the State address in January. The legislature approved the additional funds with overwhelming bipartisan majorities.

The funds are targeted to three areas:

- **Reducing wait lists in high-demand fields at technical colleges.** DWD has already engaged Wisconsin's technical colleges to identify their needs and the resources necessary to mitigate this need.
- **Encouraging collaborative projects among high schools, technical colleges, businesses, and others to increase opportunities that result in industry-recognized certifications for high school pupils.** DWD issued the grant program announcement and application materials on March 28.
- **Programs that support the Governor's Year of the Better Bottom Line initiative, which helps people with disabilities enter the workforce.** A grant program announcement for employer-defined training programs will be finalized in the coming weeks.
- Additional Wisconsin Fast Forward - Blueprint for Prosperity funds will go directly into an **expansion of the existing Project SEARCH program** from seven Wisconsin sites to 27. Project SEARCH is operated by partners including DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. It helps high school students with disabilities transition into employment.



→ BLUEPRINT FOR PROSPERITY

Blueprint for Prosperity

- DWD's Office of Skills Development will administer the Wisconsin Fast Forward – Blueprint for Prosperity program in partnership with various external partners, including the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin Technical College System, Department of Public Instruction, and others, to ensure that the funds are disbursed quickly and efficiently.
- The grants build on the strengths of the Wisconsin Fast Forward program by engaging businesses to develop training programs that result in individuals who are trained to their specifications, resulting in an increase likelihood of a good match and a permanent hire.