

# Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) Program Overview

March 2016

WISCONSIN



DWD

Department of Workforce Development

WISCONSIN **FAST** FORWARD

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→ BLUEPRINT FOR PROSPERITY

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# Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF)

- The Standard Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) legislation (2013 Wisconsin Act 9) was passed into law in March 2013 with overwhelming bipartisan support.
- Total of \$30 million in State General Purpose Revenue has been made available to Wisconsin businesses for Standard WFF customized worker training grants to enhance the skills and credentials of incumbent workers, new hires, and underemployed and unemployed individuals.
- Funding created the DWD Office of Skills Development to serve as a resource for any Wisconsin business seeking skilled workers and to administer the WFF grant program.
- Funding used to develop and implement an enhanced, cutting-edge Labor Market Information System.



# Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF)

- Standard WFF cultivates a strong environment for private sector job creation by helping Wisconsin businesses train highly skilled workers to fill current job openings and ongoing skill requirements.
- As a catalyst for talent development, the program encourages collaboration between Wisconsin businesses and workforce training partners for the implementation of customized and sustainable short- and medium-term training programs.
- Three rounds of funding have been allocated for GPA's in nine investment categories; 188 applications were received requesting \$20,746,054; intent to award trainees total 14,011 at over 300 businesses; and 146 grant projects have been contracted totaling \$12,345,590.
- Fourth round of funding allocated an additional \$8 million in nine investment categories through the fourth quarter of 2015; intent to awards pending.

# WFF - Blueprint for Prosperity

- Applauded by policy makers for quickly targeting and addressing skill shortages by industry, local geography, and occupation, WFF was expanded in March 2014 when the Blueprint for Prosperity initiative (2013 WI Act 139) was enacted through an additional \$35.4 million to:
  - Reduce Technical College System wait lists in high demand fields
  - Provide high school pupils with skills training and industry-recognized certifications in high demand fields
  - Enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, including service disabled veterans

# WFF - Blueprint for Prosperity

- Blueprint grant awards to date include:
  - \$28,021,052 to 16 Wisconsin Technical Colleges to reduce wait lists for 4,908 students
  - \$4,651,112 to 75 projects to train 2,051 high school pupils in high demand fields (rounds 1 and 2)
  - \$622,340 to enhance employer-driven job opportunities for 210 persons with disabilities
  - \$850,000 to expand Project SEARCH to assist students with disabilities with their transition into the workforce

# High School Pupil Program

- **History of Funding:** HSP Rounds 1 and 2 funded a total of 75 projects to provide 2,051 Wisconsin high school students with skills training, industry-recognized credentials, and employment opportunities
- **Round 3 of funding was released on January 20th with a due date of March 16th, 2016**



# HSP Benefits Key Stakeholders

## ❖ Benefits Trainees

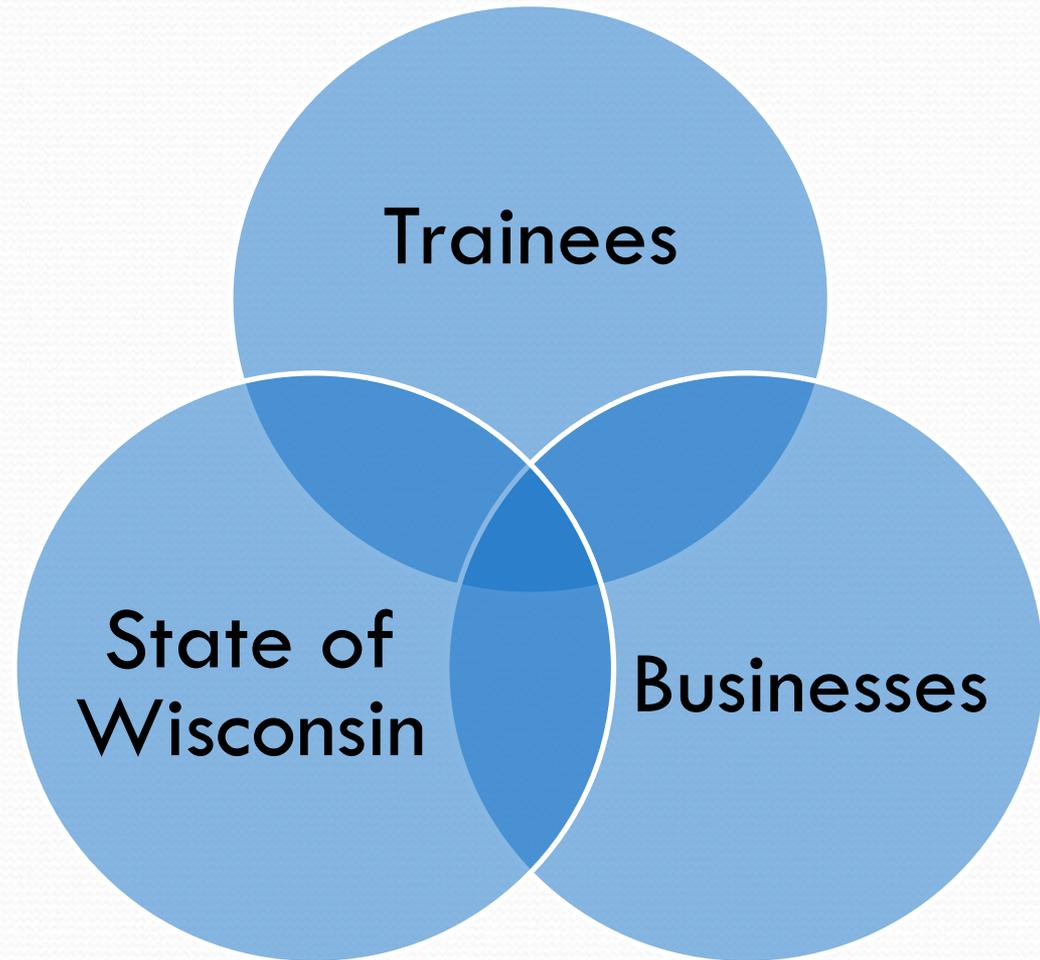
- ☒ Workforce Skills & Awareness
- ☒ Industry-Recognized Certificate
- ☒ Post-Program Employment Opportunities

## ❖ Benefits Wisconsin Businesses

- ☒ Skilled, Innovative Workforce
- ☒ Talent Pipeline
- ☒ Competitiveness

## ❖ Benefits State of Wisconsin

- ☒ Return on Investment (ROI) to taxpayers
- ☒ Transparent and Accountable



# High School Pupil R3 Funding

- ➔ Up to \$3,000,000 available
- ➔ Competitive round of funding
- ➔ Grants may range from \$5,000 to \$150,000
- ➔ 50% match required (\$.50 match to \$1.00 grant)
- ➔ Application Webinars: Feb. 12 & 16 from 9-11 am



# Getting Started

BLUEPRINT FOR PROSPERITY > PUPIL

- Blueprint for Prosperity
- Blueprint Archive
- Skills Development Inquiry
- Grant Program
- Reports & Resources
- What People Are Saying
- Intent to Award Map
- Press & Newsletters
- Contact

## Worker Training Grants for Wisconsin High School Pupils

**Grant ID: BP161HSP**

High School Pupil Worker Training grants support Wisconsin employer-driven workforce programs in collaboration with school districts, educational partners, and/or technical colleges to train and hire high school students. Partnerships include work-based learning, apprenticeship preparation, and dual credit models. Successful projects ensure that graduates receive industry-recognized certifications from the Career and Technical Education Incentive Grants Certification List for 2016 (CTE Certification List), as found below and detailed in the Grant Program Announcement, and obtain employment in documented high-demand fields.

Total funding set-aside: up to \$3,000,000  
Award amount: \$5,000 to \$150,000  
Match: \$ .50 : \$1 (applicant provides half of the WFF grant amount)  
Application Deadline: March 16, 2016 11:59 p.m.

### HSP Grant Application Training Webinar

The Department of Workforce Development will hold High School Pupil grant application training webinars for organizations that are interested in submitting an application for Round 3 funding on the following dates:

(Expand date for WebEx login and password)

- Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 - 11:00 am
- Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 - 11:00 am

**Pre-registration is not necessary.**

-  Worker Training Grant Program Announcement for Wisconsin High School Pupils: BP161HSP
-  HS Pupil **Application** for Grant BP161HSP
-  2016 CTE Certification List
-  High School Pupil Budget Guidelines

### Learn More

#### Press Releases

- *Blueprint for Prosperity: DWD Secretary Announces Up to \$3 Million Available in Wisconsin Fast Forward-Blueprint for Prosperity School-to-Work Grants (Round 3)*
- *Blueprint for Prosperity: The Round 2 High School Pupil Grant Award Summaries contain descriptions of each application approved during the second Grant Program Announcement*
- *Blueprint for Prosperity: DWD Secretary Announces Intent to Award \$2.5 Million for Second Round of Innovative School-to-Work Grants*
- *Blueprint for Prosperity: DWD Secretary Announces Intent to Award \$2.1 Million for Innovative School-to-Work Models Around Wisconsin*

#### Newsletter

- *Blueprint for Prosperity Newsletter, May 2014*
- *Blueprint for Prosperity Newsletter, March 2014*

<http://wisconsinfastforward.com/prosperity/pupil>

# APPLICATION PROCESS

- Download and review GPA, Budget Guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and Grant Application documents <http://wisconsinfastforward.com/prosperity/pupil/>
- Submit Grant Application and all attachments as a single “pdf” file via email to: [WFFHSPupil@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:WFFHSPupil@dwd.wisconsin.gov)



# Grant Application Criteria

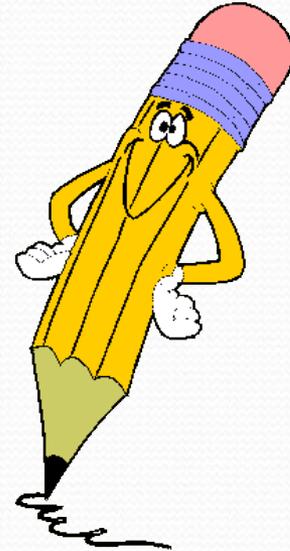
- **Cover Pages**

- A. Applicant Information
- B. Project Overview
- C. Project Partners

- **Application Narrative**

1. Project Overview and Need
2. Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes
3. Project Design & Implementation
4. Budget Summary & Budget Narrative
5. Letters of Commitment

- **80 points plus 20 additional points possible**



# Grant Program Overview

## Key Points:

- Eligible Applicants
- Target Pupil Population
- Trainees & Planned Placement Commitment
- Post Program Employment
- Certificate Training Program
- Allowable Expenses & Match
- Documentation Requirements
- Project Period



# Eligible Applicants

## Applications from legal entities comprised of:

- One or more school districts
- Wisconsin Technical College
- Institute of higher education
- Employers
- Business organizations/associations
- Chamber of Commerce
- Other educational partners (e.g., CESA, Workforce Development Board, non-profits, etc.)

# Eligible Applicants

## Applicant Agency Key Points:

- Previous grantees that received HSP funding as lead fiscal agents with DWD-executable contracts in HSP Round 1 (Q2 2014) and Round 2 (Q1 2015) are not eligible to reapply for Round 3 funding.
- Previous grantees that received HSP funding as a lead fiscal agent and DWD-executable contract in a single round (either Round 1 or 2) are eligible to reapply provided a new training program and CTE Certification are proposed.
- Organizations submitting more than one application cannot exceed \$150,000 maximum on all applications combined.
- Applications may include more than one training program and CTE Certification in a single application.



# Target Pupil Population

- Restricted to seniors enrolled in a Wisconsin high school (during the 2016-17 school year).
- For purposes of this GPA – *seniors are those pupils who are on track to graduate or earn a high school diploma by June 30, 2017.*
- Students from private and alternative education schools (e.g., charter, virtual, etc.) are eligible to participate.

# Number of Trainees & Pupil Planned Placements



- Applicants must list # of trainees targeted & # of planned placements (pre-project)
  - Pre-project planned placements = 80% of trainees (e.g., 24 of 30 total trainees)
  - Documented by employer letters of commitment that include post-program consideration for employment of successful completers
  - Post-program completion objective - 85% of planned placement (e.g., 85% of 24 planned placements = 20)
- ➔ **Review:**
- ✓ 30 pupils targeted for training x .8 (80%) = 24 pre-project planned placements
  - ✓ 24 planned placements x .85 (85%) = 20 post-program employment



# Post-Program Employment

- Employment opportunities based on current conditions and/or future projections, and include:
  - ✓ Opportunity to apply for position, but not be selected for interview based on qualifications
  - ✓ Opportunity to apply for position and be selected for an interview based on qualifications
  - ✓ Opportunity to apply for position, be selected for an interview, but not be offered a position based on qualifications
  - ✓ Opportunity to apply for position, be selected for an interview, and be offered a position
  - ✓ Opportunity to interview for potential opening/position
- Employment offer must be full- or part-time paid employment
- Employment cannot be unpaid work experience



# Certificate Training Program

- Training program must enable pupils to earn certificate from CTE Incentive Grant Certifications List (2016)
  - State Certified Work-Based Learning Program
  - Business & Industry Recognized Certifications
  - WTCS Certifications:
    - ✓ State-approved CPCs or ETDs
    - ✓ Applicant must provide program number
- May include supportive courses/certificates - in addition to required certificate from above (such as, First Aid, CPR, OSHA, etc.)



# Allowable Expenses



- Program coordination
- Instructional delivery
- Supplies and materials (items < \$5,000)
- Travel associated only with instruction
- Consultant/contractual for allowable services
- Pupil certification testing
- General grant administration (5% cap of direct costs)
- Allowable grant expenses are allowable for match

# Grant Ineligible Expenses

## Not allowed for grant or match:



- Purchase of real estate
- Purchase of capital equipment (item > \$5,000 & > 1 year lifespan)
- Construction or major remodeling
- Travel, meals, snacks, beverages, or lodging (*travel exception for instructor may be allowed*)
- Student incentives or rewards
- K-12 education
- Supplanting

# Grant Ineligible Expenses

## Not allowed for grant, but allowed for match:

- In-house training facilities
- Pupil wages, stipends, and/or fringe benefits
- Tuition reimbursement
- Administrative costs more than 5% of direct costs
- General office/classroom supplies
- General allocated operating expenses
- Ancillary and/or indirect costs associated with 38.14 contracts and other auxiliary contracts
- Student insurance premiums
- Curriculum development

# Documentation



## Documentation requirements:

- Letters of commitment from employers for planned placements
- Letters of commitment from partners for match, including pupil wages
- Memorandum of Agreement from consultants with itemized scope of services

# Grant Review Process



- Application due March 16, 2016
- Grant Evaluation Committee reviews (~ 30 days)
- **Applicant Presentation Meeting: In-person (preferred) or conference call (April 26-28 tentative)**
- Evaluation Committee scores and recommends to DWD staff
- DWD program staff makes recommendations to DWD leadership based on Evaluation Committee results
- **Final concurrence granted (early May)**
- Intent to award letters sent; contracts issued



# Project Period

- Project begins with DWD-executable contract (signed by both parties and returned to DWD)
- Project period ends June 30, 2017
- Grantees will have 90 days to submit final reports and close out
- Entire project period, to include post-program outcome reporting and close-out activities, must be completed by September 30, 2017

Helpful  
Tips

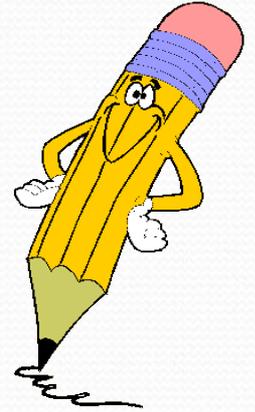
# Grant Application Tips

- Read and follow the “Budget Guidelines & GPA” documents
- Grant eligible expenses are allowable for match; match may be in-kind or cash; no need to exceed 50% match
- Plan the budget with your business manager to keep projected costs as accurate as possible
- Itemize all line items within budget categories
- This is a reimbursement grant - grantees are reimbursed for expenses incurred and paid; expenses must be aligned with grant budget narrative

# Additional Application Points

***Up to 20 points...***

- First time applicant (5 points)
- Project targets pupils with disabilities and/or are considered at-risk (5 points)
- Project includes Pre-Apprenticeship Program or Youth Apprenticeship-to-Registered Apprenticeship Bridge Program (10 points)





# Questions?

For questions related to the training webinar, Grant Program Announcement, budget guidelines, project planning, and grant application preparation, contact:

Lori Uttech-Hanson

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(608)267-6705

**Good Luck!**