



Wisconsin Fast Forward and Registered Apprenticeship

Creating opportunity together

Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) grants are a flexible funding tool for new or customized worker training. Registered Apprenticeship (RA) provides structured employment and educational opportunities employers need to build a skilled workforce. Together these programs build a **sustainable, high-skill workforce pipeline** that benefits employers, workers, and industries across Wisconsin.

This information is tailored **for Wisconsin employers planning to develop or expand an RA program** through the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards (BAS). WFF could help cover costs associated with training to meet business needs.

Eligibility

To qualify for a **WFF grant**, organizations must be:

- Registered with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions;
- Financially viable;
- Current on all tax obligations; and
- In business for at least two years

To sponsor an **RA program**, employers must:

- Be in business for at least one year;
- Have a valid Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance code;
- Offer an occupation that qualifies for a formal apprenticeship program with required minimum on-the-job learning and paid related instruction hours; and
- Provide a one-to-one apprentice-to-mentor ratio

RA Expenses that Can Be Funded by WFF

- Curriculum development, instructor salaries, consultant/contract expenses including:
 - Credentialing and exams, industry recognized credentials, instruction materials directly used by trainees during training, supplies, some instructor travel meals and lodging, and off-site facility expenses
- Tuition, if the training is part of a larger training program and is more economical than other options
- On-the-job training funded at 50% of the hourly rate of the instructor
- Curriculum development, which will become the property of the State of Wisconsin and may be made available for other organizations to use

While apprentice trainee wages are not eligible expenses, the wages paid by the RA sponsor could be counted as part of WFF's required 50% match.

Alignment Requirements

- Design an innovative RA program with detailed training and education hours and outline milestones and objectives
- Document employer demand using labor market data and employment commitment letters to hire trainees
- Develop a detailed budget for all requested WFF funds
- Align quarterly training delivery and outcomes with the WFF grant period
- Ensure grant-supported projects comprise one or more courses, each lasting no longer than 12 months. A grant period can be up to two years.

Application Preferences

- Employer consortium letters outlining commitments, wages, and match contributions
- Training plan using RA standards plus technical college outlines
- Budget that shows WFF request and the 50% match
- Outcome measurements including completions, wage gains, and credentials
- Timeline that ensures RA program fits within the WFF two-year grant window

Application and Contracting Essentials

For RA:

- Identify the occupations and levels, such as entry, upskilling, or new occupation. Draft a skill/work process map that includes on-the-job competencies and hours
- Provide related technical instruction topics and assessment checkpoints
- Meet with the apprenticeship team to confirm the occupation qualifies for an apprenticeship program and align sponsor type (single employer, group, or joint)

For WFF:

- Apply through the WFF online system following the current Grant Program Announcement
- Develop a detailed budget and partner support commitment letters
- Ensure milestones are achievable for these deliverables-based contracts
- Maintain all documentation for all expenses and outcomes

Get Started Today

Wisconsin Fast Forward
WisconsinFastForward@dwd.wisconsin.gov
(608) 733-3918



Wisconsin Apprenticeship
Apprenticeship@dwd.wisconsin.gov
(608) 733-3930

