

Department of Workforce Development Wisconsin Fast Forward Standard Industry Sector Worker Training Grants FAQ

1. Is there a deadline for Wisconsin Fast Forward grant applications?

See the WFF website regarding the current deadline for applications.

2. How competitive is the Wisconsin Fast Forward grant opportunity per industry?

Applications submitted per industry varies each funding round.

3. Can the training include seasonal, part-time, or just full-time employees?

Training can include seasonal, part-time, or full-time trainees. Applications must propose a workforce training program which shows successful trainee progression resulting in hiring unemployed workers to fill vacant or new positions, improving employment for underemployed workers (seasonal to temporary/permanent or part-time to full-time), obtaining increased wages, more hours, and/or permanent employment by incumbent employees. Specific deliverables will be dependent on employer needs.

4. If the training program lasts more than 12 months, but a course is only 8 weeks, would that be considered allowable?

Yes, grant projects can comprise of one or more courses, each lasting no longer than 12 months. Projects can last up to two years.

5. Can you provide any guidance on what constitutes "reasonable cost per trainee"?

Reach out to the Wisconsin Fast Forward staff and the average cost per trainee can be provided for your industry.

6. Can the training be used for individuals from the re-entry programs for inmates?

Projects can be used to train justice-involved persons who have been the subject to any stage of the criminal justice process. Projects require an employment placement partner to commit to hiring the trainees that complete training. Funding cannot be used to replace existing federal, state, or local government funding.

7. Please review the required match percentage. Can you please provide an example?

A 50% match of the total award amount (not the total project) is required. Therefore, a \$20,000 award would require a \$10,000 match. Potential match sources vary per project. Trainee wages cannot be funded through Wisconsin Fast Forward funding but can be used as matching funds.

8. My company is a training provider, would we still be eligible to apply?

The Wisconsin Fast Forward program is for employers who can demonstrate a critical need for skilled workers to develop and implement a business-led skills training program. A training provider could apply for funding but would need to have an employment placement partner committing to hire the trainees that complete training. The training would also need to be new and customized to meet the needs of the employment placement partner.

9. Once expenses are paid on the project, what is the turnaround time for reimbursement?

Reimbursements will be reviewed within 30 days of submission.

10. Does the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) post a list of previous grant winners with program details?

A press release announcing the awarded grants for each GPA is posted on the Wisconsin Fast Forward website. The press release provides a list of projects funded and a brief project description. No other current list of grantees is provided,

11. If we don't use the grant money for curriculum development, does that mean that any curriculum that is developed during the grant timeline also belongs to Wisconsin?

Only curriculum developed with Wisconsin Fast Forward funds will become property of DWD and may be distributed to the public.

12. As it relates to training for the WFF program, projects must be for NEW training, meaning the training can't have been performed/provided before?

Training must be for new customized training not routinely provided by the employer.

13. Does DWD have a method or association that helps connect employers with training providers?

DWD does not currently have a tool to connect applicants with a training provider.

14. If my company applies for the grant, does that mean that my company must be the employer of the trainees, or does that mean we can have other companies agree to employ the trainees?

Trainees can be employed by the company applying or by employee placement partners. A letter of commitment from employee placement partners must provide a firm commitment to hire trainees.

15. If I have further questions, what's the best way to contact the Wisconsin Fast Forward staff?

Contact the Wisconsin Fast Forward staff at wisconsinfastforward@dwd.wisconsin.gov