

## Department of Workforce Development Wisconsin Fast Forward Teacher Training and Recruitment Grant FAQ

- 1) If school districts and public Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) are not eligible applicants, can a 501(c)(3) be the applicant (for example, an educational foundation) and pass-through funds through to a school district or IHE?
  - A. Funds may not be "passed through" or transferred from the grant award recipient to another entity or individual. Rather, awarded funds are used to reimburse grant award recipients for approved, eligible expenses. Please refer to the Eligibility requirements detailed on page 3 and Eligible Expenses detailed on page 4 of the Teacher Training and Recruitment for Non-Profits Grant Program Announcement which is available for download at the [Wisconsin Fast Forward website](#).
  
- 2) Is a tax-exempt unit of a state executive agency, county, or municipal government eligible for this grant?
  - A. No. According to Wis. Stat. § 106.277(1)(a), an applicant must be described under section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under 501(c)(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

501(c)(3) and (4) provide:

(3) Corporations, and any community chest, fund, or foundation, organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary, or educational purposes, or to foster national or international amateur sports competition (but only if no part of its activities involve the provision of athletic facilities or equipment), or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided in subsection (h)), and which does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

(4)(A) Civic leagues or organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare, or local associations of employees, the membership of which is limited to the employees of a designated person or persons in a particular municipality, and the net earnings of which are devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes.

(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an entity unless no part of the net earnings of such entity inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. 26 USC § 501(c)(3), (4).

An entity of a state executive agency, county or municipal government is not described as such.

Furthermore, 501 (a) provides for organizations described under 501 (c) or (d) [religious and apostolic organizations] or 401 (a) [pension, profit-sharing, and stock bonus plans] to be exempt from taxation. 26 USC § 501(c)(a). An entity of the state, county or municipal government is not tax exempt under those provisions.

3) Does the grant allow 501 (c) organization for training and licensing for pupil services positions?

A. This opportunity is specifically for recruiting, training, and licensing of teachers to teach in public or private schools located in low-income or urban school districts in Wisconsin as defined in the Grant Program Announcement (GPA). If the pupil service positions have teaching responsibilities/require teacher licensing, they could be included.

If the grant program doesn't fit your training needs, there are additional grant opportunities available on the [Wisconsin Fast Forward webpage](#) to review.

4) Do applications need to include elements of training teachers AND recruiting teachers? Can funds be used to retain new teachers?

A. 1) This grant program seeks to recruit, train, and prepare individuals to become teachers to work in low-income or urban Wisconsin schools, which may include licensing teachers to meet Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) standards. Training teachers is large component of this program and one of the goals of this program is to increase the number of teacher's working towards a teaching license. 2) This grant does not fund the costs of retention for already licensed and hired teachers. Eligible expenses that will be reimbursed by this grant are direct projects costs that include:

- Program design and implementation
- Activities essential to teacher recruitment, training, and DPI licensing
- Tuition for courses required for licensure or included in an established teacher development program
- Administrative, limited to ten percent of the total grant award

5) Can workforce boards apply for this grant? Eligibility requirements state, "Applicant operates a program to recruit and prepare individuals to teach in public or private schools located in low-income or urban school districts in Wisconsin" and must be registered as a 501(c)(3) or (c)(4).

A. Based on grant requirements, applicants must meet both eligibility requirements to be eligible to apply under this GPA.

6) Are institutions of higher education eligible applicants? The GPA states that organizations that operate under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and are exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible to apply. As an institution of higher education, we are tax exempt but under Section 170.

A. School districts and public institutes of higher education are not eligible applicants, due to not being registered 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) non-profits under the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under section 501(a).

7) The announcement states that applicants must be a 501c3 or 501c4. Can a Technical College is tax-exempt but does not fall under those two status brackets, but the college's foundation does, be eligible to apply?

A. If your organization can provide documentation of the following, then your organization would be eligible:

- Applicant must be a registered 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) non-profit under the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under section 501(a).
  - Applications must include a copy of the applicant's IRS 501(c) determination letter or IRS 501(c) affirmation letter
- Applicant operates a program to recruit and prepare individuals to teach in public or private schools located in low-income or urban school districts in Wisconsin.
  - Applications detail past performance and experience with programming, as outlined in the rubric Project Needs Statement.

However, funds may not be "passed through" or transferred from the grant award recipient to another entity or individual. Rather, awarded funds are used to reimburse grant award recipients for approved, eligible expenses. School districts and public institutes of higher education are not eligible applicants, due to not meeting the first registration requirement.

8) Could a 501(c)3 public charter or private school that partners with a Department of Public Instruction-approved educator prep program, serve as the applicant for the grant? Or could such an organization serve as the lead applicant with a collaborative of urban schools to partner with an approved prep program?

A. As stated in the Grant Program Announcement, eligible applicants must be registered 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) non-profits under the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) along with operating a program to recruit and prepare individuals to teach in public or private schools located in low-income or urban school districts in Wisconsin. Funds may not be "passed through" or transferred from the grant award recipient to another entity or individual.

9) Does the DWD anticipate offering this opportunity again sometime this year?

A. The availability of this funding opportunity in the future will be dependent on the state budget for the next fiscal year. School districts and public institutes of higher education are not eligible applicants, due to not being registered 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) non-profit under the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under section 501(a).

10) The GPA states that grants will be awarded on a cost reimbursement contract. Can those funds be transferred to pay students tuition directly when billed, in other words, a student doesn't need to pay the tuition and then apply for reimbursement.

A. Funds may not be "passed through" or transferred from the grant recipient to another entity or individual. Rather, awarded funds are to be used to reimburse grant award recipients for approved, eligible expenses that they incur and submit to DWD with appropriate documentation.

11) How do I contact the Wisconsin Fast Forward staff with other questions?

A. Contact the Wisconsin Fast Forward staff at [wisconsinfastforward@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:wisconsinfastforward@dwd.wisconsin.gov)