

NEWS & NOTES

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Gov. Evers Announces \$130 Million Investment in Workforce Development Programs

Gov. Tony Evers announced on July 14, 2021 that he is focusing \$130 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding into solutions to help address the state's post-pandemic workforce needs.

Under Gov. Evers' plans, funds will be invested into Wisconsin's workforce across three programs. The resources will support both connecting unemployed or underemployed workers with new opportunities while also incentivizing innovative solutions to regional workforce challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Programs announced include:

- \$100 million Workforce Innovation grant program to encourage regions and communities to develop leading-edge, long-term solutions to the workforce challenges the state faces in the wake of COVID-19;
- \$20 million toward the Worker Adjustment Initiative, which will offer subsidized employment and skill training opportunities with local employers to unemployed individuals; and
- \$10 million for a Worker Connection Program which will provide workforce career coaches who will connect with individuals attempting to reengage in the workforce post-pandemic.

WEDC, DWD and the Department of Administration will combine forces and expertise to administer the Workforce Innovation program, which will offer up to \$10 million in grants to at least 10 local and regional collaborations which develop proposals that represent innovative thinking, data-driven planning and leverage existing infrastructures to connect the dots for post-pandemic workforce solutions. The program will fund initiatives to help businesses find workers and workers connect to better, higher quality and more family-sustaining jobs. Grant funds could be used to meet local workforce needs resulting from or exacerbated by the pandemic, such as childcare, transit, worker attraction and retention, or housing, and may be used to support initiatives like training, planning, marketing or developing pilot programs that can be applied in other communities.

Gov. Evers also announced \$20 million toward the Worker Advancement Initiative, which will offer subsidized employment and skills training opportunities with local employers to those whose previous employment has not come back post-pandemic, as well as those who were not attached to or were not successful in the labor market prior to the pandemic. The program builds on the success of current transitional jobs programs in the state by launching a new, statewide effort to provide subsidized work opportunities to around 2,000 individuals. DWD will administer the program through local workforce development boards in partnership with community-based organizations.

The governor will also invest \$10 million in a robust Worker Connection Program that will offer individuals who are attempting to reengage in the workforce career coaches who will connect them with the information and support necessary to overcome any barriers that may prevent their full participation in the labor force. The program will also offer individuals local training opportunities that are focused on in demand sector and employer needs. Employers will ensure that the training meets their workforce needs and provide job opportunities to participants. Two regions of the state will be selected for the program.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

Stay safe and healthy!

P.S. We're Social! Come join us.



Our mission is to build public and private partnerships that support innovation and excellence in workforce development.

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