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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

## **DWD Secretary Baumbach: Wisconsin Receives \$2.5 Million Grant to Advance Job Opportunities for Residents with Disabilities**

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach today announced that Wisconsin has received a \$2.5 million federal grant to promote education, training and employment for individuals with disabilities.

“By providing career opportunities and training that links individuals to gainful employment, Wisconsin will expand its talent pool, meet employer demand for skilled workers, and ultimately, help participants achieve economic self-sufficiency,” Secretary Baumbach said. “This is one more way we are realizing our vision to make Wisconsin the workforce of choice.”

The Wisconsin grant will be used to hire Disability Resource Coordinators to assist local partners in promoting a holistic approach to ensuring that residents are able to access necessary programs to aid them in their search for employment. DWD also will use the funding to provide youth and adults with disabilities a consistent contact to work with them as they sign up for training opportunities and seek employment.

Disability Resource Coordinators will work within several of the state’s 11 Workforce Development Areas to operate cross-agency teams that will include members of the community, technical colleges, local departments of health and other partners to ensure that program participants are able to access the necessary tools to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Wisconsin was one of seven states to receive a total of \$21 million in funding as a part of the Disability Employment Initiative. The funding is administered by the United States Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration and Office of Disability Employment Policy.

With approximately 1,600 employees, DWD works with employers to fill jobs, provides training and employment services to workers, enforces workers’ rights, and administers Unemployment Insurance and Worker’s Compensation programs.