
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 22, 2014

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WIWorkforce>

On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

Secretary Newson: Nearly \$1 Million in Wisconsin Fast Forward Grants Approved; Funds Will Support Training for Approximately 600 Workers

Grants will support job creation, wage increases at dozens of Wisconsin employers

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary (DWD) Reggie Newson today announced DWD intends to award 14 applicants nearly \$1 million in worker training grants through the Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) initiative. The grant awardees cover 38 employers representing 15 Wisconsin counties and will train approximately 600 workers in construction, transportation, and financial services occupations.

"Governor Walker has made developing Wisconsin's workforce a top priority, and through the innovative, employer-driven training programs that Wisconsin Fast Forward covers, workers will develop the skills needed to fill jobs employers have available today," Secretary Newson said. "In addition, the successful models that the program supports can be used to help other employers fill their labor market needs."

Governor Scott Walker proposed the Wisconsin Fast Forward grant program in early 2013. Both houses of the legislature approved the bill with significant bipartisan majorities. \$15 million was appropriated to fund flexible, demand-driven training for companies that have identified a specific workforce need. Employers can partner with other businesses as well as training providers, workforce development boards, economic development organizations, technical colleges, and others.

The DWD Office of Skills Development (OSD), which was created within DWD when the Wisconsin Fast Forward legislation passed and is responsible for administering the WFF program, developed a transparent and accountable process that enables companies to easily apply for grants. All applications are evaluated by representatives from OSD, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin Technical College System, and local chambers of commerce.

OSD is responsible for closely monitoring grantees to ensure that funds are spent appropriately and that agreed-upon outcomes are met surrounding wages and employment. Underemployed and unemployed workers will be hired after the completion of the training program and incumbent workers will receive a wage increase.

During his 2014 State of the State address, Governor Scott Walker proposed a \$35.4 million expansion of the WFF worker training program as part of his *Blueprint for Prosperity* to focus on three populations:

- Reducing wait lists at Wisconsin technical colleges in high-demand fields like manufacturing and information technology;
- Developing innovative school-to-work collaborations between businesses, school districts, technical colleges, and other partners that result in industry-recognized certifications in high-demand areas; and
- Enhancing employment opportunities for workers with disabilities as part of the Governor's Year of the Better Bottom Line initiative that seeks to connect disabled individuals with employment.

(more)

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>

DWD previously announced its intent to award more than \$2.1 million to support school-to-work programs throughout Wisconsin under Wisconsin Fast Forward - Blueprint for Prosperity. The programs will target a variety of occupations in manufacturing health care, construction, hospitality, and other areas of significant job growth.

DWD is also working closely with stakeholders to identify wait lists at Wisconsin technical colleges and is developing a grant announcement to train workers with disabilities.

Business Partner(s)	County	Intent to Award
CONSTRUCTION		
BOLDT, Forward Electric, H&H Industries, Hooper Corporation, JH Findorff, Miron, Tri-North Builders, Staab Construction Corporation, Wall Tech, and Capitol Underground	Dane, Outagamie, Wood	\$75,000
Zenith Tech	Waukesha	\$44,960
Payne & Dolan	Waukesha	\$44,960
Duerst Insulation Technicians, Thompson Homes, Accurate Insulation Solutions, Beneficial Insulation, Janesville Home and Solar, Insulation Technologies, S&E Insulation, Weatherization Services, Esolutions2, and Dun-Rite Insulation	Milwaukee, Dane, Brown, Jefferson, Rock, Washburn	\$44,164
Northern Concrete Construction	Brown	\$33,000
Menominee Tribal Enterprises, Putnam Log & Pulp, LLC; Tim Dixon Logging; Wayne White Logging, LLC; Duane Gibbs Logging, LLC; and HOH Custom Logging, LLC.	Menominee, Shawano	\$29,917
Riley Construction and ECS Midwest, LLC	Racine, Kenosha	\$23,847
TOTAL		\$295,848
TRANSPORTATION		
Truck Country of Wisconsin	Grant	\$319,930
Veriha Trucking, Inc.	Marinette	\$227,473
Kutzler Express, Inc.	Kenosha	\$32,450
Schneider National, Inc.	Brown	\$28,150
America's Service Line, LLC	Brown	\$11,500
TOTAL		\$619,503
FINANCIAL SERVICES		
Inlanta Mortgage, Inc.	Waukesha	\$54,276
Nicolet National Bank	Brown	\$5,000
TOTAL		\$59,276
GRAND TOTAL		\$974,627

A summary including additional details on each approved application can be found [here](#).

To learn more about Wisconsin Fast Forward, visit WisconsinFastForward.com.