

STATE OF WISCONSIN RECOVERY PLAN

STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

JULY 31, 2025 | PERFORMANCE REPORT

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I. GOVERNOR'S LETTER

Dear Treasury Secretary Bessent:

As a result of the federal support our state has received in recent years, Wisconsin has experienced a strong and vibrant recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and is well positioned to face future challenges even as we remain deeply concerned that decisions to cut federal investments and programs could impede our progress and stall our economic momentum.

To date, my administration has invested \$2.53 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program (SLFRF), meaning Wisconsin's entire allocation was fully obligated by December 31, 2024. Meaningful investments from these programs have made a positive impact in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and all 11 federally recognized



Governor Tony Evers

Tribal Nations through strategic and competitive state grant initiatives. Wisconsin's SLFRF aid has supported programs to help address the most critical needs for our kids and schools, small businesses and entrepreneurs, farmers and producers, veterans, and folks and families across the state.

I have seen the effect of these programs firsthand during my many visits to local small businesses, schools, farms, technical colleges, childcare centers, and the many communities that have benefitted directly from our combined investments across Wisconsin.

Wisconsin made smart, targeted investments in key sectors of our workforce such as our kids and education, child care, healthcare, tourism, veterans, agriculture, and manufacturing, among so many other priority areas. We have funded innovative, long-term solutions to our state's workforce challenges, reduced barriers to folks who want to join our workforce, and maintained consistently low unemployment. Bolstering our efforts to recruit, train, and retain talented workers to ensure Wisconsin's workforce is ready to meet the demands of the 21st century continues to be a top priority for our state.

I have always believed that what's best for our kids is what's best for our state—and what is best for our country, too, frankly. To that end, I declared 2025 the Year of the Kid to continue our work to expand education, school-based mental health services access, safe drinking water, and other key indicators that support our kids, improve outcomes, and make sure our kids are prepared for successful futures.

I am proud that Wisconsin was a leader in our response efforts and in prioritizing economic stability, resilience, and success in our recovery efforts. According to an analysis from the <u>Center on Budget and Policy Priorities</u>, Wisconsin was ranked number one in the country for both aid directed to support businesses and aid directed toward economic development as a share of aid received under SLFRF.

As we continue to invest these funds through the end of 2026, I remain hopeful Wisconsin will maintain our economic momentum, even in the face of significant cuts to programs Wisconsinites rely and depend upon and economic uncertainty caused by reckless decisions in Washington. Despite the harmful cuts to key federal programs that threaten the prosperity of Wisconsin families, kids, farmers, seniors, veterans, hospitals, and businesses, among others, I am confident that the projects we've undertaken will help Wisconsinites, our state, and our economy weather these challenges as well as those unforeseen.

I present Wisconsin's 2025 Recovery Plan Performance Report for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for the U.S. Treasury's review.

Respectfully yours,

Governor Tony Evers Wisconsin



Governor Tony Evers attends the groundbreaking for the Kenosha Innovation Center, a Neighborhood Investment Fund grant project

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent years, the Evers
Administration under the leadership of
Gov. Tony Evers has made smart,
strategic investments to create
programs tailored to meet the pressing
needs of local communities, rebuild
Wisconsin's economy from the ground
up, strengthen our workforce, expand
access to critical services, and reduce
barriers to child care, healthcare, highspeed internet, and more. Spanning
159 Treasury projects, these
investments left no corner of our state
untouched.



Governor Tony Evers and Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld at the ribbon cutting for Noble Community Clinics, a Healthcare Infrastructure Capital grant project in Stevens Point, WI (Formerly known as Family Health La Clinica)

No Wisconsinite was spared from the effects of the pandemic, the impacts of which transcended geographical boundary lines, industries and sectors, and social and economic statuses. The virus threatened lives and livelihoods, putting a strain on frontline responders, small business owners, workers, students, seniors, and families alike.

It would have been exceedingly difficult for Wisconsin to weather and respond to the challenges of the pandemic without the \$2.53 billion in SLFRF dollars, and this annual report, focused on the period of July 2024 - June 2025, provides an opportunity to further identify, categorize, and underscore the impact that the federal investments made possible for the people of Wisconsin, and the future of the state.

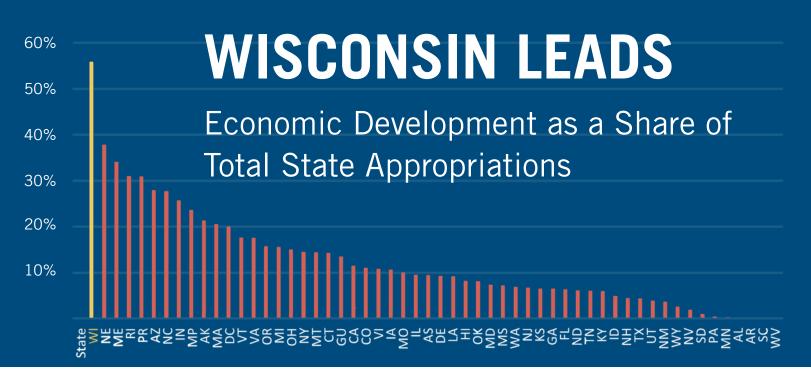
Thanks to critical infrastructure investments made by the Evers Administration, communities across the state are now better able to face future challenges with new facilities and expanded essential services, including public safety. We are actively working to ensure Wisconsin has the 21st century workforce that is ready to meet the demands of the 21st century by expanding workforce housing, access to affordable child care, and modern training facilities to meet the needs of key sectors in Wisconsin's economy, from agriculture to manufacturing and biohealth, to high-demand sectors of innovation, among other critical industries. New fire stations, libraries, community centers, and clinics have made once-in-a-generation improvements that will have positive impacts in communities across Wisconsin for decades to come. And ordinary Wisconsinites, families, business leaders and community members, have realized expanded opportunities, access to health care and other services, and an overall improved quality of life.

Wisconsin has been recognized as a national leader in its support for small businesses and economic development and continues to enjoy the strongest financial position in the state's history, alongside historically low unemployment, record-high employment, strong workforce participation, and nationally top-ranked wage growth. Under the stewardship of Governor Evers, these funds have helped strengthen Wisconsin communities, the state's workforce, and the economy.

III. USE OF FUNDS

The coronavirus pandemic underscored the interconnectedness of our health, economic, and social systems. Weathering the pandemic's dueling crises demanded targeted as well as comprehensive solutions for the state— to respond to both emerging, new issues as well as long-term challenges that the pandemic exacerbated. Earlier Recovery Plan Performance Reports chronicled how our state strategically invested \$2.53 billion in SLFRF to address these challenges and forge a stronger Wisconsin that can meet the demands of a post-pandemic world.

As noted previously, Wisconsin has been recognized by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) as leading the nation for the largest share of recovery funds going towards economic development and business support – a total of \$1.1 billion or 55.8% of total appropriations (see chart below). Funding provided through SLFRF has been a key investment in Wisconsin's economic development and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Fiscal Recovery Fund Spending by States, U.S. Territories

Small businesses are the hearts of communities in Wisconsin and play a key role in our economy, making up over 99 percent of all Wisconsin businesses and employing nearly half of Wisconsin workers. Governor Evers has continually prioritized investing in the state's workforce and supporting small businesses throughout Wisconsin.

The Main Street Bounceback Grant program (MSBB), which awarded close to \$100 million to help thousands of entrepreneurs start or grow a small business, has been central to this effort. The program's popularity has sparked calls to relaunch the Bounceback initiative using state funds and underscored the need for ongoing support to help businesses make the leap from "surviving" to "thriving."

Main Street Bounceback Emphasized New Businesses

Estimated Years in Business for Program Grantees





Main Street Business Grant Recipient Breakdown Top 10 Most Common Business Types Number of Businesses 681 Beauty and barber shops 319 Full-service restaurants 247 Other personal care services 210 Limited-service restaurants 172 Bars/Taverns 158 Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars 146 Offices of all other miscellaneous health practitioners 115 Childcare services 114 Clothing and clothing accessories retailers 106 Offices of mental health practitioners

Source: Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Note: Business type codes not available for all grant recipients

The momentum generated by these investments has been maintained through the Main Street Bounceback Technical Assistance program, which was expanded to all Wisconsin small businesses with fewer than 500 employees, not just MSBB grantees. Through this initiative, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has partnered with Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) to share consultation and training services, specialized clinics and labs, market research, and more.

The program provides support to new or emerging entrepreneurs in areas such as marketing, business planning, financial advice, and resource identification to set them on a path to sustainable success. From its inception in 2023 through this year, the network has hosted more than 1,500 attendees at training sessions, 185 participants in the digital marketing clinic, and hundreds of small business clinic appointments.



The MSBB Technical Assistance program allowed Exhale Fitness owner Nancy Anderson to develop a marketing strategy for growth

Wisconsin's SLFRF investments also directly support a variety of other industries, including agriculture, meat processing, forestry, tourism, childcare, manufacturing, and other key workforce initiatives.

The **Workforce Innovation Grant (WIG)** Program directed over \$124 million through 27 unique awards with the goal of helping Wisconsin regions solve their most pressing workforce challenges by financially supporting collaborative, sustainable, and innovative pandemic-recovery plans developed by regional organizations.

As an example, the Mid-State Technical College Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Apprenticeship (AMETA) Center, located in central Wisconsin, was completed in July 2024, in part with a \$9 million Workforce Innovation Grant. The <u>AMETA Center</u> opened to students in the fall of 2024, and is expected to provide training to over 1,500 people per year, while supporting 14 apprenticeship programs and over 400 current local apprentices in multiple industries to support the future of Wisconsin's workforce.

Green County Family YMCA, another WIG recipient, recently opened a new wing for their community facility in June 2025 with a state-of-the-art daycare and preschool as well as a youth development center, expanding access to quality and affordable childcare services for area workers.

In addition to fueling Wisconsin's workforce, economic development, and recovery, funds have benefited Wisconsin households and communities, including supporting child care for working families, providing food security and energy assistance, expanding access to broadband, and more, with more than \$200 million in direct household assistance.

Numerous targeted projects made it possible for communities across the state to make generational investments to either reconstruct or build new facilities, including healthcare and public infrastructure.

The <u>Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment Grant Program</u> (HCI) invested over \$100 million to help 27 local and Tribal governments and nonprofit healthcare organizations expand access to care throughout the state, including outpatient and mental health services. Ranging from \$15,000 to \$20 million in size, this funding enabled capital projects that specifically supported increasing access to healthcare.

As an example, the new Lafayette Hospital + Clinics in Darlington, the only county owned hospital in the state, opened in April 2025. HCI funds supported the building of a state-of-the-art radiology unit and MRI suite to facilitate better health outcomes.

More than \$270 million was directed for expanded healthcare capacity, access to mental health and telehealth services, and to bolster frontline responders. Approximately \$10.4 million in SLFRF (DHS COVID Operations-Division of Quality Assurance), for example, has addressed a backlog of surveys and complaints in long-term care facilities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Wisconsin is now trending toward meeting state and federal metrics for surveys and complaint investigations in long-term care facilities. Meanwhile, since July 1, 2024, local and Tribal health departments (Local and Tribal Health Department Response and Recovery Support) used SLFRF to provide over 162,000 hours of public health services to their communities.

A record number of Wisconsin residents participated in the 2024-25 open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, supported in part by the \$3.9 million <u>Covering Wisconsin</u> program, which helped over 9,500 individuals enroll in health coverage.

Connecting Consumers with Health Coverage







Stats from Covering Wisconsin 2024 Impact Report. Covering Wisconsin (CWI) is a federally certified, state-licensed navigator agency - in 2024, CWI received a Service to the Citizen Award, given to state and federal government agencies to honor exemplary public service

Expanding impact for communities, over \$235 million in <u>Neighborhood Investment Fund grants</u> allowed local communities to pursue new capital projects, including construction of affordable housing and shelters for individuals struggling with homelessness or domestic violence, YMCA and community center facilities, assisted living and senior centers, public safety facilities, and more. Through this remarkable and impactful program, 36 local and Tribal governments across the state received awards to carry out 50 different projects, creating a blueprint for other programs using state funds.

An additional \$36 million **Targeted Community Projects** investment supported five community projects with a transformative local, regional, or statewide impact, including revitalizing a blighted building in Janesville to construct a new sports and convention center facility expected to become a regional venue for athletic events; the Bronzeville Center for the Arts consisting of a museum, black box theatre, plaza, and green space that will turn a vacant corner into a cultural asset and tourist destination to serve as a welcome and important part of the renaissance of the Bronzeville Arts and Cultural District in Milwaukee; and fueling the expansion of the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay.

Beyond the more than half a billion in brick-and-mortar capital investments, the Evers Administration directed close to \$650 million for local aid, public safety, nonprofit organizations, and other community investments.

More than \$234 million in SLFRF have underwritten an array of public safety and justice initiatives with a statewide footprint. The funds span over two dozen grant programs, helping to resource and reinforce law enforcement agencies, expand forensic labs capabilities, build capacity, and strengthen corrections programs' ability to render assistance to victims of violence.

As an example, construction on a state-of-the-art Milwaukee County Forensic Science and Protective Medicine Facility is bringing the Milwaukee County Offices of the Medical Examiner and Emergency Management under the same roof as the state's flagship crime lab. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2026.

Meanwhile, the Town of Silver Cliff (population 514 according to the 2020 Census) just celebrated its own public safety milestone: a new, 9,870-square-foot emergency services building, supported by a \$500,000 SLFRF grant (Town of Silver Cliff Public Safety Building Investment). An EF2 tornado devastated the town's original facility in 2022 and forced the township to house its fire equipment in a cramped facility that was undersized for the department's needs and led to slower response times. The new facility opened in June 2025.



DOA Deputy Secretary Anne Hanson touring the Milwaukee Crime lab facility under construction



Governor Tony Evers visiting the new Town of Silver Cliff Emergency Services building

Two justice workforce initiatives have bolstered the ranks of prosecutors and defense attorneys, respectively, to tackle daunting caseloads. Of the 46 positions added through the **Assistant District Attorney Initiative**, 28.5 full time positions were extended to address the continued assistant district attorney workload needs. Through the **State Public Defender Initiative**, Wisconsin has utilized funds to hire up to 65 project positions and 130+ limited term employees in fields that include assistant public defender attorneys, legal secretaries, paralegals, and investigators that collectively have rendered more than 136,000 hours of service.

This year, Governor Evers also announced the creation of the **Office of Violence Prevention** to take a comprehensive, whole-of-government effort to address crime, prevent gun violence, and bolster efforts to keep kids, families, schools, and communities safe. This new office, jumpstarted by \$10 million SLFRF (**State of Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention**), will bring a comprehensive approach to violence prevention; furnish technical assistance to local violence prevention and intervention efforts; develop public education campaigns to promote safer communities; and oversee a grant program for school districts, firearm dealers, law enforcement agencies, nonprofits, and government agencies to support violence reduction and prevention initiatives.

SLFRF investments have addressed local needs and expanded access to a variety of public services, particularly in rural and underserved areas of the state, helping to build safer, healthier, and more resilient communities.



Governor Tony Evers visits the new Peshtigo Fire Station, a Neighborhood Investment Fund grant project



Governor Tony Evers and DOA Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld at ribbon-cutting for a Neighborhood Investment Fund workforce housing project in the City of Juneau

IV. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The nearly 160 SLFRF projects listed in this report are the product of dialogue that stretches back years and continues to this day. In person and online, by phone and by handshake, through social media and earned media, the Evers Administration has invited Wisconsinites to share their voices as it mapped out how best to invest more than \$2.5 billion in SLFRF monies.

Main Street merchants and communities worried about shuttered storefronts, for example, gave rise to grant programs to revitalize Wisconsin downtowns. Employers concerned about workforce shortages in critical fields helped shape workforce development programs. Healthcare and childcare providers articulated an urgent need to invest in these crucial industries, and the Evers Administration heeded the call.

It should be noted that the measures detailed in this report and past reports do not fully capture the outreach efforts undertaken by grantees to their respective clients and constituencies and represent just a fraction of the community engagement done across a variety of programs. However, the Evers Administration has made it a point to bring varied viewpoints to the table and engage stakeholders throughout SLFRF project workflows.

The more than two-dozen state public institutions engaged in SLFRF-supported initiatives have employed multiple community engagement strategies, including listening sessions, surveys, roundtables, forums, and site visits. Feedback loops were mainstays from project conception to implementation and evaluation. State agencies rolling out programs would mount public relations campaigns (press releases, social media, and earned media) to promote and solicit applications; host webinars to help grantees follow through the application process as well as comply with monitoring requirements; and join principals at ribbon-cutting ceremonies across the state, all along capturing feedback from partners and applicants.

As recounted in previous Recovery Plan Performance reports, SLFRF has been a vital funding stream for a multi-year effort to narrow Wisconsin's digital divide. Governor Evers and the Evers Administration have done more to expand access to high-speed internet in Wisconsin than any other administration in state history. Governor Evers even went so far as to dub 2021 the Year of Broadband Access and helped usher in record-setting investments in high-speed internet infrastructure. The pandemic evidenced that high-speed internet is a necessity in the 21st century as more of our world moves online. Thanks to state and federal investments, more than 410,000 homes and businesses will have access to new or improved broadband. In the last year alone, broadband availability improved significantly across the state, with 93,000 previously unserved locations receiving access to high-speed internet service and 163,000 households and businesses receiving new access to fiber internet service.



Public Service Commission All Wisconsin Listening Tour

Nonetheless, closing Wisconsin's digital divide demands more work, and the need for transparency remains paramount if we are to be successful in this endeavor. Funding from SLFRF has been a boon in both regards.

More than \$2.9 million in SLFRF has supported the **Broadband Intelligence** platform, an initiative enabling the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) to acquire data, conduct community engagements, map target areas, and provide specialized expertise to expand broadband infrastructure access, affordability, and adoption. The platform helps PSC identify areas and populations of highest need and tailor solutions accordingly. In devising the platform, the PSC and contractors engaged representatives from the industry and digital inclusion fields; met with 35 internet service providers for interviews and data sharing; collaborated with over 50 digital adoption and digital skills stakeholders; and interfaced with seven larger community groups.

That feedback was further enhanced and informed by the results of a Wisconsin Internet Self-Report survey (WISER) campaign that invited Wisconsinites to share their broadband experience with PSC. Conducted both online and over the phone, the survey fetched more than 10,000 responses during its initial campaign and yielded valuable data concerning internet access, availability, and affordability in Wisconsin. In the last year, the PSC met with nine internet service providers and four community stakeholder groups to promote and refine the platform. An additional 1,900 WISER surveys also were completed.

The new <u>Broadband Almanac</u> launched in April 2025 - a public version of the broadband intelligence data and a tool for sharing Wisconsin's progress towards the goal of internet for all. Replete with visualizations and dashboards, this site affords users the opportunity to explore broadband access, affordability, and adoption data at the state and local level. The almanac was brought to life with the help of SLFRF through the Broadband Intelligence program and embodies how community engagement follows a continuous cycle.

Feedback In Action

WISER Survey



Broadband Almanac



Continuous feedback is also a staple at the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), which engages with stakeholders to gather feedback on agency activities and initiatives like Safety and Professional Services Licensing, Safety and Professional Services Staff Augmentation, and Safety and Professional Services Website Redesign. Every year, agency leadership connect with healthcare and education leaders to glean industry perspectives on ongoing technology innovations and enhancements while soliciting feedback on how DSPS processes might be refined or enhanced.

Many project partners have also created their own feedback loops to collect input and insight from their own constituencies.

For example, Mid-State Technical College, one of the grantees of the Workforce Innovation Grant program, meets with partners twice per year to assess the area's workforce needs and ensure the college's workforce training curriculum meets the evolving needs of local industries based on direct input from employers, students, and other stakeholders. The Wisconsin Forward Agricultural Engine Initiative, or Forward Ag, regularly convenes entrepreneurs, farmers, researchers, industry, and nonprofits to evaluate progress on startup projects and hosts larger facilitated seminars on topic areas of interest relating to creating a thriving, circular bioeconomy in agriculture. The Rural Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Initiative has expanded community engagement efforts across rural Wisconsin, hosting legal clinics in Wausau, Stevens Point, and Eau Claire in the last year; organizing an upcoming bilingual legal clinic in Monroe; and partnering with local chambers of commerce to deliver training on starting, growing, sustaining, and exiting a business.

The voices of small business owners in particular have played a critical role in determining how

Wisconsin could best help Main Street.

In working to support Wisconsin small businesses, WEDC conducted interviews with a variety of businesses to better understand their needs, which informed the creation of the Main Street Bounceback Program (MSBB). Several state agencies hosted roundtable discussions in communities where the demand for the MSBB grant was strongest and solicited input directly from small businesses owners about what support was needed for sustained success.



Roundtable on workforce development with Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Pechacek, DOA Secretary Blumenfeld, WEDC Secretary Hughes, and former DCF Secretary Amundson hosted by Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County

A common sentiment from these roundtables was that while the MSBB grant helped businesses get through the "survival" phase, they still needed assistance to get to the "thriving" phase. Based on these conversations, WEDC created and then later expanded the **Main Street Bounceback Technical Assistance program** centered around providing technical assistance to small businesses to develop skills that would help them thrive, in partnership with the Small Business Development Center network.

Stakeholder input has likewise been a key driver of the **Child Care Counts program** overseen by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), with a \$172 million lifeline to Wisconsin's childcare industry that has helped thousands of providers keep their doors open for kids and working families. DCF surveyed more than 3,500 providers through the <u>Child Care Supply and Demand Survey</u>, showing that 60 percent of providers faced underutilized capacity, such as closed classrooms, primarily due to staff shortages. At full capacity, providers reported they could serve up to 33,000 more kids.

DCF ultimately distributed Child Care Counts payments to providers over the course of five rounds, the last in June 2025, to ensure providers could avoid steep tuition hikes. Survey results reinforced that continued investment in the child care industry is essential to deal with the current supply and demand issue and meet a basic need for both workers and employers.

Separately, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has helped underserved communities meet perhaps the most basic need of all: safe drinking water. The **Well Compensation Program** was an outgrowth of conversations that started years ago. Shortly after assuming office, Governor Evers declared 2019 the Year of Clean Drinking Water to underscore the urgency of public investment to address water quality. He <u>renewed that call</u> in declaring 2025 the Year of the Kid, again underscoring the importance of access to safe, clean drinking water for Wisconsin kids and families.

The program launched with a \$10 million SLFRF investment and was extended with an additional \$5 million in SLFRF to support the replacement, reconstruction, treatment, or sealing of abandoned and contaminated wells for homeowners, businesses, and other organizations, facing contaminants such as PFAS, nitrate, E. coli, and arsenic. Through June 2025, more than 770 grants have been awarded through the program to help communities get access to and protect clean drinking water.

Robust outreach included strategies to reach potential applicants who may not have internet access. DNR staff engaged media and journalists to promote the program to a statewide radio and TV audience, and enlisted the help of well-drilling professionals to spread the word about available funding. DNR hosted local evening webinars for well drillers, media, and other interested parties, and presented at a Wisconsin Well Drillers Association meeting.

The community conversations initiated during the pandemic continue as programs conclude and grantees report out, ribbon-cutting and groundbreaking events ramp up, and state and local leaders take stock of how far we have come. Furthermore, agencies tasked with administering SLFRF programs continue to track best practices and lessons learned so that they can be shared and replicated where possible and applicable through state-funded initiatives.



DNR Well Compensation flyer

V. LABOR PRACTICES

Wisconsin's workforce shortages have been more than a decade in the making, although the pandemic exacerbated those challenges and accelerated the need for action. The Evers Administration has accordingly championed a host of measures to bolster Wisconsin's workforce, promote strong labor practices and employment opportunities, and create more family-sustaining jobs.

Capital projects supported by SLFRF have played a direct role in creating or retaining jobs in construction and the trades. As noted in the <u>2024 report</u>, a



DWD Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards Director David Polk and Assistant Administrator Danielle Williams at the Wayne H. Bushman Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Apprenticeship (AMETA) Center

a study conducted by Associated General Contractors found that every \$1 in construction spending results in \$1.81 of economic activity in Wisconsin, and for every \$1 million of construction spend, 12 jobs are supported in the state's economy. Across nearly a dozen different programs funded by SLFRF, more than \$560 million was invested, either directly or indirectly, for facility construction or expansion efforts across the state, supporting an estimated 5,400 jobs.



Staff from Wisconsin Technical College System, UW-Stevens Point, DWD and WEDC at Northcentral Technical College Antigo campus celebrate the grand opening of state-of-the-art Workforce Innovation Grant project and sawmill training facility, the first commercial training facility of its kind in the U.S.

Governor Evers' strategic investments have made lasting impacts on the state's workforce and economy, and federal support has played an outsized role in shoring up the "workforce behind the workforce" – that of our childcare system. In fact, a trio of programs funded by SLFRF, totaling more than \$178 million, have delivered much-needed relief to childcare providers and families alike (Child Care Counts, Dream Up! Child Care Supply-Building Grant Initiative, and PartnerUp! Program Expansion).

The largest of the three, **Child Care Counts**, was created in 2020 to stabilize and sustain the early care and education industry, and was extended



DCF Secretary-designee Jeff Pertl visits the Arthouse Preschool in Waunakee, WI

into 2025 with the use of SLFRF dollars, ensuring that providers could stay open so that Wisconsinites could continue working and moving our economy forward. Through the end of June 2025, this lifeline helped more than 5,700 child care providers keep their doors open, ensuring the employment of more than 75,000 child care professionals and care for more than 430,000 children.

Ensuring access to quality, affordable child care dovetailed with other efforts to grow and develop a workforce that Wisconsin needs to compete in the global marketplace.

The **Equivalency Diploma System Automation** project through the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) directly supports workforce development in Wisconsin by improving access to GED and HSED credentials - key tools for individuals seeking to enter or advance in the workforce. By making it easier for individuals to verify and request their GED/HSED records, the system helps remove barriers to employment, postsecondary education, and job training programs that require proof of completion. The updated systems also streamline the application and approval process for test centers, making it more efficient for adult learners to complete credentialing.

These improvements help workers re-enter the job market more quickly and with better support from state-recognized programs. In addition, the system now accepts research requests from partners such as the Legislature, Department of Corrections, and Wisconsin Technical College System. These insights can inform policies and programs aimed at closing workforce gaps and expanding opportunities for adult learners statewide. By expanding access to GED/HSED services and reducing administrative delays, this project helps more Wisconsin residents pursue stable, family-supporting employment, especially those seeking a second chance through education and workforce training.

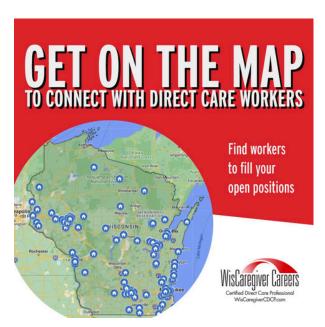
The Evers Administration has deployed more than \$300 million in SLFRF to build, train, and support a 21st century workforce, including in fields such as forest products, meat processing, healthcare, education, childcare, manufacturing, and more. The **Workforce Innovation Grant** (WIG) was a centerpiece of these efforts, connecting the dots across government, education, and industry to help Wisconsin communities tackle their most pressing workforce challenges.

Through WIG, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and WEDC awarded 27 grants of up to \$10 million each to regional partners to fashion leading-edge, long-term solutions to regional workforce challenges. These projects are helping to expand access to childcare, housing, and transportation for workers; provide cutting-edge training in the manufacturing, engineering, medical, and agribusiness fields; open career pathways for youth and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and more. WIG has engaged nearly 200 partners, and enrolled more than 11,800 workers in sectoral job training programs, touching every corner of the state.

Efforts to support Wisconsin's workforce also included over \$142 million in SLFRF for initiatives that support new, unemployed, or underemployed workers and ease barriers for people seeking to enter or re-enter the workforce. Funding through SLFRF has facilitated needed upgrades to online resource portals and unemployment system; expanded the reach and capacity of the DWD Job Center; and strengthened workforce training programs.

Over the past year, the use of mobile career labs has been expanded as a resource for connecting with customers, especially in rural areas, through the Improving Workforce Training Programs initiative. The additional capacity created by the Job Center Staff Resource project, meanwhile, has enabled personnel to engage customers in more remote locations and at venues such as libraries, job labs, correctional centers, and probation and parole offices. Wisconsin Job Centers have now served 64,500 people since the project onset, directly assisting Wisconsinites seeking employment or re-employment opportunities.

The result of all these efforts is that Wisconsin's workforce continues to see record participation and growth.



Targeted communication efforts for the WisCaregiver Careers program were supported by DHS COVID Operations: Communications program

VI. USE OF EVIDENCE

The Evers Administration prioritizes fiscal stewardship and recognizes that taxpayer dollars are a resource held in trust for the people. Accordingly, the generational investments of more than \$2.5 billion in SLFRF were guided by evidence-based, data-driven grantmaking and decision-making to maximize impact and taxpayer value.

Previous reports have <u>already laid out</u> how Wisconsin civil servants relied on a host of measures, ranging from research-based best practices to surveys, as well as census and demographic data, Federal Reserve reports, and other measures to chart how federal dollars would be invested in the Badger State and then develop applicable programs. Rigorous rubrics were used to score competitive grant proposals, followed by performance metrics and outcome tracking protocols for grantees.

Gaps identified in the 2019 <u>Behavioral Health System Gaps</u> report, for example, helped shape the **Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion and Capacity Building Initiative** that expanded access to behavioral health professionals. The **Worker Connection** program analyzed data from the Current Population Survey to identify groups that were disproportionately disconnected from the workforce and demographic information to identify communities in need and deploy Career Navigators accordingly.

The Rural Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Initiative (RWEI) continues to promote evidence-based policymaking by leveraging the extensive experience and research capabilities of the Community Economic Development (CED) program, part of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension. Its interventions, including education, training, research, and technical assistance for rural entrepreneurs, are grounded in economic impact studies, research specific to rural entrepreneurship, and analysis of rural finance structures.

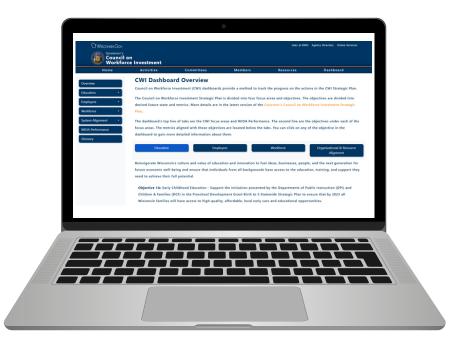


Rural Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Initiative (RWEI) June 2025 Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference (CECC) in Wisconsin Rapids

Meanwhile, Workforce Innovation Grant (WIG) awardees were required to include data and evidence-based practices in developing their project proposals and ensure grant-funded training aligned with high-growth industries and occupations. Each grantee is furthermore required to report programmatic data to the state. A comprehensive program analysis, along with a series of companion reports covering key workforce challenge areas that WIG awards are addressing, are forthcoming. Together, these materials are anticipated to calculate an estimated economic impact from the program and identify long-term, sustainable initiatives that can enhance Wisconsin's workforce development infrastructure.

The Workforce Data Quality Initiative Sustainment (WDQIS)

uses \$1.8 million in federal funds to maintain and expand a longitudinal data warehouse with the expressed aim to "increase evidence-based decision making in the development of DWD programs." WDQIS improves workforce data quality and curates evidence to help the agency improve job training programs. In the last year alone, the effort has helped evaluate the influence of training on employment outcomes, analyzed workforce program return on investment, and built a dashboard to help the Council on Workforce Investment track progress toward its strategic goals.



Wisconsin.Gov Governor's Council on Workforce Investment dashboard

The Wisconsin Forward Agricultural Engine Initiative was originally funded through a National Science Foundation award prior to an infusion of more than \$1 million in SLFRF to sustain the program. The initiative boasts multiple partners, including WEDC, working to build a network of startup hubs that help entrepreneurs grow their operations through WiSys VentureHome®. The project aims to increase the number and success of scalable startups, expand entrepreneurship in rural and underserved areas, and foster an integrated statewide innovation ecosystem. The evidence for intervention in the circular agriculture bioeconomy is based on two years of rigorous data collection from focus groups, convenings, and interviews with researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry representatives through the entire food value chain — from farmers to processors to food retailers.

As documented in <u>previous reports</u>, evidence-based decision-making has been embedded in practices across the enterprise during the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of initiatives funded by SLFRF.



Governor Tony Evers cuts the ribbon in the new Gundersen St. Joseph's Clinic, a Healthcare Infrastructure Capital grant project in Elroy, WI

VII. PERFORMANCE REPORT

More than four years ago, the WEDC report "Wisconsin Tomorrow: Building an Economy for All" noted that the state "must draw upon the authentic Wisconsin ideal" as it mapped out its pandemic recovery strategy.

Today, the Wisconsin ideal is within reach for more Wisconsinites because we invested funding through SLFRF not only in programs but in people. In the people who care for our children and for those who are sick, at risk, or unhoused; in the entrepreneurs who believe in Main Street; and in the people who build the infrastructure and skills that power our economy.

This section highlights the successes of a sample of notable programs and investments directed by Governor Evers. Many programs are still undergoing closeout reporting, and additional performance updates will be available in next year's report.

Out of the 27 projects from the <u>Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment Grant Program</u> (HCI), 14 have been completed with nine additional projects undergoing the closeout process. Thus far, more than 59,100 people have been served during the program's performance period, with 71 percent receiving Medicare/Medicaid.

City on a Hill was awarded \$1.6 million through the HCI program to expand access to care for low-income families through the construction of a 9,858-square-foot dental and medical facility on Milwaukee's near west side, expanding access to free urgent and preventative dental services and creating spaces for supporting mental and behavioral health services. The project was completed in December of 2024. In the six months after it opened, the clinic served over 1,200 new patients.

St. Joseph's Health Services, Inc., serving patients from five surrounding counties, built a new clinic in Elroy with a close to \$4.3 million HCI award. St. Joseph's has reported approximately a 30-percent growth in the number of patients served since the opening of the new facility in November 2023.

Likewise, 14 of the 46 grants awarded through the **Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF)** program are now either complete or nearing completion. These projects have already served 33,000 people, built more than 330 housing units, created or retained more than 270 jobs, and enhanced the quality of life in Wisconsin communities like Neenah.

In September 2024, the city of Neenah celebrated the opening of a new 14-unit addition for the Valley VNA Senior Care building. The addition was made possible by a \$4.4 million NIF grant and was necessary to meet the growing demand for both senior housing and senior care services.

Three months and more than 40 miles down the road, Waupun christened a new 22,000-square-foot Waupun Community Center that welcomes youth and seniors alike. Built with the help of a \$4.9 million NIF grant, the center has spaces not only for recreation and fitness but also for nutrition, food pantry, and programming areas to serve the entire community.



DOA Secretary Blumenfeld visits the new Waupun Community Center, a Neighborhood Investment Fund grant project in Waupun, WI

In February 2025, the Town of Beloit officially cut the ribbon on a new fire station, replacing an aging and outdated facility with the help of a \$7.6 million NIF grant. Also in February 2025, the City of Juneau and Dodge County Housing Authority celebrated the opening of 30 affordable new homes in a pocket neighborhood close to schools, childcare, full service grocery store and a medical clinic, made possible by a \$10.6 million NIF grant. Ten additional homes are currently in the works in Reeseville.

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) is on track to build more than 1,000 housing units in 20 different developments across Wisconsin through the \$25 million **Multifamily Housing program.** The program has provided gap financing for projects that secured Low Income Housing Tax Credits from WHEDA but were facing increases in construction costs and interest rates that made reaching closing difficult.

The \$87 million **Equitable Recovery Grant (ERG) program** made a significant impact for 133 community-based nonprofits and organizations, enabling them to expand capacity and critical services in health, early childhood development, education, economic support, housing, and more. Nearly 40 projects have been completed, having already served 300 organizations and more than 378,000 people.

Among them is Road Home Dane County, which offers rapid rehousing for families who have encountered a short-term crisis and permanent supportive housing for chronically unhoused families who have an adult member with a disability. This nonprofit supported more than 250 families with children last year with the help of a \$638,500 grant. Approximately 95 percent of the families served during the performance period maintained stable housing and did not return to experiencing homelessness.

The Fowler Free Memorial Dental Clinic has also expanded capacity for uninsured and elderly residents in rural Green and Lafayette Counties with its \$998,300 ERG award, while the Waukesha Free Clinic provided 6,400 visits with volunteer health care providers for more than 1,150 patients after a \$383,000 ERG expansion of free primary and specialty healthcare services. In Kenosha, a \$1 million ERG grant helped the YMCA share academic and social/emotional learning support with more than 500 students.

Other programs also delivered support to Wisconsin youth from the early days of the pandemic.

The effects of the \$48 million distributed to nonprofits through the **Beyond the Classroom** program can still be felt. 114 nonprofit organizations were awarded grants to offer virtual and in-person





Green County Family YMCA, a Workforce Innovation Grant recipient, provides expanded childcare services after recent grand opening

programming, increasing enrollment capacity, providing additional learning opportunities, or increasing mental health support for school-age children, filling a critical service gap during a critical time for some of the youngest learners. Many grantees later reported exceeding their own enrollment goals, and sometimes even bypassing pre-pandemic enrollment levels. Grantees reported approximately 91,000 children enrolled prior to the program's performance period and approximately 230,335 students served during the performance period.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has employed SLFRF to continue working with **Graduation Alliance** to reduce chronic absenteeism in Wisconsin schools and re-engage students who are not on track for graduation. Between July 1, 2024 and May 29, 2025, the Alliance served more than 7,900 Wisconsin learners from all grade levels in 38 different school districts, including many students at Milwaukee Public Schools, in a bid to put more Wisconsin students on track for success.



Graduation
Alliance has engaged
7,900

learners in the last

year.

As documented in <u>previous reports</u>, federal support has made it possible for Wisconsin to move away from antiquated technology systems, add critical resources, as well as expand and enhance service delivery.

For example, the \$12 million in SLFRF-supported programs overseen by DSPS (Safety and Professional Services Licensing, Safety and Professional Services Staff Augmentation, and Safety and Professional Services Website Redesign), have allowed the agency to modernize its licensing platform and expand capacity to review credential applications, minimizing delays and expediting the process whereby professionals can acquire and renew their licenses and participate in Wisconsin's workforce. The additional staff resources and processing capacity have not only brought our licensing services into the 21st century economy, but they have also translated into \$54 million in additional wages in 2023 alone.



DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth joining the Wisconsin Dental Association and Marquette School of Dentistry to celebrate 2024 dentistry grads, who also received expedited dentist licenses

Expanding the 21st century economy has meant expanding opportunities across Wisconsin. In working to expand access to internet in underserved and rural areas of the state, the **Broadband Access Grant** program received an overwhelming response, illustrating the extent of the ongoing need in Wisconsin. The PSC received 240 applications with funding requests equaling more than \$420 million. Grants were ultimately awarded to 85 projects to expand fiber broadband internet to more than 29,090 residential and 1,503 business locations that are currently unserved and underserved. More than 15,000 residences and 2,950 businesses have been served in just the last year through this program. A mapping of all grant awards including the grants awarded through the Broadband Access Grant program is available through the <u>Wisconsin Broadband Grant Footprint</u> and highlights how we are closing the gap for unserved and underserved communities.

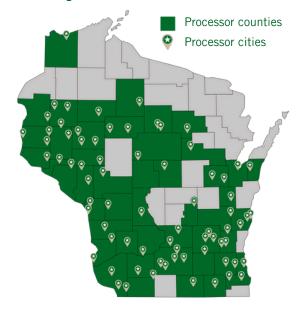
To help unemployed or underemployed Wisconsin workers, DWD used \$32.4 million SLFRF for the Worker Advancement Initiative (WAI), partnering with regional workforce development boards to offer subsidized employment and skills training opportunities, help displaced workers rejoin the workforce, as well as Wisconsinites seeking to improve their employment status. The project goal was to serve 3,000 people over two rounds of grants. Thus far, more than 4,470 people were served through round one alone, while round two is currently underway.

The Northeast Entrepreneur Fund, awarded almost \$3 million through the **Diverse Business Assistance Grant program**, expanded services to 12 additional counties in northern Wisconsin to provide flexible financing and technical assistance to small businesses, working with almost 400 businesses across the region. Overall, funding resulted in the creation of 2,133 jobs as well as the retention of 283 positions.

Targeted initiatives had great success supporting specific industries, many of which have already been mentioned in this report. The \$9.4 million Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Resiliency Program, which concluded last year, started after Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) identified that a shortage of meat processing capacity resulted in a bottleneck, preventing further growth in Wisconsin's meat industry. The agency estimated that in recent years, wait times from scheduling to slaughter had increased from approximately two months to two years.

To help reduce wait times, the Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Resiliency Program offered competitive reimbursement grants for projects at meat and poultry processing facilities and rendering businesses that grew or developed new business, helped improve throughput capacity, production, or profitability, and helped address capacity or production bottlenecks and challenges. The result:

Every \$1 in SLFRF grant support increased meat processor gross sales by nearly \$4



grant-funded meat processors who slaughter reported reduced backlogs and an increase in the number of livestock they can process weekly. Processors also added 218 full-time jobs and 68 part-time jobs to their businesses, and grant projects carried out through the program have resulted in a reported profit increase of \$32.4 million, meaning that each grant dollar has increased meat processor gross sales by nearly four dollars, spurring over five dollars in industry investment overall.

Finally, **Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin**, a Wisconsin Innovation Grant (WIG) awardee, has been operating the Trauma Informed Care in Education and Training program supported with a \$6.4 million award, providing education and training tracks with certifications for employment in high-demand industries specific to the region. This ongoing grant is currently serving 460 individuals – including one local woman who made a late-career shift thanks to the support of the program. After decades of running a small-town hardware store, the retiree learned about the opportunity to become a Certified Direct Care Professional (CDCP) at 65— a certification that would allow her to be paid for the care she was already providing for her adult autistic son and other seniors in the community with limited care options in her rural area. Today, she provides dedicated care to her son as well as local seniors, while earning an income to support her household. Her story, one of many — is a powerful reminder — that with the right support, even the most demanding and challenging lives can make space for growth, self-empowerment, and new beginnings.

In many cases, successes like these are the result of dedicated public-private partnerships, leveraging existing community resources, and targeted and strategic investments to improve outcomes for individuals and communities across Wisconsin.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The Evers Administration's mix of smart, strategic investments and fiscal stewardship have made a significant and historic impact in Wisconsin.

An analysis by the nonpartisan Wisconsin Policy Forum showed Wisconsin's state and local tax burden dropped to a record low in 2024. Wisconsin has ended five consecutive fiscal years with a positive Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) balance – an unprecedented feat in our state – while building a record-high "rainy day" fund balance.

New records have been set – and broken – in unemployment rates, youth apprenticeships, employment levels, tourism activity, and more. The Evers Administration has delivered historic tax relief alongside historic investments in broadband, transportation infrastructure, and workforce housing.

As this and previous reports have underscored, our state's SLFRF programs have harnessed the best in Wisconsin creativity and cooperation. They facilitated action at the state and local level and collaboration between the public and private sectors to ensure all Wisconsinites could benefit from these investments.

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Evers, Wisconsin continues to be a great place to raise a family or start a business.



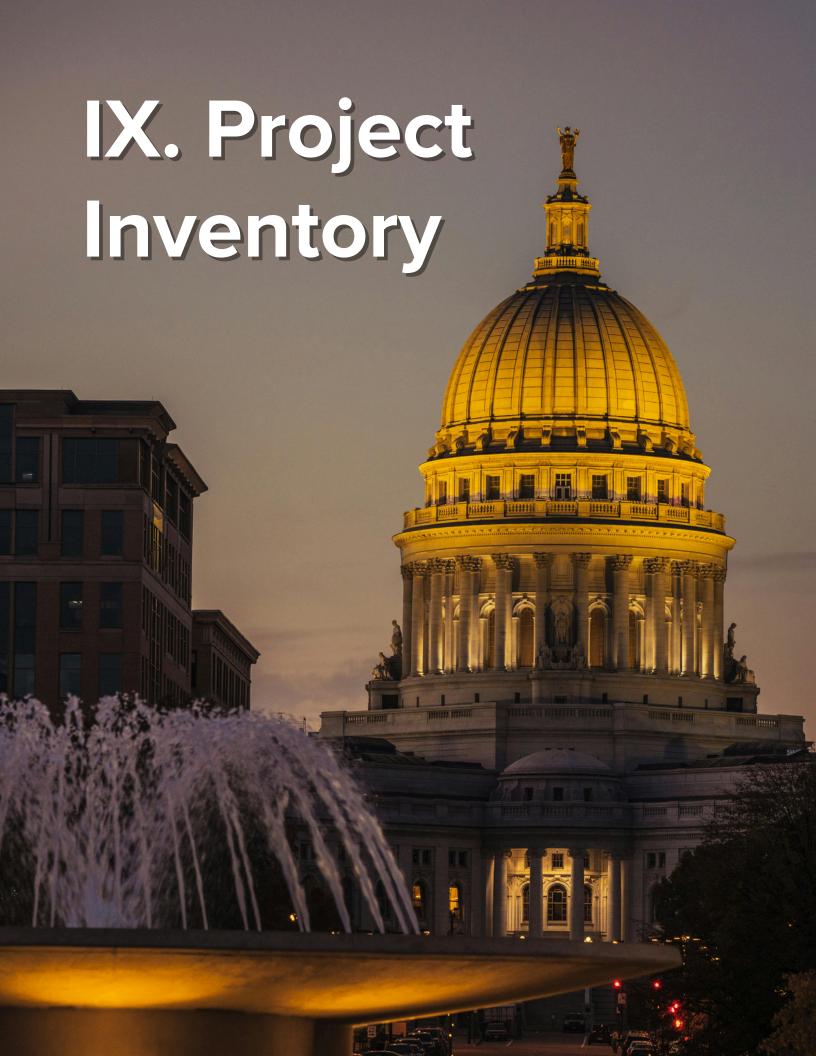
SLFRF programs were implemented amid the gravest public health crisis in a century and leveraged federal support to help residents, families, businesses, and front-line organizations not only weather the crisis but thrive after it had receded. Valuing strong labor practices, data-based decision-making and grant-making, and good old-fashioned listening, has made it possible for Wisconsin to leverage with partners across the state to ensure SLFRF projects would succeed and serve the greatest number of people.

Because of the Evers Administration's targeted and thoughtful investments of federal funds, many Wisconsin communities are now pioneering solutions to workforce and housing shortages, healthcare access, economic opportunity, and more, resulting in promising models and foundational practices that can be replicated elsewhere across the nation.

The subsequent project inventory outlines each of the 159 SLFRF-funded programs directed by the Evers Administration.



Governor Tony Evers visits local Appleton small businesses during the "Shop Small Wisconsin" 2024 season



Wisconsin Forest Products Cluster Initiative

00000 ARPAPAPER

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$8,020,563**

https://www3.uwsp.edu/wist/Pages/default.aspx

Project Overview

This project contains two separate and complementary components: the Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology and Apprenticeship (AMETA) Center at Mid-State Technical College and Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP).

The forest products industry is the fourth largest manufacturing sector in Wisconsin and is the main employer in 10 Wisconsin counties. Forestland covers almost half of Wisconsin's land mass. In recent years, the forest products industry has struggled as global changes in fiber and wood dynamics have impacted the demand for the products from the diverse and fragmented businesses operating in the state. These range from multimillion dollar paper products companies to small, single-owner businesses.

This project aligns the focus of the stakeholders who shape the forest products ecosystem to transition the industry as global forces drive rapid change. Accordingly, the need to diversify Wisconsin's outputs has never been greater. The mission of this project is to transform the forest products industry so that it is positioned to meet, exceed, anticipate, and drive the demands of 21st century customers seeking sustainable, high-performance products while creating a resilient and thriving rural economy underpinned by sustainable forest management.

The main activities of the WIST project are intended to boost support for Wisconsin's forest product sector by:

- Enhancing operational support of WIST at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. WIST is
 focused on supporting technology-based economic development through innovation, service,
 and contract research and development to organizations in the forest products value chain.
- Increasing capacity to undertake research, development, and analysis by recruiting technical specialists in natural fiber science, paper making, and sustainable packaging.
- Providing technical assistance to companies in the forest products sector.
- Increasing awareness of the importance of the forest products industry among stakeholders in Wisconsin.
- Engaging with forestry-centered communities.
- Leveraging federal support through this project.

This investment aims to spur actions that support the economies of Wisconsin's forest-based communities. This is occurring through increases in operational support, enhancements to laboratory

services, staffing, and equipment, development of branding and underserved community engagement, and submissions of federal grant funding proposals.

Furthermore, this investment continues the momentum already built among numerous stakeholders to drive and modernize the sector to compete in regional, national, and global markets. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) administers the funds for this project and assists in outreach. This project is being designed to serve Wisconsin's rural communities and their local and regional economies to mitigate disinvestment that has occurred in the forestry industry.

The Mid-State Technical College AMETA Center is offering a wide variety of classes and resources to prepare students for the high-tech manufacturing environments found in local industries, including, but not limited to, the pulp and paper industry, as well as programs that will be used to prepare students to work in the design and construction of public projects like roads, bridges, parking structures, and stormwater management systems.

Administered through the Department of Administration, the AMETA Center is collaborating with regional employers and partner organizations to develop relevant career pathways for the forest products industry, specifically the state's pulp, paper, and converting mills, which will lead to an increased pipeline of workers to supply emerging needs in the region.

To do this, Mid-State is meeting with partners twice per year to review workforce needs, curriculum, its relevance to the industries, alignment with K-12 programming, and development of emerging workforce training. This will allow Mid-State to develop curriculum for workforce training tailored to meet the needs of industry through direct input from employers, students, and other stakeholders; as well as prepare documents and needs assessments for the Wisconsin Technical College System for future program development.

The Center offers increased training capacity through investments in information technology, student learning infrastructure, and capital equipment to allow for increased student enrollment. Mid-State constructed the AMETA Center in Stevens Point to increase training capacity.

The Center is implementing policies to support enrollment outcomes for individuals from historically underrepresented communities and developing recruitment strategies to drive enrollment of individuals from historically underserved communities in collaboration with local non-profits focused on reducing education and employment equity gaps in the region. The center tracks information for first-year student enrollment in the AMETA Center programs to identify gaps and develop strategies to close these gaps. Strategies incorporate targeted recruitment and enrollment initiatives, including student services, connections to community organizations, and collaborations with employers.

Use of Evidence

The process to evaluate this project is being designed through contracting. Collaboration between WEDC and WIST can identify strategies to measure their impact in building capacity within the forestry industry, leveraging public investment, and diversifying the forestry industry within Wisconsin. The AMETA Center reports biannually on its outputs related to developing career pathways, increasing training capacity, and developing recruitment strategies. Setting and achieving these goals is a collaborative process with stakeholders, including employers and partner organizations.

Performance Report

The WIST portion of the project has established target metrics across its primary delivery mechanisms: technical assistance, outreach, capacity building, and support and assistance.

Technical assistance:

Metric	To date	
Technical discussions held	15	
Industry projects completed	6	
Technical reports authored	1	
Short courses offered	0	
Webinars offered	0	
Conferences hosted	0	
Industry personnel trained	7	

Outreach:

Metric	To date
Websites	2
Social media	1
Webinars offered	0
Conferences hosted	0

Capacity building:

Metric	To date	
Operational staff recruited	1.5	
Technical staff recruited	1	
Equipment procured	13	

Support and assistance:

Metric	To date
Federal dollars leveraged	\$99,998.88
UWSP Laboratories accredited	1

Security Personnel Add-on Pay

00000 ARPASECURITYPAY

Expenditure Category: 3.1-Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or

Human Services Workers

Funding Amount: \$13,901,451.47

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

A persistently tight labor market has contributed to high vacancy rates at state health care facilities, including mental health facilities, resulting in difficulties meeting required staffing levels. This initiative funded a per-hour salary increase for Department of Health Services (DHS) facility staff in security classifications to improve recruitment and retention of employees in these positions and reduce overall vacancy rates. This pilot add-on began in March 2022 and ended in June 2023.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

DHS has monitored vacancy rates since the implementation of the add-on. When the pilot add-on for security positions and relevant supervisors began in March 2022, the vacancy rate for security positions at DHS was 13.52 percent. The overall vacancy rate dropped to four (4) percent by 2025. Pay rates for these security positions were increased in the State's 2023-2025 biennial budge

Administrative and Operations Expenses

00000 ARPASTATEOPS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$21,601,243.15**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program funds agency- and enterprise-level administration and operations at the Departments of Administration, Children and Families, Workforce Development, and Health Services. Tasks include administration, project management, fiscal oversight, procurement, reporting, and compliance activity. These efforts are ongoing.

Use of Evidence

Proper management and administration of COVID-19 federal funding is part of an evidence-based multi-faceted approach to the response and recovery effort in Wisconsin that slowed the spread of the illness and improved outcomes for those infected by the illness.

Performance Report

Performance of the management and administration of COVID-19 related federal funding is monitored through policies and practices set out in Uniform Guidance.

COVID-19 Testing

00000 ARPATESTING

Expenditure Category: 1.2-COVID-19 Testing

Funding Amount: \$21,831,944.07

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm

Project Overview

Community mitigation activities were recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding for this project supported laboratory diagnostics and specimen collection and transportation, the Community Testing Support Program (formally the Testing Pilot Program), the "Say Yes! COVID Test" direct-to-household antigen test distribution program (CareEvolution + iHealth antigen tests), and procurement and distribution of COVID-19 testing supplies (POC and OTC antigen tests, viral transport medium or VTMs, and Covid Connect 2 specimen labels) to numerous groups serving vulnerable populations in Wisconsin, such as long-term care facilities, health care facilities, and emergency responders, among others.

Use of Evidence

Distribution of COVID-19 testing supplies is a key part of an evidence-based COVID-19 mitigation policy recommended by the CDC that involves simultaneous implementation of multiple strategies, including masking, ventilation, staying home when sick, and testing.

Performance Report

Across all testing programs, since 2020, the Department of Health Services has distributed approximately 16 million tests throughout the state. The COVID-19 Recovery and Response Testing Team maintained a program inventory dashboard throughout most of the pandemic. Since September 2022, approximately 3.1 million at-home antigen tests have been distributed through "Say Yes! COVID Test," the state's mail-order test distribution program. Tests have been sent to households in all 72 Wisconsin counties. Since 2021, nearly 3 million COVID-19 tests have been administered at almost 300 community testing support program locations in Wisconsin

Increased Utility Cost Initiative

00000 ARPAUTIL

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$1,739,204.18

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project provided funding for the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) to mitigate significantly increased utility costs that were heightened during the COVID pandemic.

The WHS 2021-23 utilities allotment was projected to be significantly lower than actual costs, which may be attributed to several factors, including decreased usage and site closures during the COVID-19 pandemic leading to a reduced base amount for the 2021-23 allotment calculation, increased usage, increased utility costs, and inflation. WHS demonstrated a sufficient reduction in revenue to cover the cost of providing government services.

Use of Evidence

State agencies regularly use data and outcomes to evaluate their operations and investments.

Performance Report

Funding was used to provide DMA utility payments in the following amounts:

- Electricity \$707,070.76
- Natural gas (utility furnished) \$402,763.52
- Heating (steam or hot water/air) \$27,263.74
- Water and sewage \$183,122.81
- The total of these utility payments was \$1,320,220.83.

WHS used the \$192,000 received to cover excess utility expenses during state fiscal year 2022, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, and all the funds were spent in state fiscal year 2022 to be able to "keep the lights on" at all museums and historic sites across the state.

Food Security Grants

11500 ARPAFOOD

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$44,927,061.59

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/Covid19FoodSecurityInitiative.aspx

Project Overview

This program supported food banks, food pantries, and other eligible nonprofit organizations facing challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding provided recipients with the ability to connect with food producers, manufacturers, and aggregators in search of markets for their products. The Food Security Initiative made funds available for reimbursement to Wisconsin's two largest food banks: Hunger Task Force, Inc. and Feeding Wisconsin, Inc. The groups purchased the products and sought reimbursement for food products distributed to food banks, food pantries, and other eligible non-profit organizations in Wisconsin that were addressing hunger and food insecurity.

The groups sought reimbursement for eligible expenses: food storage and transport expenses. They also sought reimbursement for retail purchases of food in areas with food storage and transport challenges. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) worked with both groups to ensure distribution to underserved areas and to food-assistance groups and networks. The program began November 23, 2021, and ended August 31, 2023.

Use of Evidence

The goal of the Food Security Initiative was to strengthen relationships between local producers, processors, pantry networks, and residents to eliminate food insecurity in rural communities, urban centers, Tribal Nations, and homes across Wisconsin. Feeding Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force are proven partners in the fight against food insecurity and have demonstrated their effectiveness in providing emergency food distribution to all corners of the state through their networks.

Performance Report

Feeding Wisconsin distributed 9,098,049 pounds of food and 7,581,707 meals under this program.

Food banks purchased seasonal produce and proteins, staple pantry, meat, culturally preferred foods, and a variety of dairy and produce items that are regularly requested by community partners, prioritizing healthy options. Regional food banks procured food products from local Wisconsin producers when possible. Food banks sourced items in line with budgeted amounts for each food category and tracked and assessed pricing, quality, and supply to ensure proper stewardship of funds. Food banks received feedback from community partners to understand the quantities and varieties of food by categories and items that met the nutritional, dietary, and cultural preferences of consumers.

Food was quickly ordered by food banks and local food distribution organizations and delivered to the distribution sites. Feeding Wisconsin held a monthly Statewide Food Bank Sourcing Staff Meeting to support planning, food purchasing connections/relationships, and potential statewide or collaborative purchasing.

The gaps in supply chain and donations made accessing food difficult, and the grant funds enabled food banks to make purchases they otherwise might not have been able to. Hunger Task Force purchased foods from small- and medium-sized Wisconsin farmers, ranchers, and food producers, aggregating these foods into Wisconsin Badger State Boxes (commonly known as "Badger Boxes"). Aggregation and delivery of Badger Boxes continued by Russ Davis Wholesale, an employee-owned wholesale produce supplier in Hammond, Wisconsin.

Hunger Task Force focused on providing and improving support to the now well-established food hubs serving the rural, remote, Indigenous, and low-income areas of Wisconsin. Technical assistance and support were provided on safe food handling, fair treatment of people and coordination of access to federal nutrition programs offered in local Wisconsin communities.

Meat Inspection Supplemental Funding

11500 ARPAMEATINSP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$690,131.87

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/MSInspection.aspx

Project Overview

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has one of the largest state-inspected meat inspection programs in the country. Under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Food Safety Inspection Services (FSIS), state meat inspection programs may receive up to 50 percent funding for their inspection activities. Traditionally, FSIS has provided state programs with the full 50 percent match. However, in recent years, FSIS has been providing state programs with significantly less funding. This project mitigates negative impacts to the state meat inspection program due to federal funding reductions.

Applying the funds toward supporting inspection ensured the ability to maintain a successful staterun meat inspection program.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

This project was completed prior to this reporting period.

Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Resiliency Program

11500 ARPAMEATPROC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$9,454,868.13**

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/MeatPoultrySupplyChainResiliencyGrants.aspx

Project Overview

The Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Resiliency grant program was administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Program funding supported the growth of Wisconsin's meat processing industry and improved the long-term viability of the state's livestock industry by offering competitive reimbursement grants. Approved projects included expansion efforts to provide assistance with professional services costs related to siting, engineering, design, or layout of new facilities or production lines, increases in an establishment's harvest capacity, increases in a meat or meat product production that showed a benefit to harvest capacity within the supply chain, or increases in rendering capacity or animal by-product utilization.

Competitive grants of up to \$150,000 were made available to applicants with projects at meat and poultry processing facilities, as well as rendering businesses that proposed to grow or develop new and existing business harvest or throughput capacity, improve production or profitability, or help address capacity or production bottlenecks and challenges. A 100-percent funding match was required of grant recipients. Applications for the program closed in August 2022. Funding for the program, and the performance period ran through December 2024.

Use of Evidence

There was increased demand for slaughter at smaller, state-inspected meat processing facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with this trend, total slaughters of cattle rose 21 percent in 2020 relative to 2019, while total slaughters of swine rose 34 percent in 2020 compared to 2019. DATCP identified that a shortage of meat processing capacity imposed a bottleneck on growth in Wisconsin's meat industry, estimated that in recent years, wait times from scheduling to slaughter had increased from approximately two months to two years.

In response, a state-funded meat processor grant program was developed in 2021 to be administered by DATCP. During the initial round, DATCP received 100 applications requesting approximately \$4.4 million, although only \$200,000 was available. The strong demand for the state program indicated a need for additional funding.

DATCP is monitoring the results to support grant recipients and inform future program and policy recommendations. Quarterly and final reports offer industry impact data, including increases in harvest capacity, additional services made available due to the funding, impact on throughput, projected benefits, related non-grant-funded investments, and new jobs created and retained, as well as challenges/barriers to accomplish goals and types of resources would be helpful in accomplishing processors' goals.

Performance Report

DATCP received 99 grant applications requesting more than \$11.1 million in funding in 2022. DATCP selected 91 recipients that spanned 48 Wisconsin counties. A list and map of the recipients can be found on DATCP's website at datcp.wi.gov. While these and meat processor grant funds have supported Wisconsin's meat industry, there continues to be a shortage of meat processing capacity based on 2023 data. Currently, many meat processors are booked into 2025 for processing appointments. The current grant funds have helped to alleviate some of this shortage, with all closed grants from processors who slaughter reporting an increase in the number of livestock they can process weekly. However, a backlog still exists. Meat processors who have completed their grant projects have added 218 full-time jobs and 68 part-time jobs in their businesses. Those businesses expect that increased efficiency through upgrades and modernization will boost sales.

Recipients collectively reported investing over \$41.1 million of their own money to complete grant projects. Grant projects carried out through the program have resulted in a reported profit increase of \$32.4 million, meaning that each grant dollar has increased meat processor gross sales by \$3.97 and has spurred \$5.04 in industry investment overall. Increased revenue ranges from \$20,000 per year to over \$1.5 million.

Meat Talent Development Program

11500 ARPAMEATTLNT

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$5,110,000.00**

https://meatpathways.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Meat Talent Development Program is a multi-faceted program designed to promote the meat sector as an important and vital career choice to attract, train, and place individuals of all educational backgrounds, age, sex, and race. The intended outcomes of the program are to strengthen rural communities by providing jobs in the meat sector, growing meat processing capacity, and giving farmers more options to capture the full value of their livestock. The program was initiated in 2022 and closed in December 2024.

DATCP partnered with the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), the University of Wisconsin (UW)–River Falls, UW–Platteville, UW–Madison, UW Extension, and the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors, to create a program aimed at attracting potential employees to the meat sector. This effort has promoted the career pathways available within the industry through a dedicated website, and developing educational opportunities that accommodate a broad range of experience – from no past experience to short courses designed to help those already working in the sector to become more skilled employees and business owners.

Specific opportunities developed as a result of this program include a high school meat unit educational curriculum that can be incorporated into existing agriculture or culinary classes, meat training at eight colleges within the WTCS, the creation of the Humane Handling Institute in partnership with the UW-River Falls to train meat processors involved in slaughter, and tuition reimbursement for short-courses at UW-Madison, such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HAACP), Carcass Fabrication, and Basic Meat Processing School.

Use of Evidence

Evaluations and measurements were developed to capture information related to placement levels, training evaluations by participants, and interviews with those who have used the programs to gauge the success of the Meat Talent Development Program and inform future program and policy recommendations.

Performance Report

A <u>Meat Pathways website</u> was built to help individuals learn more about the range of meat industry career opportunities and identify career paths and training opportunities. The website includes videos highlighting career areas to attract potential employees into the meat sector. In addition, landing pages connect individuals to Technical College meat training programs The high school meat unit educational curriculum was developed and completed. All Wisconsin high schools wanting to

incorporate the unit have access. One hundred schools have incorporated the training into their school year. Seven technical colleges have completed curriculum training and have successfully graduated students from their program. Six technical colleges continue to offer the courses and Gateway Technical College no longer offers the program. Six technical colleges are accepting applications for the next year. Due to a higher than anticipated demand for the courses, Southwest Technical College and Mid-state Technical College are offering summer courses as well.

The <u>Humane Handling Institute</u> continues to assist interested meat processors in developing a Systematic Plan for the Humane Handling of Livestock. A Robust Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare is a written humane handling program that systematically goes through each step of the process from the time an animal arrives to the time it's rendered insensible. Year after year, the most common enforcement actions issued to slaughter establishments are related to stunning challenges. Successful stunning is crucial for safeguarding animal welfare, the mental wellbeing of employees, and preventing regulatory consequences. More than 145 students have enrolled in the Humane Handling courses since starting the program in 2022, and additional classes are being filled.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, four Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) courses have been held with a total of 217 participants receiving tuition reimbursement to date. Thirty-six participants received tuition reimbursement for the meat processing school, and 20 students completed the Harvest and Fabrication School in Spring 2024.

Broadband Access Grant Program

15500 ARPABRDBAND

Expenditure Category: 5.19-Broadband: Last Mile projects

Funding Amount: \$102,421,200.00

https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/GrantsARPA.aspx

Project Overview

The Broadband Access Grants, administered by the Public Service Commission, are improving broadband access, adoption, and affordability by funding the construction of fiber broadband internet in unserved and underserved areas of Wisconsin. Funding was allocated to alleviate critical gaps in access to work opportunities, remote learning, telehealth, and community participation caused by a lack of internet access during the pandemic.

Projects ultimately will expand fiber broadband internet with speeds of 100 Megabits per second download and 100Mbps upload (or 100/20 scalable to 100/100) to an estimated 29,129 residential and 1,501 business locations currently unserved and underserved.

In addition, this funding has served as important preparation for other federal funding including the Capital Projects Fund and the BEAD Program.

Over the past year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025):

- 47 projects closed
- 15,073 residences served
- 2,951 business locations served
- 2,329 miles of fiber deployed

A mapping of all grant awards including the grants awarded through the Broadband Access Grant program is available through the <u>Wisconsin Broadband Grant Footprint</u>.

Use of Evidence

Grant awards were determined through an analysis of broadband availability data provided by the Federal Communications Commission and internet service providers. Applicants provided supplemental availability data that was evaluated by the PSC during the award process, and all eligibility determinations included a public evaluation and comment process. Further, ongoing evaluation and progress reports are updated quarterly and available on the PSC's Electronic Records Filing system under docket 5-BF-2022.

Performance Report

From the start of the program (November 5, 2021 to June 30, 2025):

- 73 projects closed
- 21,743 residences served
- 4,111 business locations served
- 3,070 miles of fiber deployed

The subsequent table shows the status of each Broadband Assistance project:

Project ID Entity Project Location	Funding Amount	Project Overview	Performance Report
15500_BRDBAND_719: Bruce Telephone Company, Fireside Lake	\$66,225	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 12 business and 55 residential locations in the town of Big Bend in Rusk County	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_720: Siren Telephone Company, Town of Jackson / Voyager Village Phase 2	\$421,948	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 1 business and 247 residential locations in the town of Jackson in Burnett County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_721: Siren Telephone Company, Town of Oakland / West Yellow River Road	\$252,264	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 10 business and 152 residential locations in the town of Oakland in Burnett County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_722: UpnetWI, LLC, Town of Pleasant Springs	\$76,005.03	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 19 business and 139 residential locations in the town of Pleasant Springs in Dane County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_723: Whitewater Wideband, LLC DBA Edge Broadband, Town of Lafayette	\$144,804	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 11 business and 69 residential locations in the town of Lafayette in Walworth County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_724: Chibardun Telephone Cooperative DBA Mosaic Technologies, Bear Lake / Oak Grove	\$3,625,483	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 126 business and 555 residential locations in the towns of Bear Lake, Oak Grove, Sarona, and Cedar Lake in Washburn and Barron counties.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_725: Chibardun Telephone Cooperative DBA Mosaic Technologies, Big Chetac	\$4,093,321	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 177 business and 652 residential locations in the towns of Birchwood and Edgewater in Washburn and Sawyer Counties.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_726: Chibardun Telephone Cooperative DBA Mosaic Technologies, Four Corners	\$185,530	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 10 business and 28 residential locations in the towns of Wilson,	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project Location	Funding Amount	Project Overview	Performance Report
		Cedar Lake, and Birchwood in Washburn, Barron, and Rusk counties.	
15500_BRDBAND_727: Chibardun Telephone Cooperative DBA Mosaic Technologies, Town of Otter Creek	\$878,700	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 25 business and 114 residential locations in the town of Otter Creek in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_728: Chibardun Telephone Cooperative DBA Mosaic Technologies, Town of Sarona	\$4,233,425	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 268 business and 512 residential locations in the towns of Sarona, Madge, Beaver Brook, and Long Lake in Washburn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_729: SonicNet, Inc, Town of Washington (Bass Lake)	\$349,658	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 12 business and 190 residential locations in the town of Washington in Vilas County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_730: Starwire Technologies, LLC, Indian Creek South Phase 2	\$540,057	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 17 business and 149 residential locations in the town of Lorain in Polk County	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_762: CCI Systems, Inc DBA Astrea, Town of Foster - Rock Dam Lake	\$179,048	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 11 business and 141 residential locations in the town of Foster in Clark County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BRDBAND_763: Washington Island Electric Cooperative, Washington Island - Phase 3	\$1,060,178	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 78 business and 232 residential locations in the town of Washington in Door County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_1311: Chibardun Telephone Cooperative DBA Mosaic Technologies, Towns of Edgewater and Sand Lake	\$782,809	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 11 business and 144 residential locations in the municipalities of Edgewater and Sand Lake in Sawyer County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_1312: Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company, Town of Waumandee	\$500,000	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 4 business and 92 residential locations in the municipality of Waumandee in Buffalo County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_769: Central State Telephone Company, LLC DBA TDS Telecom, Necedah	\$1,088,791	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 25 business and 767 residential locations in the towns of Armenia, Clearfield, Finley, and Necedah in Juneau County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project Location	Funding Amount	Project Overview	Performance Report
15500_BROADBND_770: The Farmers Telephone Company, LLC DBA TDS Telecom, Potosi	\$943,333	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 7 business and 132 residential locations in the towns of Harrison and Potosi in Grant County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_771: Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc, Town of Alma (Jackson County)	\$2,177,500	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 10 business and 338 residential locations in the town of Alma in Jackson County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_772: Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc, Town of Naples	\$1,137,500	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 44 business and 173 residential locations in the town of Naples in Buffalo County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_773: Nelson Communications Cooperative DBA Ntec, Town of Mondovi	\$1,585,200	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 60 business and 124 residential locations in the town of Mondovi in Buffalo County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_774: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, Clifton North	\$1,080,103	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 10 business and 100 residential locations in the towns of River Falls and Clifton in Pierce County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_775: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, Clifton South	\$537,725	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 6 business and 120 residential locations in the city of River Falls and the town of Clifton in Pierce County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_776: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, El Paso	\$1,293,497	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 10 business and 390 residential locations in the towns of River Falls, El Paso, and Martell in Pierce County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_777: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, Esdaile NW	\$591,698	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 10 business and 250 residential locations in the towns of Ellsworth, El Paso, and Hartland in Pierce County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_778: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, Oak Grove North	\$712,130	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 8 business and 142 residential locations in the towns of Oak Grove and Clifton in Pierce County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_779: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, Oak Grove South	\$507,549	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 2 business and 214 residential locations in the town of Oak Grove in Pierce County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project Location	Funding Amount	Project Overview	Performance Report
15500_BROADBND_780: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, Town of Ellsworth	\$627,174	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 5 business and 255 residential locations in the towns of Ellsworth, El Paso, and Martell in Pierce County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_781: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, Town of River Falls Northeast	\$804,340	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 14 business and 360 residential locations in the city of River Falls and the towns of Kinnickinnic and River Falls in Pierce and St. Croix counties.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_782: Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, Trimbelle West	\$575,465	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 6 business and 200 residential locations in the towns of River Falls, Trimbelle, and Oak Grove in Pierce County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_786: Wittenberg Telephone Company, Inc DBA Wittenberg Wireless, Langlade County	\$544,850	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 48 business and 142 residential locations in the towns of Antigo, Neva, Upham and Polar in Langlade County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_787: Wittenberg Telephone Company, Inc DBA Wittenberg Wireless, Stockbridge Munsee	\$543,400	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 58 business and 171 residential locations in the towns of Almon, Stockbridge, and Red Springs in Shawano County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_788: Wittenberg Telephone Company, Inc DBA Wittenberg Wireless, Town of Norrie	\$150,000	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 5 business and 110 residential locations in the town of Norrie in Marathon County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_789: Nextgen Communications, LLC DBA Nextgen Broadband, Glenwood City	\$2,130,629	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 137 business and 1066 residential locations in the city of Glenwood, and the villages of Downing and Boyceville in St. Croix and Dunn counties.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_790: Northwoods Communications Technologies, LLC DBA Northwoods Connect, Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties	\$2,283,772	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 65 business and 1268 residential locations in the Reservation of Mole Lake Indians, and the towns of Lincoln, Laona, Blackwell, Argonne, Hiles, Crandon, Nashville, Three Lakes, and Washington in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties.	This project reported being 15% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project Location	Funding Amount	Project Overview	Performance Report
15500_BROADBND_791: Town of Liberty Grove, Northport FTTH Pilot	\$318,500	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 1 business and 44 residential locations in the town of Liberty Grove in Door County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_792: Reedsburg Utility Commission DBA LightSpeed, Happy Hill	\$2,362,500	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 28 business and 404 residential locations in the towns of Honey Creek, Westfield, Baraboo, and Freedom in Sauk County.	This project reported being 20% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_793: Reedsburg Utility Commission DBA LightSpeed, Iowa County	\$2,025,000	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 23 business and 479 residential locations in the village of Arena, the towns of Arena and Wyoming, and the communities of Coon Rock, Helena, and Wyoming in Iowa County.	This project reported being 10% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_794: Reedsburg Utility Commission DBA LightSpeed, White Mound	\$3,757,500	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 57 business and 625 residential locations in the village of Plain and towns of Bear Creek, Franklin, Buena Vista, and Ithaca in Sauk and Richland Counties.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_795: Reedsburg Utility Commission DBA LightSpeed, Witwen	\$3,600,000	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 40 business and 652 residential locations in the towns of Troy, Honey Creek, Prairie du Sac, and Sumpter in Sauk County.	This project reported being 30% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_797: Farmers Independent Telephone Company DBA Grantsburg Telcom, Anderson	\$223,530	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 0 business and 45 residential locations in the town of Anderson in Burnett County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_798: Farmers Independent Telephone Company DBA Grantsburg Telcom, Clam River Phase 1	\$251,545	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 0 business and 35 residential locations in the town of Union in Burnett County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_799: Farmers Independent Telephone Company DBA Grantsburg Telcom, Sterling	\$403,324	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 0 business and 102 residential locations in the town of Sterling in Polk County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_801: Vernon Communications Cooperative, Crawford County	\$5,697,500	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 261 business and 1096 residential locations in the towns of Freeman, Utica, and Seneca, and the villages of Mount Sterling and Lynxville in Crawford County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project Location	Funding Amount	Project Overview	Performance Report
15500_BROADBND_803: Ntera, LLC, Arnold	\$673,650	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 15 business and 150 residential locations in the towns of Cleveland, Estella, Lake Holcombe, and Ruby in Chippewa County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_804: Ntera, LLC, Crescent - Colburn	\$436,403	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 13 business and 98 residential locations in the towns of Arthur and Colburn in Chippewa County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_805: Ntera, LLC, Delmar - Edson	\$1,065,000	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 15 business and 269 residential locations in the towns of Delmar, Edson, Sigel, and Goetz in Chippewa County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_806: Amery Telcom, Inc DBA NorthwestCommunications, Amery Exchange	\$980,000	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 18 business and 668 residential locations in the communities of Little Falls, Joel, Lykens, Wanderoos, and Deronda in Polk County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_807: Bloomer Telephone Company, Town of Eagle Point	\$1,216,759	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 5 business and 220 residential locations in the town of Eagle Point in Chippewa county.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_808: Bloomer Telephone Company, Town of Tilden	\$663,340	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 3 business and 118 residential locations in the town of Tilden in Chippewa County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_809: Somerset Telephone Company, Inc. DBA Northwest Communications, Town of Alden	\$333,200	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 43 business and 388 residential locations in the town of Alden in Polk County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_810: Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company, Town of Cross	\$1,703,229.86	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 69 business and 196 residential locations in the town of Cross in Buffalo County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_811: LaValle Telephone Cooperative, Highway 58 Phase 2 (Route to Mauston)	\$624,750	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 35 business and 125 residential locations in the towns of Lindina and Summit in Juneau County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_812: LaValle Telephone Cooperative, Town of Woodland	\$949,500	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 33 business and 179 residential locations in the town of Woodland in Sauk County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project	Funding	Project Overview	Performance Report
Location 15500_BROADBND_813:	Amount \$538,645	This project will utilize a Fiber to the	This project reported
Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc, Town of Adams West		Premise service to reach 2 business and 235 residential locations in the town of Adams in Adams County.	being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_814: Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc, Towns of Lewiston and Fort Winnebago	\$901,679	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 2 business and 205 residential locations in Columbia County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_815: Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc, Towns of Packwaukee and Harris	\$324,091	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 8 business and 121 residential locations in the towns of Packwaukee and Harris in Marquette County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_816: Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc, Towns of Montello, Mecan and Shields	\$2,422,837	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 157 business and 616 residential locations in the towns of Mecan, Shields, and Montello in Marquette County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_817: Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc, Town of Quincy	\$986,180	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 15 business and 600 residential locations in the town of Quincy in Adams County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_818: Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc, Town of Springfield	\$790,568	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 35 business and 252 residential locations in the town of Springfield in Marquette County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_819: Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc, Town of Adams East	\$998,510	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 5 business and 493 residential locations in the town of Adams in Adams County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_820: Norvado, Inc, Washburn North	\$483,365	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 18 business and 243 residential locations in the city of Washburn and towns of Washburn and Barksdale in Bayfield County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_821: Norvado, Inc, Town of Lenroot	\$613,130	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 29 business and 161 residential locations in the town of Lenroot in Sawyer County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_822: Norvado, Inc, Lower Eau Claire	\$114,365.49	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 0 business and 34 residential locations in the town of Barnes in Bayfield County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project Location	Funding Amount	Project Overview	Performance Report
15500_BROADBND_823: Norvado, Inc, Town of Barksdale	\$624,580	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 30 business and 201 residential locations in the town of Barksdale in Bayfield County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_824: Price County Telephone Company DBA Norvado, Phillips East - Musser Lake	\$1,994,994	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 138 business and 1290 residential locations in the city of Phillips and towns of Worcester, Elk, Emery, Hackett, and Harmony in Price County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_825: Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative, Inc, Crawford County	\$2,364,000	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 191 business and 366 residential locations in the towns of Clayton, Scott, and Haney in Crawford County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_826: 24-7 Telcom, Inc, Town of Elk Mound	\$1,383,320	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 33 business and 465 residential locations in the town of Elk Mound in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_827: 24-7 Telcom, Inc, Town of Lucas	\$857,915	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 49 business and 234 residential locations in the town of Lucas in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_828: 24-7 Telcom, Inc, Town of Menomonie	\$1,069,815	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 46 business and 353 residential locations in the town of Menomonie in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_829: 24-7 Telcom, Inc, Town of Red Cedar - Phase 3	\$1,479,140	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 84 business and 656 residential locations in the town of Red Cedar in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_830: 24-7 Telcom, Inc , Town of Spring Brook	\$794,835	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 34 business and 177 residential locations in the town of Spring Brook in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_831: 24-7 Telcom, Inc , Town of Stanton	\$1,506,790	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 95 business and 406 residential locations in the town of Stanton in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_832: 24-7 Telcom, Inc , Town of Tainter	\$1,438,035	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 91 business and 772 residential locations in the town of Tainter in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project Location	Funding Amount	Project Overview	Performance Report
15500_BROADBND_833: 24-7 Telcom, Inc, Town of Brunswick	\$869,545	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 42 business and 248 residential locations in the town of Brunswick in Eau Claire County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_834: 24-7 Telcom, Inc, Town of Howard	\$529,635	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 35 business and 114 residential locations in the town of Howard in Chippewa County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_835: 24-7 Telcom, Inc , Town of Weston - Phase 2	\$616,285	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 51 business and 143 residential locations in the town of Weston in Dunn County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_836: 24-7 Telcom, Inc , Town of Wheaton - Phase 2	\$1,421,630	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 54 business and 559 residential locations in the town of Wheaton in Chippewa County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_841: Spectrum Mid-America, LLC, Town of Janesville	\$133,654	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 0 business and 39 residential locations in the town of Janesville in Rock County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_842: Spectrum Mid-America, LLC, Kenosha County	\$872,171	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 0 business and 918 residential locations in the towns of Paris and Brighton, and the village of Bristol in Kenosha County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_843: Spectrum Mid-America, LLC, Walworth County	\$2,244,450	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 0 business and 1578 residential locations in the cities of Whitewater and Elkhorn, the villages of Walworth and Bloomfield, and the towns of Walworth, Linn, Bloomfield, Whitewater, La Grange, Richmond, Sugar Creek, Lafayette, Troy, Darien, Delavan, Geneva, Spring Prairie, Walworth, Linn, and Bloomfield in Walworth County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_844: Spectrum Mid-America, LLC, Racine County	\$629,616	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 0 business and 2000 residential locations in the town of Yorkville and the villages of Rochester and Union Grove in Racine County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.
15500_BROADBND_845: Oconto County Economic Development Corporation, Mountain / Riverview	\$1,595,464	This project will utilize a Fiber to the Premise service to reach 9 business and 375 residential locations in the towns of Mountain and Riverview in Oconto County.	This project reported being 100% complete at the end of quarter two of 2025.

Project ID Entity Project	Funding	Project Overview	Performance Report
Location	Amount		
15500_BROADBND_846:	\$6,041,269	This project will utilize a Fiber to the	This project reported
Bad River Band of Lake		Premise service to reach 6	being 0% complete at
Superior Tribe of Chippewa		business and 260 residential	the end of quarter two
Indians DBA Superior		locations in Ashland County.	of 2025.
Connections, Rez Connect			
15500_BROADBND_847:	\$147,640	This project will utilize a Fiber to the	This project reported
Amherst Telephone		Premise service to reach 17	being 100% complete
Company, Town of Dayton		business and 93 residential	at the end of quarter
Phase 2		locations in the town of Dayton in	two of 2025.
		Waupaca County.	

Broadband Intelligence

15500 ARPABRDBANDINTEL

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$2,976,000.00**

https://maps.psc.wi.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/template/?id=703da78031cb4c37b7d0dfa4c645d9

8b&page=page 0

Project Overview

The Broadband Intelligence platform is an initiative whereby PSC contracts with a third party or parties to acquire data, conduct community engagements, map target areas, and provide specialized expertise to identify areas and populations of highest need and opportunity as it relates to broadband infrastructure access, affordability, and adoption. The implementation of this program allows PSC the ability to tailor specific projects to areas of greatest need—whether it be infrastructure, affordable service, or breaking down barriers to adopting the use of broadband in school, work, and health activities.

The Wisconsin Broadband Office (WBO) completed work and released for public viewing the Wisconsin Broadband Almanac with funding from Broadband Intelligence. The Almanac presents broadband access, affordability, and adoption at both statewide summary statistics and community level data. Within the almanac, statistics focus on internet usage and communities that are burdened by cost. These statistics provide a benchmark resource for communities to plan and measure progress.

Additional time was dedicated to gathering updated statistical data that will be used to refresh the next iteration of the Almanac. The data provided is meant to garner insights into the impacts Wisconsinites are experiencing in their communities. Funding from the Broadband Intelligence program supported contractor services to complete technical/administrative development of the Wisconsin Broadband Almanac.

Use of Evidence

This program provides funds to the Public Service Commission to enable stronger, more accurate data to inform broadband planning and implementation. Robust and comprehensive data is critical to the Broadband Office and to residents and communities across the state. With better and more current data the Commission can use broadband intelligence data to assess community needs, determine grant eligibility, allocate resources, offer targeted technical assistance and engage with internet service providers and other community resources related to internet affordability.

Performance Report

On April 4, 2025, the Wisconsin Broadband Office unveiled the <u>Broadband Almanac</u>. The Almanac is a public version of the broadband intelligence data. Broadband access, affordability, and adoption are presented at both a statewide level of summary statistics and community level. Users can dive in to detailed analysis of specific counties and municipalities by using the <u>County-Community view</u> linked in the Statewide Almanac.

The Almanac serves as a tool for sharing Wisconsin's progress towards the goal of internet for all through changes to locations, served status, and the completion of state and federal Grants. Also, within the Almanac, statistics focusing on internet usage and communities that are burdened by cost help provide insights into the impacts Wisconsinites are experiencing within their communities. This statistical analysis will serve as a resource for communities for planning and to measure Wisconsin's progress.

Safety and Professional Services Customer Service Center

16500 ARPADSPSCSC

Expenditure Category: 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Funding Amount: \$5,727,840.00

dsps.wi.gov

Project Overview

Several factors caused by the pandemic, from increased uncertainty to shifts in operational functions, exacerbated the impact a growing call volume had on the Department of Safety and Professional Services' (DSPS) ability to provide timely customer service, which was keeping workers from obtaining a license in a timelier manner. Funding supported a contract with a staffing company beginning in June 2022 that quickly added capacity to DSPS's customer service operations. In an effort to continue optimal-level services, additional funds were dedicated to this project.

Use of Evidence

DSPS ensures the efficacy of funding by tracking call center activity and reviewing metrics on a weekly basis. Based on the data and review, staffing is adjusted to maintain high answer rates in the customer service center.

Performance Report

As a result of this investment, DSPS is maintaining an answer rate consistently 80 percent or greater, significantly improving customer service. Additional staffing has also allowed more than 3,000 weekly support tickets to be handled in a timely manner, further driving down phone call volume.

Safety and Professional Services Licensing

16500 ARPADSPSLIC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$7,716,992.00**

license.wi.gov

Project Overview

This funding supported technology innovations and expertise to offer improved customer service, faster processing, and enhanced data to help applicants and related third-parties (e.g. employers, educational institutions, examination providers, etc.) optimize engagements with the Department of Safety and Professional Services' (DSPS). These innovations include technology enhancements that increase the ease and efficiency of licensing platforms and expedite license verifications and data sharing.

Use of Evidence

DSPS monitors operational data to ensure effectiveness of innovations and technology.

Performance Report

DSPS completed another phase of updates to the public license lookup, a tool that enables employers and others to verify licensure status. Expanded self-service options for license holders, eliminating the need for them to contact customer service to update some of their personal/contact information on file with DSPS. Completed another phase of development for supervisor look-up and supervised work hour online approval logs, simplifying efforts for behavioral health license holders who need to work under an approved supervisor and record those worked hours in order to qualify for their full credential. Further automated functions in the LicensE application platform, which has helped DSPS maintain fast processing times (usually around 5 - 10 calendar days). Some projects remain ongoing.

Safety and Professional Services Staff Augmentation

16500 ARPADSPSSTF

Expenditure Category: 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Funding Amount: \$4,085,670.00

dsps.wi.gov

Project Overview

This funding supported additional project staff in the Department of Safety and Professional Services' (DSPS) Division of Professional Credential Processing, beginning in October 2021. Project staff were needed to evaluate applications and augment the legal team to increase capacity to handle legal and reciprocity application reviews. Additional staff were needed because DSPS lacked sufficient staff to process these reviews quickly, which was preventing workers across the state from obtaining licensing in a timely manner.

Use of Evidence

DSPS monitors staff performance to ensure a high level of service is sustained and to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in service delivery.

Performance Report

The additional staff have improved the Division's capacity to process applications in a timely manner. The Department maintains a prompt response to submitted documents, with all submissions in all license areas being addressed within ten business days. The Department continues to handle increasing application volume while maintaining prompt response times because of technology innovation and staff augmentation.

Safety and Professional Services Website Redesign

16500 ARPADSPSWEB

Expenditure Category: 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Funding Amount: \$200,000.00

dsps.wi.gov

Project Overview

This funding initiative supported the Department of Safety and Professional Services' (DSPS) website redesign. The Department contracted with Tyler Technologies to completely redesign the website to be more user-friendly with the goal of increasing self-service capacity and driving down customer service center contacts.

Use of Evidence

DSPS tracks all customer contacts and website traffic, and this data is informing the webiste redesign effort.

Performance Report

The work is in development/ongoing. Project timelines are tracking well.

Key Strategic Partnerships for Lasting Economic Development Initiative

19200 ARPAKSP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$7,100,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program provides funding to utilize the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's Key Strategic Partners framework to expand the state's economic growth and well-being through contractual relationships with non-profit organizations and local governments for organizational, programmatic, and/or capital projects that help drive sustained economic growth in Wisconsin.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

This project is in its preliminary stages.

Main Street Bounceback Business Grants

19200 ARPAMSBB

Expenditure Category: 2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Funding Amount: \$96,980,896.91

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/assistance/#ForMyBusiness

Project Overview

The Main Street Bounceback Business (MSBB) Grants program allowed the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to provide grants to nine regional economic development organizations in Wisconsin that had the capacity to administer \$10,000 grants to businesses, particularly small businesses, opening locations in vacant commercial spaces. The grants could be used to help eligible businesses with costs associated with leases, mortgages, operational expenses, and other business costs related to the newly opened location and, as a result, incentivize redevelopment of vacant commercial spaces in important economic corridors throughout Wisconsin. Development of the project began in March 2021, and applications were accepted from August 2021 through December 2022. The program aimed to bolster businesses' immediate economic recovery from the pandemic and to help spur long-term economic growth on main streets across Wisconsin.

Use of Evidence

Main Street Bounceback Technical Assistance provides free services to help ensure long-term success for these supported businesses.

Performance Report

Throughout the life of MSBB, 9,423 grants were deployed to Wisconsin small businesses (less than 500 employees).

A total of 2,403 (25.5%) MSBB grants were provided to businesses located in rural counties and 7,020 (74.5%) MSBB grants were provided to businesses in urban counties. Given that 26% of Wisconsin's population lives in rural areas and 74% of Wisconsin's population lives in urban areas, MSBB grants were proportionally distributed between rural and urban businesses.

At the time businesses were awarded an MSBB grant, 3,900 were less than one year old, 1,405 were one year old, 737 were two years old, 518 were three years old, 426 were four years old, 275 were five years old, 754 were six to 10 years old, and 880 were more than 10 years old. Not all applications included specific dates.

MSBB applicants were asked to report their number of full-time equivalents. A majority of MSBB recipients (6,003) were businesses that had 1 to 4.82 full-time equivalents. A total of 1,735 businesses had less than one full-time equivalent, and 939 businesses had 5 or more full-time

equivalents. The remaining 746 businesses either did not report their number of full-time equivalents or accidentally reported 0, likely because the owners were not counting themselves.

MSBB supported businesses that provided a wide variety of products and services. Businesses were asked to provide their NAICS code when applying for MSBB. Below are the ten most common NAICS categories provided by businesses that received an MSBB grant.

NAICS Category	Number of Businesses
Beauty and barber shops	681
Full-service restaurants	319
Other personal care services	247
Limited-service restaurants	210
Bars and Taverns	172
Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars	158
Offices of all other miscellaneous health practitioners	146
Childcare services	115
Clothing and clothing accessories retailers	114
Offices of mental health practitioners	106

Main Street Bounceback Technical Assistance

19200 ARPAMSBBTA

Expenditure Category: 2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Funding Amount: \$5,229,625.00

https://business.wisconsin.edu/initiatives/msbb/

Project Overview

This initiative allows the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to fund a technical assistance program that builds off the Main Street Bounceback Business Grants (MSBB) program. WEDC contracts with the University of Wisconsin Office of Business and Entrepreneurship (OBE), formally the Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship, to provide technical assistance, delivered statewide through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) network to small businesses. Technical assistance includes consultation and training services, both virtually and in person. The program uses funds to provide bilingual training, specialized clinics and labs, and market research and to add additional consultants at no cost to the MSBB grant recipients to assist in ongoing small business support. MSBB grant recipients also have access to the services routinely offered by SBDC, such as capital access proformas, export assistance, and general business operations review and advice. WEDC has employed a project manager to administer the initiative.

The development of the project began in February of 2023. The project's start date was June 1, 2023, and it officially launched to MSBB recipients in September 2023. The project will end December 31, 2026. The technical assistance program was originally available only to MSBB recipients, but in January 2025, the program opened to all Wisconsin small businesses with less than 500 employees.

The intended outcome of the project is to connect small businesses to available resources and increase their chances of survival. Additionally, this project allows SBDC to grow and strengthen its capacity and services.

The goals of the project are as follows:

- Increase SBDC's consulting capacity by hiring a rural consultant, who will focus on clients in the northern tier of Wisconsin with limited access to broadband
- Increase small businesses' access to consulting services by providing those services at no cost through SBDC
- Expand the Milwaukee Business Lab's reach to MSBB recipients through business assessments and one-on-one consulting
- Increase small business access to the Milwaukee Business Lab's consulting services, subject matter experts, computer lab equipment, and research tools
- Establish a collaboration with the Milwaukee Anchor Collaborative and increase small business referrals to the Milwaukee Anchor Collaborative

- Expand student clinic initiatives by increasing resources for the Digital Marketing Clinic and increasing the number of small businesses participating in the clinic
- Establish rural small business clinics to offer in-person consultation
- Increase small businesses' access to training by providing over 60 different training programs at no cost
- Increase the number of Entrepreneurial How-To videos and small business MSBB recipients' access to videos Increase small business recipients' access to all other SBDC services by offering them at no cost

Use of Evidence

From April 2020 through December 2021, business applications for employer identification numbers increased to 4,716 applications per month. From 2020 to 2021, business applications increased by 23 percent (Julian et al., 2022) in total.

Part of this significant increase can be attributed to the MSBB program, which enabled more businesses to survive beyond their first year by awarding grants to 9,423 Wisconsin small businesses. In the spring and summer of 2023, WEDC conducted interviews with small and/or rural businesses and found that on average, 1 in 4 businesses fail within the first year. MSBB recipients communicated to WEDC that to move their businesses from survival mode to thriving, they needed additional support. The support they needed was not only financial; interviewees told WEDC that they also required support in marketing, business planning, financial advice, and resource identification. WEDC developed the MSBB Technical Assistance Program with these needs in mind and sought partnerships with IBE and the SBDC network, which have robust expertise and experience in providing technical assistance in all the areas identified by MSBB grant recipient.

Performance Report

OBE is required to submit quarterly reports to WEDC to showcase their work and outcomes. OBE has submitted five performance reports, covering the time of June 1, 2023, to March 31, 2025. The most recent performance report was submitted on April 15, 2025, and covered the performance period of January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025. Within their performance report, OBE provided the information below highlighting milestones, metrics, and timeline.

Since this program launched, the SBDC network has had a total of 1,544 attendees at training sessions, 185 participants in the Digital Marketing Clinic, and hundreds of appointments at Small Business Clinics. However, none of these services have reached full capacity. The expansion of the program to all small businesses rather than just MSBB grant recipients will significantly increase their utilization.

A rural consultant was hired in Q3 of 2024 at UW-Stevens Point SBDC and has been working with small businesses in central and northern rural counties. The consultant has implemented a Business Networking Initiative in Langlade County to provide direct resources for businesses with limited access to in-person support. Three Business Networking events have been held with topics covering Marketing Considerations for your Small Business, Leveraging Local Marketing Channels &

Community Calendar, and a Speed Networking Experience. The rural consultant has also met with, collaborated with, and provided presentations to local partners.

The timeline for formally expanding the Milwaukee Business Lab has been delayed due to leadership transitions at the UW-Milwaukee SBDC. Despite delays, the Lab continues to build infrastructure and engage with community stakeholders as they prepare for launch.

The Digital Marketing Clinic provided four webinars in Q1 of 2025 to a combined total of 151 attendees. A Rural Small Business Clinic was held at the Madison Area Technical College in Waterton in February 2025. The clinic received 71 registrants and 45 attended (a 63% attendance rate). The event resulted in 357 session registrations and 110 total one-on-one appointments, averaging 2.4 consultations per attendee.

During Q1 of 2025, Entrepreneur/Business Operations and Resiliency Training had a total of 356 participants, equivalent to 1,075 hours of training sessions. An additional 25 participants engaged with the Digital Marketing Clinic for 490 hours of consulting. As of March 30, 2025, OBE completed four marketing and three HR/Operations videos and are waiting on final edits for seven of the existing law videos. These videos, and others, can be viewed by small businesses in the Entrepreneurial How-to Series.

In Q1 of 2025, the Entrepreneurial How-To Series had a total of 904 views across the series. The videos have an average length of 3 minutes, making them accessible and digestible for busy small business owners.

Wisconsin Forward Agriculture Engine Initiative

19200 ARPAWISYS

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$1,030,000.00**

https://www.venturehome.org/forwardag

Project Overview

The Forward Agricultural Engine Initiative was initially funded through a National Science Foundation (NSF) Engine Development award. The NSF funding ended in April 2025, and the coalition was invited to submit a full application, which, if funded, would provide funding starting in 2026. This funding is critical to keep the momentum of Forward Ag going while waiting for other funding sources to come through. This funding supports two key activities:

- 1. Expand the VentureHome® network that provides the place-based framework for innovation and entrepreneurship in Wisconsin for the Forward Ag initiative and beyond. WiSys VentureHome® initiative is a distributed network of startup hubs that brings statewide entrepreneurial resources directly into Wisconsin's local communities, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Each hub connects university talent, local stakeholders, and centralized tools like accelerators and mentorship platforms to support scalable, tech-based startups. The model empowers communities to tailor support while leveraging a shared statewide infrastructure for innovation. Activities include launching new VentureHome sites, offering pre-seed accelerator programming, and implementing a digital platform (VentureHome Connect) for mentorship and tracking a digital twin for the physical network of VentureHome hubs.
- Provide funding for shovel-ready use-inspired R&D projects in the circular bioeconomy space.
 These funds will be distributed using a competitive peer-review process to identify and support cross-sector collaborations that solve real-world problems that farmers and the agriculture industry face.

Because of the availability and timeline of the NSF grant funding, expenditures of funds for this project began in 2025, although the project was initiatied earlier. WiSys solicited proposals and budgets from the VentureHome network and anticipated finalizing the subcontracts by the summer of 2025. The request for proposals for use-inspired R&D projects is pending, and the projects are expected to start by September 2025 (lasting 9-12 months). Both the programs and the funded projects will end in August 2026.

Programs are delivered through the VentureHome distributed network of university-community hubs, combining local engagement with centralized tools like VentureHome Connect and accelerator programs like Level Up! WiSys will also leverage the 40+ cross-sector partners in Forward Ag to reach a broad range of applicants for the use-inspired R&D grants.

Partners include cross-sector stakeholders in the agriculture sector, higher education, and entrepreneur support organizations, including the Universities of Wisconsin, technical colleges,

industry partners, local economic development organizations (EDOs), farmers, and the food processing industry.

The project aims to increase the number and success of scalable startups, expand entrepreneurship in rural and underserved areas, and foster an integrated statewide innovation ecosystem. These efforts will support the Forward Ag mission with a greater focus on ag-tech and circular bioeconomy sectors.

Use of Evidence

The evidence for intervention in the circular agriculture bioeconomy is based on two years of rigorous data collection from focus groups, convenings, and interviews with researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry representatives through the entire food value chain (from farmers to processors to food retailers).

This work revealed that Wisconsin has a competitive advantage in its capacity for innovation in the circular agriculture sector, but the entrepreneurial capacity to commercialize these innovations is limited, resulting in an undercapitalized ag-tech and circular bioeconomy sector. The barriers to commercialization are supported by WiSys's primary research and include: access to entrepreneurial resources in rural/small communities, lack of industry engagement in driving R&D (use-inspired practices), and logistical barriers in conducting pilots to bring technologies from lab to on-site testing. Through the VentureHome network and the Forward Ag industry partnerships, this funding will help us start to address these barriers. WiSys has developed an evaluation framework and will start evaluating the outcomes once the VentureHome and use-inspired R&D projects are funded.

Performance Report

There are no quantitative outcomes to report yet. WiSys is on track to approve sub-contracts to VentureHomes at six locations and to release a request for proposals for use-inspired R&D that can fund up to four collaborative projects.

HEAB Information Technology Modernization Program

23500 ARPAHEABIT

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$3,180,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The service will take the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) current mainframe system of COBOL, CICS, SAS and Access databases and implement a new Microsoft.net application for all of the grant, scholarships, loan, and reciprocity programs that HEAB administers. The upgrade is needed because of the FAFSA Simplification Act that was signed in December 2019 that changes the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to the Student Aid Index (SAI). This will change the way that HEAB calculates financial need for the students of the state of Wisconsin. It will also change the layout and expand many of the fields that used in the calculation of financial need. HEAB along with Wisconsin's Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) inside the Department of Administration will assign and monitor the progress to ensure that the quality of the new system meets expectations and is maintained throughout the entire project. The first and second phases (Grants and Scholarships) of the project are underway, and the third phase (Loans) will be implemented in October 2025. The project is expected to be completed in December 2025.

Use of Evidence

The system that we have been using since 1968 is a mainframe system. With the implementation of the new FAFSA; the change from the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to the Student Aid Index (SAI); the number of schools that students can list as a potential school to attend; and the sectors wanting HEAB formulas to mirror the Pell grant, HEAB needed a modernized system.

HEAB needed a system to not rely on social security numbers and instead have a unique identifier, provide grants to all students instead of only the students that were enrolled half time but be able to award grants to students who are enrolled full time, 3/4 time, half time, and less than half time. Schools will now be able to identify which students are enrolled, which will help with its committed numbers so it has real data. The colleges will be able to enter student data directly into the system and have real time data instead of relying on a list HEAB provided weekly.

Performance Report

The GLASS system for grants and scholarships went live in June. The loan system will be going live later this fall. HEAB will continue to hold training sessions throughout the rest of the year and post those trainings on its website for reference.

HEAB Wisconsin Grant Supplement Program

23500 ARPAHEABWIGRT

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project provided financial assistance to students at Wisconsin technical schools committed under the Wisconsin Grant. Funds were disbursed to the colleges in Spring 2025, and awards were based on financial need and enrollment.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The funding covered 6,531 awards to students attending Wisconsin technical colleges.

Wisconsin Historical Society Reopening

24500 ARPAWHS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$1,000,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The tourism industry was disproportionately and negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency, and the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) operates several important museums and historic sites in Wisconsin, including Old World Wisconsin, Circus World Museum, Black Point, Wisconsin Historical Museum, Villa Louis, Pendarvis, Stonefield, Wade House, HH Bennett Museum & Studio, Madeline Island Museum, Reed School, and First Capitol. The museums and historic sites are popular tourist destinations and serve as economic catalysts for the local tourism and hospitality industries in their communities but had been closed or experienced limited operations due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. WHS needed this additional funding to reopen the sites and resume full operations from the summer of 2021 through the summer of 2022.

Use of Evidence

WHS regularly uses data and outcomes to evaluate its operations and future investments.

Performance Report

WHS historic sites are vital to the tourism economies and the quality of life of their communities. This funding helped WHS re-open the doors to guests and maintain the following revenue and visitor levels. WHS also added a new online ticketing infrastructure and marketing support. A significant majority of the funds were spent during the state fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022).

Equivalency Diploma System Automation

25500 ARPAGEDHSED

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$1,448,868.88**

https://dpi.wi.gov/ged

Project Overview

This project focused on modernizing Wisconsin's General Educational Development (GED) and High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) systems to make them easier to use, more accurate, and more accessible to the public and test centers.

The main work included creating a public tool that lets people check if a GED or HSED record exists by entering a name, date of birth, and some basic testing information. If a matching record is found, a confirmation message is shown. If not, or if there's more than one match, the person is told to contact the GED/HSED team for help. People who don't want their record searchable can choose to opt out.

At the same time, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) rebuilt the older GED systems using updated technology, which helped improve system performance, fixed data issues (like duplicate test center codes or certificate numbers), and made it easier to update the database in the future. DPI also improved the design of transcripts to make them easier to read and added a secure version that can be accessed online.

DPI created a secure portal for test centers to submit applications for students seeking a GED or HSED. Through this portal, test centers can upload documents, check the status of applications, and receive messages and approvals from DPI. DPI also added tools for test centers to manage billing more easily and accurately.

Finally, DPI added new online forms that let the public request copies of transcripts, diplomas, or verification letters. There's also a way for agencies like the Legislature or Department of Corrections to request GED data for research. These requests are managed through a queue so staff can handle them in a timely and organized way via our confidential data request process.

The goal of this project was to make GED and HSED services easier to access for the public and test centers, to improve the accuracy of records, and to streamline internal processes so staff can work more efficiently.

Since July 1, 2024, the only work that has taken place has been wrapping up the project for the grant; this included final paperwork and requesting the remaining funding. No new system changes or development work have happened since then.

Use of Evidence

This project is supported by the following evidence:

Adult Education Strategies: Identifying and Building Evidence of Effectiveness, <a href="https://ies.ed.gov/use-work/resource-library/report/snapshot/adult-education-strategies-identifying-port/snapshot/s

<u>and-building-evidence-effectiveness</u> Authors: Kelley Borradaile, Alina Martinez, and Peter Schochet at Mathematica. Publication Date April 2021. Publication number: NCEE 202100

Martin, V. & Broadus, J. (2013). Enhancing GED instruction to prepare students for college and careers: Early success in LaGuardia Community College's Bridge to Health and Business program. New York: MDRC. This study investigated how a GED bridge program helped learners prepare to earn a high school equivalency credential.

Furthermore, a majority of U.S. employers (about 96%) and colleges (95%) accept an HSED as equivalent to a high school diploma. A majority of employers (about 96%), including the U.S. military, and colleges (95%) accept an HSED or GED as equivalent to a high school diploma. Holding a GED/HSED can open doors to more job opportunities, as many employers require a high school diploma or equivalency for basic qualifications. Individuals with a GED/HSED tend to earn more than those without a high school credential. It can be a stepping-stone for post-secondary education, such as vocational training, technical college, or university. Earning a high school credential can enhance self-confidence, improve job security, and provide access to career advancement. All leading to economic growth and stability for individuals and their families.

To that end, decreasing the processing time ensures DPI stakeholders do not miss out on opportunities for advancement.

Wisconsin has 60 active preparation programs and testing centers in 48 counties where individuals can prepare for a GED or HSED. The Department of Corrections maintains testing sites across the state for people in their care. The GED/HSED program serves approximately 5,500 Wisconsin residents through GED testing.

With the completion of this project, Wisconsin will have the capacity to build additional dashboards to report on progress to inform future policy decisions. This would not be possible without the modernization of this system. The revenue generated through GED/HSED credentialing is used to support 1.0 FTE. Given the limited state-wide resources, this tool now provides cost-effective measures to provide this critical service.

Performance Report

Between July and December in both 2021 (prior to implementation) and 2024 after implementation, a comparison of the project metrics reveals significant improvements. After the project, the total number of requests increased to 2,010 from 1,407 before the project, indicating a substantial rise in demand due to the access to the public directory and modernization of processes. The timeframe remained consistent at 180 days for both periods. However, the average time taken per request decreased from 16.6 days to 15.06 days, reflecting efficiency.

Consequently, the number of requests processed per day rose from 7.816 to 11.16. This increase in daily requests represents a difference of 3.35 requests per day, leading to a productivity increase of 42.83%. Overall, these metrics show the project's positive impact on operational efficiency, request handling, and our stakeholder's access to their graduate credentials.

Graduation Alliance

25500 ARPAGRADALLIANCE

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$2,690,000.00**

https://engagewi.graduationalliance.com

Project Overview

These funds allow the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to continue working with Graduation Alliance to identify and re-engage students who have been chronically absent and/or are not on track for high school graduation with a special focus on students in Milwaukee Public Schools.

Specifically, Graduation Alliance works with school districts (LEAs) to identify and contact the families of chronically absent learners throughout Wisconsin, and to provide support, instruction, and coursework as necessary to learners whose families have consented, to improve their school attendance and academic outcomes with the goal of reducing chronic absenteeism and increasing on-time high school graduation, statewide. Graduation Alliance has committed to serving at least 9,500 unique learners.

Use of Evidence

Given the positive feedback of districts, families, and learners, Wisconsin continued the program to provide continuity in services to impacted learners, families, and districts. Moderate and strong research studies exist for addressing chronic absenteeism that Graduation Alliance has based their program model on and there is one specific research study on Graduation Alliance program outcomes that meets the moderate evidence category. This research and evidence are documented in Effective Dropout Recovery Strategies and The Graduation Alliance Approach and its Graduation Alliance Dropout Recovery Program Mission Measurement & Impact Genome Research Brief.

Graduation Alliance maintains a non-public facing dashboard documenting district referrals, outreach attempts, numbers of learners opting in to the program, and participant survey results that DPI program staff have access to. Graduation Alliance is using data from the Wisconsin specific program to inform program improvements. DPI is using data from the program to inform any ongoing or future efforts to address chronic absenteeism.

Performance Report

Between July 1, 2024 and May 29, 2025, Graduation Alliance has served 7,907 new Wisconsin learners in 38 different districts. Over 7,000 of these learners have come from Milwaukee Public Schools; learners of all grade-levels from 5K to 12 have been served. Participating school districts opt in to working with Graduation Alliance and identify learners they believe will benefit from the program based on their local attendance, behavioral, and academic data, and they submit a list of learner names, the primary cause of concern (attendance, behavior, or academic achievement), and family contact information with Graduation Alliance. No specific student data is shared with

Graduation Alliance to maintain confidentiality and compliance with federal and state laws regarding data sharing. Graduation Alliance then assigns a staff member to make contact with the family, explain available services, and if the family opts in, the assigned Graduation Alliance staff member then engages in intake surveys, develops a personalized support plan, and implements that plan.

Learners and their families receive personalized support aligned with the specific challenges a learner and their family may be experiencing. Such supports include information and referrals for transportation assistance, specific academic coaching, alternative course content for credit recovery, behavioral coaching and supports, and regular text reminders.

Graduation Alliance regularly seeks feedback from the families, learners, and districts they are working with. This feedback is sought through both oral interviews and online surveys. A total of 614 surveys have been completed to date; 86% of those surveyed rated the Graduation Alliance program as "great" or "excellent" and are "extremely likely to recommend the services to others;" 9% of those surveyed rated the services as "good" and are "likely to recommend the services to others." Representatives from all participating districts stated that they have seen increased attendance and at least some positive changes in academic achievement among participating learners.

Just Recovery for Racial Equity

28500 ARPAJRRE

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$68,470.01**

https://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu/just-recovery-for-racial-equity/

Project Overview

The goal of this program was to build and strengthen partnerships in communities experiencing higher rates of COVID-19, and associated hospitalizations and deaths. Funds were distributed via community grants and mini grant awards. Requests for proposals were issued in October 2021. In early 2022, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute awarded 25 community grants and 48 mini grants. Funds were distributed throughout 2022.

Use of Evidence

Grantees who received Just Recovery funds were asked to report the usage of funding via storytelling evaluation, organized by a program partner. Storytelling is a data collection strategy for participants to use their own words and experiences to reflect on their participation in a program or organization. The grantees used storytelling approaches, journey mapping, and photo-voice to communicate how the funding was utilized to aid their work in meeting the needs of the community. Additionally, interviews with grantees were conducted to gather additional feedback. A closeout survey of grantees was also conducted to gain additional insight on the process and impact of the Just Recovery funds.

Performance Report

A critical aspect of the effort was to identify ways to improve processes for grantee selection and engagement. Results from the grantee survey, administered at the conclusion of the award, indicate positive feedback related to the grant administration and engagement process with grantees, particularly responding positively to the personal support, funding flexibility, and simplified reporting requirements. Another primary objective of the initiative was to build capacity within the organizations funded. Survey results indicate that many grantees were able to strengthen skills within their organization, expand participation, and improve resource utilization within their agencies. Grantees also reported that this opportunity allowed them to expand networks and partnerships, which also aligns with the goals of building community partnership both within and beyond the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

UW System Student Mental Health Support

28500 ARPAMNTLHLTH

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The University of Wisconsin (UW) System Student Mental Health Support project aims to improve access to mental health and wellbeing support for all enrolled students. To achieve this, the UW System worked with contractors to provide free tele counseling, telepsychiatry, 24/7 support and crisis services, and an online wellbeing platform. The contract for services was signed in October 2022. Implementation began in November 2022 and was completed in February 2023. The contract for services runs through August 2025.

In FY25, additional priorities were identified through consultation with stakeholders to expend approximately \$500,000 in funds remaining after telehealth costs for the full contract term were covered. These priorities were:

- Mantra Whole Campus Care (5 campus pilot) Implemented an additional tier of services offered by our telehealth vendor that adds:
 - Emotional wellness coaching for students whose symptoms are subclinical
 - o Evidence-based emotional wellness self-help content
 - o Daytime on-demand video support calls for urgent issues
- Togetherall Implemented a virtual peer-to-peer support platform that is moderated by mental health professionals, available to all students as an alternative to seeking clinical care; peer support programs are a well-established component of holistic mental health and wellbeing service offerings
- Mindfulness Institute for Emerging Adults (MIEA) training
 – Trained 28 professionals across
 13 UW universities during summer 2024 in an evidence-based, 4-session mindfulness
 workshop, with an ongoing community of practice to support implementation
- Healthy Minds Program App classroom integration pilot Extended a pilot to embed a 15-week, curated version of the Healthy Minds Program App into required health/wellness and first year experience courses; three UW universities participated in 2024-25, with four or five more expected in 2025-26, and this investment has potential to provide evidence-based well-being skills training to thousands of students on an annual basis
- UW Mental Health Shared Project Coordinator Hired a staff person to coordinate implementation of ongoing mental health and well-being projects, particularly the Recognize, Respond, Refer Suicide Prevention Training; faculty/staff, undergraduate, and graduate student versions of the training, created at UW Madison, have been made available in the

learning management system (Canvas) to make it available 24/7 to all members of all UW campus communities

Use of Evidence

The request for proposal (RFP) criteria for the program required that both treatment and prevention services provided by vendors follow evidence-based practices. Additionally, all services have an evaluation component built in, including satisfaction with services, symptom improvement, and skills learned/applied.

New service and program areas in 2024-25, outlined in the section above, also have a substantial evidence base in empirical literature related to supporting a holistic approach to addressing student mental health and well-being.

Performance Report

Through telehealth services:

- Over 3,000 students have utilized tele counseling; representing an additional 1-2% of the student body above the 8-10% being served by campus-based counseling services
- Over 750 students have utilized telepsychiatry, providing much-needed access in underserved areas
- Over 9,200 students and 800 faculty/staff have accessed the online wellbeing platform

Sleep, stress and anxiety, academics and grades constitute the top issues for which students seek help.

Nearly 600 students have benefited from the 24/7 support and crisis service, chiefly for anxiety, stress, and relationship concerns.

Student feedback on tele counseling and telepsychiatry showed:

- An average visit rating of 4.9/5 across all students and appointment types
- Ninety-four percent (94%) of students indicate that the provider helped them reach their goals
- Sixty-three percent (63%) of students who scored in the moderate to severe range on an anxiety scale experienced clinically significant improvement in symptoms
- Nearly two-thirds (62%) of students who expressed low confidence in being able to finish their degree, improved their confidence through counseling

Furthermore, at the five UW universities piloting Whole Campus Care, 684 students have taken advantage of the evidence-based emotional wellness self-help materials, 128 have participated in emotional wellness coaching, and 37 have accessed daytime video on-demand emotional support.

A total of 1,125 students have utilized Togetherall's peer-to-peer support platform, with 79% indicating they were not seeking other supports on campus.

Lastly, in summer 2024, 28 UW professionals attended 3-day certification training to deliver the MIEA workshop curriculum. During the 2024-25 academic year, 35 workshops were delivered to over 300 students (and some faculty/staff) across UW universities.

A summary table of students served and cost per student through May 2025 for all services funded under this program is below.

Service	Total Cost	Number of students served	Cost per student served
Mantra Therapy	\$2,787,080	3,024	\$922
Mantra Psychiatry	\$844,831	773	\$1,093
YOU at College	\$447,800	9,200	\$49
Mantra Software/ Implementation	\$182,600	Not applicable	Not applicable
Mental Health 24/7**	\$189,000	592	\$319
Togetherall	\$137,000	1,125	\$122
Whole Campus Care (5 campuses)	\$150,000	752	\$199
MIEA Training	\$51,000	309	\$165
HMI classroom pilot	\$75,000	1,040	\$72
Shared Project Coordinator	\$120,915	Not available	Not available
TOTAL	\$4,985,226	16,815	\$296

Rural Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Initiative

28500 ARPARURALWI

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$1,025,638.00**

 $\underline{\text{https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/topics/business/rural-wisconsin-entrepreneurship-properties} and the topic of the$

initiative/

Project Overview

The Rural Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Initiative (RWEI) is designed to support and enhance entrepreneurial activities in rural Wisconsin. WEDC pursued funding for this project to address critical needs in three main areas: providing targeted business development assistance to underserved entrepreneurs, strengthening rural entrepreneurial ecosystems, and improving access to finance for rural entrepreneurs. By offering education, training, research, and technical assistance, RWEI aims to help small businesses and entrepreneurs overcome barriers, create jobs, generate income, and stimulate economic growth in rural communities across Wisconsin. This initiative leverages the expertise and resources of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and its partners to foster a thriving and resilient rural economy.

RWEI provides targeted support to rural entrepreneurs, particularly those who are underserved (i.e., idea-stage entrepreneurs, remote rural entrepreneurs, and specialized industries such as childcare, food businesses, farm-based ventures) through cohort-based technical assistance programs. It also strives to support rural entrepreneurial ecosystem development by leveraging existing programs, developing new outreach and educational efforts, and conducting research. Finally, RWEI works to identify and understand barriers to finance for rural entrepreneurs through comprehensive research and strategic recommendations.

RWEI spans three and a half years (July 2023—December 2026), with various activities such as cohort-based workshops, "Homegrown: Entrepreneurship in Your Community" and "Maximizing Business Success for Entrepreneurs of Color in Your Community" trainings, webinars, "Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities" conferences, legal trainings and services, and research scheduled throughout this period.

RWEI utilizes several primary delivery mechanisms, including educational programs and workshops, research publications and reports, webinars, conferences, and legal and professional support through office hours, seminars, and professional development.

RWEI has several key partners. Within the University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW System, the Initiative partners with the Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic, Community Food Systems program, Farm Management program, and the Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship, among others. Additionally, RWEI has various statewide and regional partnerships including the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's (WEDC) Office of Rural Prosperity, regional planning commissions, county governments, and local municipalities.

The intended goal of the RWEI is to enhance entrepreneurial activities in rural Wisconsin. This goal has four specific outcomes:

- Improving access to business development assistance, encouraging the development of robust entrepreneurial ecosystems, and identifying barriers and solutions to better financing options for entrepreneurs
- 2. Increasing community economic development through income generation, job creation, and poverty alleviation in rural Wisconsin
- 3. Establishing supportive networks and relationships critical for the success of rural entrepreneurs in underserved rural areas
- 4. Providing policy and practice insights and recommendations to inform local policies and practices that support rural entrepreneurship

Use of Evidence

The Rural Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Initiative (RWEI) promotes evidence-based policymaking by leveraging the extensive experience and research capabilities of the Community Economic Development (CED) program. CED has spent over 50 years working with local communities across Wisconsin's diverse and evolving economic landscape to develop and implement best practices tailored to their unique needs. By engaging stakeholders and conducting thorough research on community and economic trends, the CED program identifies effective community economic development strategies. RWEI builds on this foundation, using data-driven insights to support the entrepreneurial ecosystems in rural areas and improve access to financial services for rural entrepreneurs, especially those in underserved and remote areas. This approach ensures that policies and interventions are grounded in evidence, fostering sustainable economic development, and improving quality of life in rural Wisconsin. The intended goal of RWEI is to enhance entrepreneurial activities in rural Wisconsin.

The RWEI utilizes funds by incorporating evidence-based programming and drawing on scholarly research. The interventions include targeted business development assistance, ecosystem strengthening, and financial access improvements.

The RWEI commits to conducting rigorous program evaluations designed to build evidence. This includes the use of comprehensive economic development planning and detailed data collection and analysis to assess the effectiveness of the interventions. Following each discrete activity, RWEI personnel collect evaluation data from participants. In the latter half of the project period, RWEI personnel will conduct a rigorous evaluation of programmatic efforts to better understand the impact of RWEI on rural Wisconsin.

The interventions funded by the RWEI are grounded in extensive research and evidence. Key sources include:

- Studies on the economic impacts of entrepreneurship on job creation, income generation, and poverty alleviation
- Research on the importance of targeted business development assistance and the unique needs of rural entrepreneurs
- Analysis of the role of entrepreneurial ecosystems and the various barriers faced by entrepreneurs

 Examination of rural finance structures and the impact of community banks and lending practices on small business success

The RWEI follows evidence standards and evaluation policies utilized by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension. RWEI is built on peer-reviewed research that is supported by actionable, Wisconsin-specific information. RWEI, as part of the CED program, utilizes a planning and reporting portal through the Division of Extension to capture activities, outcomes, and impacts. As part of the Extension's commitment to continued improvement and delivery of the Wisconsin Idea, RWEI will leverage its evaluation team to develop appropriate evaluation instruments and adhere to best practices that track the effectiveness of activities and capture impact. RWEI also offers a monthly newsletter and the community economic development website to share work, promote activities, and communicate successes and stories.

Performance Report

RWEI aims to foster entrepreneurial activity in rural Wisconsin, contributing to economic growth and community development. Below are the key performance indicators and narratives based on the activities and outcomes from July 1, 2023, to May 31, 2025.

These performance outputs include:

- A total of 24 emerging entrepreneurs from underserved rural areas attended the <u>Cohort-Based Technical Assistance Program</u> in Vernon County
- In total, approximately 60 participants from underserved rural areas, various groups, and industries attended three <u>Homegrown Training Sessions</u> in Vernon, Kenosha, and Wood counties
- A total of 202 people from underserved rural areas, various groups, and industries including economic development practitioners, local government leaders, and entrepreneurs, participated in the <u>Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference</u> in Platteville, Wisconsin
- Several webinars, including <u>Rural Pharmacies an Overlooked Piece of the Rural Health Care</u> <u>System</u> and <u>Wisconsin Rural Economic Summit</u>, drew 407 total participants
- New reports included Wisconsin Agriculture and Foreign Exports' "Nonemployer Businesses
 Are Increasing in Number in Rural America" and <u>Wisconsin Farming: Insights from the 2022</u>
 <u>Census of Agriculture</u> and <u>The Role of Childcare in the Labor Market: A Long-Run Perspective</u>
 from WIndicators

Recent program events have included:

- Jeff Glazer from the Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic led a business law basics clinic in partnership with CAP Services at Mid-State Technical College in Stevens Point in October 2024
- A presentation was delivered on the curriculum at Extension's Food Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Development Conference in Milwaukee

- Attorney and UW-Madison law professor Jeff Glazer led a clinic at the Eau Claire Area Chamber in partnership with the Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council and Western Wisconsin Women's Business Center in December 2024
- The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference in Wisconsin Rapids in June 2025

Upcoming events and initiatives include:

- Homegrown training in Ellsworth, Wisconsin
- A presentation on WEDC's new agritourism program to the Innovators and Entrepreneurs Club
- A six-part training for farmers in the southwestern counties of Wisconsin.
- Launch of Wisconsin Rural Entrepreneurial Ventures program
- Administration of Entrepreneurial Climate Surve

UW System Tuition Freeze

28500 ARPATUITION

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$25,000,000.00

https://www.wisconsin.edu/news/archive/uw-system-regents-vote-to-maintain-tuition-freeze-for-2022-23/

Project Overview

Funds were used to freeze tuition rates at all University of Wisconsin (UW) System campuses at the rates in effect during the 2020-2021 academic year. The economic impact of the pandemic made it more difficult for students to afford the cost of tuition and created upward pressure on tuition costs. Funding the tuition freeze allowed the UW System to continue to provide high-quality education at an affordable cost.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The UW System served approximately 161,000 students during the 2022-2023 academic year, saving each student approximately \$155 in avoided tuition increases.

Part-Time Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement Academy

29200 ARPAACADEMY

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Four technical college districts developed a part-time police academy program with funds being used for curriculum modifications, equipment purchases, classroom instruction and student tuition. This program provides the necessary skills to become eligible for formal certification as a Basic Law Enforcement Officer in Wisconsin. The academy is a 720-hour program that covers a range of topics, including defense tactics, emergency vehicle operations, criminal investigations, and more. At least 43 students have enrolled in part-time police academy courses.

Use of Evidence

To inform education practices and policies, the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institutional research team conducts action research projects that analyze a specific set of questions to provide insight into improving student success and closing equity gaps. The results of the research are shared with WTCS stakeholders so technical college districts can take action to improve educational outcomes for all students.

Performance Report

A graduate follow-up survey will be available during the next fiscal year.

WTCS IT Modernization Initiative

29200 ARPAITMOD

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$2,000,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) is pursuing an organizational initiative to redesign and rewrite the business functionality of two data subsystems, known collectively as the WTCS Course, Curriculum and Program data subsystem (CCP). CCP is used to fulfill the statutory responsibility for technical college program initiation, development, maintenance and supervision. Grant funds were used for a contract for a one-time investment to upgrade and strengthen the CCP through the engagement of a software development vendor to design, develop, and implement a new CCP Data System. Since July 1, 2024, a vendor was selected through a competitive procurement process.

Use of Evidence

This effort will modernize the CCP) Data System, which is how the Wisconsin Technical College System Board (System Office) fills the statutory requirement under s.38.001(1m), Wis. Stats., to initiate, develop, maintain, and supervise programs with specific occupational orientations. Other data systems at the System Office rely on the CCP Data System, including the system that collects and maintains student enrollment data. A modernized CCP system will allow for better student reporting and dashboarding at WTCS.

Performance Report

The new CCP Data System is nearly complete with a launch date scheduled for Fall 2025. Once implemented, the System Office will routinely query technical college district users to determine if the system is functioning more efficiently and effectively.

Title V Air Permit Supplemental Funding

37000 ARPAAIRPRMT

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$500,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project is the Air Pollution Control Permit Support Program. The main activities included providing Title V funding for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Air Management Agency staff costs for positions that provide regulatory oversight of Title V operation permit and compliance activities in the air pollution control permit program.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

This program has provided funding support utilized by 17 different positions in the department's Air Program from its inception in October 2024 through May 2025 when all funds were expensed, totaling 6,802 full-time equivalent (FTE) hours. The funding was critical to provide for permit writing progress to assure a sustainable Title V Program in Wisconsin.

Natural Resources Conservation Projects

37000 ARPADNRSTWRD

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$4,462,515.41**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project aims to enhance public access for outdoor recreation; conserve wildlife habitats, water quality, and natural resources throughout the state, support local government conservation and outdoor recreation efforts by expanding their parks and public nature preserves, and support the local economy through sustainable timber management by supporting acquisition, conservation, and development of outdoor recreational spaces.

Under the coordination of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), five sites were funded through this project:

- 1. **Bayfield County Forest Land Project**: Bayfield County used funds to purchase high-quality forest land for public access, conservation, and timber management. All land purchased through this project has been enrolled in the DNR County Forest Program.
- 2. **Forest County Forest Land Project**: Forest County used funds to purchase high-quality forest land for public access, conservation, and sustainable timber management purposes. All land purchased through this project has been enrolled in the County Forest Program.
- 3. Caroline Lake Project: The Nature Conservancy is using funds to reimburse a purchase of 34.5 acres of land in the Town of Morse in Ashland County. The land includes approximately 1,000 feet of frontage on Minnow Creek and approximately 500 feet of frontage on Eureka Lake, a deep headwater lake with a public boat ramp. The Nature Conservancy is managing this new land as a part of the existing 1,000-acre Caroline Lake Preserve and State Natural Area.
- 4. Milwaukee Schools Outdoor Spaces Project: Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is using funds to support the development, updating, and maintenance of MPS parks, playgrounds, green spaces, and other outdoor spaces that enrich education and provide access to the outdoors to students in this urban school district.
- 5. **Ozaukee Washington Land Trust**: The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust is using funds to support land conservation, public outdoor recreation, and land stewardship efforts to preserve and protect natural resources in Ozaukee and Washington County for public benefit.

Use of Evidence

These projects arose from a demonstrated need for investment in local conservation efforts. Each grant recipient originally applied for funding through Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, which provides various types of grants to local governments and nonprofit conservation

organizations to preserve Wisconsin's valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Bayfield County and Forest County Land Acquisition Projects: Land acquired has been entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Land Program. This Program was created in 1927 and has 30 counties with more than 2.4 million acres of land. Land acquisitions were reviewed by DNR to ensure the projects met standards for conservation project investments and will be managed under each county's Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Nature Conservancy Land Acquisition Project: Land acquired is for providing public access to conservation land and outdoor recreation activities, similar to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grants for nonprofit conservation organization land acquisitions. DNR reviewed this project to ensure it meets standards for conservation project investments. The land is managed by The Nature Conservancy in accordance with its Land Management Plan. Milwaukee Public Schools Outdoor Spaces and Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Projects: Development projects are for the purpose of providing public access to conservation land and outdoor recreation activities, similar to the Local Assistance Stewardship Grant Program. DNR reviews each project to ensure it meets standards for conservation project investments.

Performance Report

Bayfield County Land Acquisition Project: Bayfield County made two land acquisitions under this project.

First, Bayfield County acquired 1,580 acres (known as the Bark River Acquisition) which is dominated by aspen (90% of acreage) of various ages for diversity. The property contains roughly 4,000 feet of the Bark River, including its headwaters, as well as numerous feeder streams and connecting tributaries. It also contains a few hundred feet of the Cranberry River and 17,000 feet of significant tributaries of the East Fork of the Cranberry River. The property contains over 2 miles of the state funded snowmobile trail. The property has been enrolled in the County Forest Land Program. Bayfield County and DNR executed a grant agreement in October 2023 for the reimbursement of the fair market value of the property. In February 2024, DNR reimbursed Bayfield County \$1,320,515.41 for the fair market value of the property and closed out the grant agreement.

The County acquired 1,580 acres (known as the Bark River Acquisition) which includes aspens and roughly 4,000 feet of the Bark River, including its headwaters, as well as numerous feeder streams and connecting tributaries. The property has been enrolled in the County Forest Land Program. Bayfield County and DNR executed a grant agreement in October 2023 for the reimbursement of the fair market value of the property. In February 2024, DNR reimbursed Bayfield County \$1,032,515.41 for the fair market value of the property and closed out the grant agreement.

DNR and Bayfield County entered into an agreement in August 2024 for the reimbursement of the fair market value of the land, \$259,400. The final grant payment of \$259,400 was submitted on September 25, 2024, and the grant agreement was closed out.

Under the Forest County Land Acquisition Project, Forest County acquired 34 acres of land that abuts approximately 485 acres of existing County Forest lands. Forest County closed on the property in early August 2024, and the land was enrolled in the County Forest Land Program. Forest County and DNR entered into a grant agreement for the reimbursement of the fair market value of the land,

\$67,600. The final grant payment of \$67,600 was submitted on October 2, 2024, and the grant agreement was closed out.

Through the Nature Conservancy Land Acquisition Project, the acquisition of 34.5 acres of conservation land expands conservation of forest and riparian habitat in the headwaters of the Bad River and Kakagon Sloughs, the largest coastal wetland on Lake Superior, designated as an Outstanding Resource Water and National Natural Landmark.

DNR and the Nature Conservancy entered into a grant agreement for the reimbursement of \$29,000 towards the fair market value of the property. The final grant payment of \$29,000 was submitted on September 25, 2024, and the grant agreement was closed out.

In April 2024 as part of the Milwaukee Public Schools Outdoor Spaces Project, DNR and MPS entered into a grant agreement that provides \$774,000 towards the renovation and redevelopment of Emigh Playfield. The 11-acre park will include a new play area, seating, shade structure, tennis courts, basketball courts, green infrastructure, walking loops, fencing, lighting, an updated fieldhouse, water play and dramatic play areas, and accessible restroom, swings, and pathways. Construction for the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025. Reimbursement and grant agreement close out is expected by early 2026.

Through the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Project, DNR and the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (OWLT) entered into a grant agreement in November 2024, which allows for the development of conservation projects and reimbursement for those projects up to \$2,300,000. These projects are on schedule and will be completed and closed in 2026.

Well Compensation Grant Program

37000 ARPAWELLCOMP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$15,674,484.59**

https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html; https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellAbandonment.html

Project Overview

The Well Compensation Grant Program provides necessary investment in infrastructure to ensure that private well owners and non-community public water system owners can supply safe drinking water while protecting the state's groundwater resources. Two-thirds of Wisconsin residents get their drinking water from groundwater, including over 800,000 private wells and small non-community public drinking water systems. Prior to the implementation of this program, the cost of well drilling and repairs was a limiting factor to addressing contamination and restrictive eligibility criteria on existing financial aid programs excluded many well owners in need of assistance to access reliably safe drinking water. Through this program, grants are awarded to private well owners and non-community public water system owners to implement cost-effective actions to resolve contamination issues that provide a long-term supply of safe drinking water and fill and seal unused wells to protect the state's groundwater from additional sources of contamination.

The Well Compensation Grant Program provides funding to mitigate contaminated private water supplies serving households and extends eligibility to low-income non-community public water systems, which often serve factories, daycares, churches, rural restaurants, and other small businesses. These systems are often in rural areas of the state and can serve populations that are particularly at risk from contaminated drinking water. The program also expands the eligibility for the types of contamination, ensuring that private well owners and small businesses have access to funds, regardless of the contamination or source. More individuals, families, and small businesses can address systemic nitrate issues that are common, especially in rural parts of the state, and can cause serious health impacts.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the program, eligibility criteria, and process in October 2022. Applications were received and reviewed on a continuous basis. The initial round of funding allowed acceptance of applications until December 2024 or commitment of all funds, which occurred in May of 2024.

In December 2024, DNR resumed the Well Compensation Grant Program with an additional \$5 million investment. DNR announced the program, eligibility criteria and grant process in January 2025 for this "Cycle B" funding. Applications were accepted starting on February 3, 2025, and will be accepted until August 31,2025 or until funds are exhausted. Changes to the program under Cycle B include reducing the number of water samples from two to one for eligible contaminants, except for bacteria contamination that still requires two water samples. Additionally, awards for completed projects are allowed based on the following: An eligible applicant that did not receive a grant in the previous grant cycle because of lack of funding may apply for a grant for eligible work completed between October 3, 2022, and January 31, 2025. The applicant must be able to demonstrate eligibility, including the income limitation and a water sample showing contamination during the allowable timeframe for the program, and meet all requirements of the application.

Use of Evidence

The DNR has utilized groundwater sampling and well construction data in its Well Compensation Grant program referenced earlier in this report, an effort that supports the replacement, reconstruction, treatment, or abandonment of contaminated private wells. Well abandonment grants are important because they eliminate direct channels or pathways for contaminants that are stored or spilled above ground to move into groundwater and other private wells. Nitrates are a persistent problem for private drinking water wells throughout the state, especially in agricultural areas. Nitrates are often not the result of any action or wrongdoing on the part of the well owner, but the expense of treatment or drilling a new well can be cost prohibitive. Arsenic, PFAS, bacteria, and other contaminants present in private drinking water that are being addressed by the Well Compensation Grant program.

DNR designed this program from an existing statutory well grant program and implemented updates to the eligibility criteria to further impact low-income families, rural households, and small businesses across the state. This program increased the income eligibility for the grants and expanded the eligibility for the types of contamination, ensuring that private well owners and small businesses have access to funds, regardless of the contamination or source.

The DNR database used in this program is called the Groundwater Retrieval Network and includes geologic conditions at a well site and sample results from public and private wells and some groundwater monitoring well networks. The database can be searched or downloaded, and DNR staff use it to help well owners applying for well grants to select a solution that will have the greatest likelihood to succeed. The evaluation includes looking at the geologic conditions near the well site and the groundwater flow conditions relative to known potential sources of contamination. DNR staff are also tracking data from new well systems installed under the program to provide evidence for future grants that may come in from neighboring locations.

Historically under the pre-existing statutory grant program, the DNR issues an annual average of five grants for new or reconstructed wells and 49 grants for well filling and sealing. The statutory grant program limits the eligible contaminants, has a lower income level for applicants, and does not allow non-community public water systems.

Performance Report

The program has shown the substantial need for funding that addresses contamination in private wells throughout the state. In the first 18 months after the program began, the DNR received applications totalling more than the initially provided \$10 million in funding.

By addressing the outdated and restrictive constraints of the statutory program, DNR has significantly increased the number of grants awarded. Table 1 indicates that as of June 30, 2025, DNR has awarded 608 grants for new, reconstructed, or treated wells and 207 grants for well filling and sealing since the program began. The combined 815 grants represent more than \$11.4 million to recipients from rural counties in the state.

Table 1: Grant Awards	
Well Compensation	608
Well Abandonment	207
Total # Grants Issued as of June 30, 2025	815
Total \$ Awarded as of June 30, 2025	\$11,441,171.40

Table 2 indicates the contaminants addressed in the 608 grants awarded as of June 30, 2025, for new, reconstructed, or treated wells.

Table 2: Contaminants Addressed		
Nitrate	409,434	
Arsenic	41	
PFAS	3,840	
Other	8,793	
Grants Issued	575,608	

The remaining grants will be issued by November 30, 2025 and will fully utilize the entire \$15 million of available funding.

Grant recipients have one year from the date the grant is issued to complete the project and submit a request for reimbursement.

Department of Tourism Marketing

38000 ARPATOURISM

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$7,500,000.00**

https://outdoorrecreation.wi.gov/Pages/Tools/OutdoorRecreationInventory.aspx

Project Overview

The Department of Tourism's marketing project began in 2021 and focused on marketing Wisconsin as a premier tourism destination by improving the perception and awareness of the state as a tourism destination regionally and nationally. The tourism industry was among the hardest hit by the pandemic and was projected to be the slowest to recover; however, the rebound time has varied within the tourism industry. The Department's approach to reaching leisure and business travel consumers was multi-pronged and included targeted: meetings, conventions, and sports marketing; public relations and communications; marketing; welcome centers and consumer tradeshows; an Office of Outdoor Recreation inventory tool; and Department project positions to increase the capacity of Wisconsin's smallest cabinet level agency.

Use of Evidence

The Department utilizes a wide breadth of available market data and data collected in-house to target activities and evaluate efficacy.

Performance Report

The meetings, conventions, and sports marketing component involved the Department's first-ever digital media campaign for meetings, conventions, and sports, which included social media distribution, email marketing, management of trade media placements, and tradeshow marketing activations targeting meetings planners. These marketing tactics reached 5,000 meeting planners, earned an impressive 6.8 million impressions through a digital media campaign, and earned 1.1 million impressions through a LinkedIn social distribution campaign that ran from June 2022 until June 2023.

The goal of the public relations project component was to increase perception and awareness of Wisconsin as a tourist destination both regionally and nationally in earned media outlets by implementing public relations and communications programs.

A successful example was the Fresh in the Field event in September 2022. At the event, four Wisconsin chefs prepared signature meals for 10 freelance travel writers and three social content creators on a multiday tour of the Fox Cities region. This garnered more than 60 social media posts with 1.2 million impressions and 10 pieces of media coverage with 40.2 million impressions in publications such as Taste of Home, Star Tribune, City Lifestyle, USA Today's GoEscape and more.

Another successful component of this project has been strategy activations. One example is scouting coordination for an internationally recognized culinary show, Top Chef, that resulted in the 21st season of Top Chef TV series being filmed in Wisconsin at the end of 2023. It aired in early 2024 and generated over 70 billion impressions of earned media in addition to the 5-6 million viewers projected to watch the show live + streaming over first five years of the show airing.

The goal of the marketing component was to increase overnight visitation from out-of-state visitors. Longwoods International research and Tourism Economics data revealed the Department was successful. The Department's strategic investments to reach its goal contributed to Wisconsin's record-breaking \$23.7 billion economic impact by the tourism industry in 2022, a record-breaking year of \$25.0 billion in 2023, followed by another record-breaking year of \$25.8 billion in 2024. These three record-breaking years surpassed the previous record of \$22.2 billion in 2019.

Visitation to Wisconsin Welcome Centers was up 1.7 percent in 2023 to 182,823. Thanks to the Department's increased investment in these facilities, consumers visited Wisconsin Welcome Centers (WWC) to learn about Wisconsin destinations, grab a free travel guide, and plan their vacations. At the Wisconsin State Fair, over 1 million visitors had the opportunity to visit the refreshed Travel Wisconsin tradeshow booth in 2023. Booth visitors could sign up for a stand-up paddle board giveaway that generated over 5,700 website sessions. More than 2,000 people subscribed to the Department's email marketing program and nearly 2,000 people requested the Department's award-winning Travel Wisconsin Travel Guide.

The Office of Outdoor Recreation (OOR) component developed an interactive web-based tool that provides a comprehensive inventory of outdoor recreation amenities in Wisconsin that is free and publicly available. The tool launched in June 2023 with more than 35,000 geographic information system (GIS) files from over 100 contributing sources. Contributing sources grew to a total of 124 from June 2024- May 2025.

The OOR landing page for the inventory tool has had 1,274 pageviews from June 2023 - May 2024 and 774 pageviews from June 2024 - May 2025. The Esri Hub site, where the inventory tool is hosted, had 2,519 pageviews with an average visit time of 3.8 minutes (from June 2024 - May 2025) and pageviews increased to 2,712 pageviews from June 2024 - May 2025 compared to the last reporting cycle.

Transit Services Investment

39500 ARPATRANSIT

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$25,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Transit Services Investment program allowed the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) to supplement operating expenses incurred by transit agencies as they experienced declining farebox revenue during the pandemic. Payments were made in 2021.

Use of Evidence

Due in part to significant decreases in public transit usage during the early stages of the pandemic, analysis identified that transit agencies would either need to increase fares or decrease services to make up for lost revenue unless subsidies were provided.

Performance Report

The provision of funding prevented service cuts and increased fares for transit services of the state's two largest populations in the Madison and Milwaukee areas. Maintaining affordable service to communities allowed non-driving individuals to keep their employment, access to healthcare, and mobility. Additionally, the funds helped ensure reliable transportation services for the general workforce, such as medical services staff.

Wisconsin State Patrol Overtime

39500 ARPAWSPOT

Expenditure Category: 3.3-Public Sector Workforce: Other

Funding Amount: \$3,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Wisconsin State Patrol Overtime initiative helped reimburse the Division of State Patrol (DSP) for overtime salary, fringe, and mileage costs. The reimbursable overtime hours are for time spent enforcing Wisconsin Traffic laws and responding to emergency weather events.

Use of Evidence

Department analysis identified that due to decreased revenues in the transportation fund, additional funding was needed to cover staff overtime.

Performance Report

Over the past year, the State Patrol worked 7,428.48 hours in overtime.

Corrections Operational Efficiency and Safety

41000 ARPADOC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$5,294,224.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Corrections Operational Efficiency and Safety initiative is a comprehensive effort aimed at improving agency operations, behavioral health services, rehabilitative resources, and staff development. It addresses pandemic-related challenges while strengthening safety, accountability, and long-term agency effectiveness. The project has multiple components:

- Expansion of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment within the Earned Release Program
 (ERP): This project broadens evidence-based SUD treatment within Earned Release Programs
 at Division of Adult Institutions facilities. The program equips individuals for recovery and
 reentry a need heightened by pandemic-related behavioral health challenges. Service
 delivery began in July 2025, and the project should expand ERP capacity, improve health
 outcomes, and enhance public safety.
- Guard 1 Staff Monitoring System: The Guard 1 system (PIPE recorder and "wallet" feature) enhances tracking of rounds, checks, and in-cell observations. It supports accurate record-keeping and institutional transparency. Installation should begin in the third quarter of 2025 and lead to stronger oversight, improved safety, and better staff accountability.
- Facility Library Resource Expansion: This initiative funds new, diverse library materials for
 most facilities. Reading access promotes mental wellness, reduces stress, and supports
 cognitive growth. Full delivery is expected later this year and should help enhance
 rehabilitative settings, improve mental health, and foster reintegration readiness.
- Staff Training & Development Initiative: This initiative enhances staff knowledge and agency
 alignment. It includes workshops, leadership sessions, and training on reforms in restrictive
 housing, mental health, and more. Organizational Effectiveness workshops are underway,
 cross-divisional sessions should begin later this summer, and more trainings are
 forthcoming. This program will facilitate a more unified, resilient workforce and improved
 staff retention and wellness.

Bed Capacity Expansion: This project added 50 beds to address bed needs and needed capacity. Beds are already in use at the Green Bay Correctional Institution.

In concert, these projects aim to enhance agency safety, improve health and rehabilitative services, and strengthen capacity, ultimately fostering more effective operations and better outcomes for staff and individuals in care.

Use of Evidence

The Corrections Operational Efficiency and Safety initiative is grounded in evidence-based policymaking, ensuring that public investments are informed by research, proven strategies, and measurable impact.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment in ERP is based on well-established behavioral health models that demonstrate reduced recidivism and improved reintegration outcomes when individuals receive structured, evidence-based treatment.

Guard 1 Staff Monitoring System advances data-driven accountability and operational transparency. By electronically documenting staff activities and well-being checks, the system enables performance monitoring, compliance verification, and continuous quality improvement, all key tenets of evidence-informed corrections management.

Facility Library Resource Expansion reflects research showing that access to educational and recreational reading in correctional settings improves mental health, promotes cognitive development, and contributes to reduced disciplinary incidents. Providing diverse materials supports rehabilitation and prepares individuals for successful community reentry.

Staff Training and Organizational Development is aligned with research-backed strategies in workforce resilience, leadership development, and organizational change. Offering targeted training and strategic alignment opportunities helps foster a knowledgeable, stable, and responsive workforce, critical to ensuring consistent service delivery and institutional safety.

Together, these efforts form a cohesive, outcomes-driven initiative that aligns with evidence-based policy goals in public safety, behavioral health, education, and workforce readiness.

Performance Report

This project is in its initial stages.

DHS COVID Operations: Communications

43500 ARPA435COMM

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: \$11,796,500.00

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/resources.htm

Project Overview

This funding supported new and expanded initiatives to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthen Wisconsin public health, and enhance systems that will address and prevent epidemics in the future. Marketing campaigns and other external communications are essential to the efficacy of this work, leading to a substantial increase in work for the DHS communications office. This project supports additional staff in the office who plan, write, review, route, and disseminate communications materials for the agency.

Salary, benefits, contracting, software license fees, technology, and other costs associated with creating, updating, and maintaining DHS's public-facing COVID-19 related web pages and associated data and content providing various COVID-related information and providing other COVID-related public communication services.

This project funded salary, benefits, contracting, software licenses, technology, and other costs associated with the Department of Health Services' (DHS) work to create, update, and maintain the DHS public-facing COVID-related web pages and associated data and content.

Use of Evidence

Accurate and timely communications that inform decision making are part of an evidence-based multi-faceted approach that slowed the spread and improved outcomes of those with the disease.

Funding for this project supported vital evidence-based, accurate, and timely communications. Throughout the pandemic, messaging was constantly reviewed for effectiveness and modified when needed to meet the changing needs of response and recovery efforts.

Performance Report

Communications resources on the DHS COVID-19 webpage are constantly reviewed for their effectiveness and modified when needed to meet the changing needs of the response and recovery efforts.

Two examples of deliverables are below:

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/011525.htm

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/small-talks/partner-resources.htm

The information communicated with this founding informated decision modified that alread the control of
The information communicated with this funding informed decision-making that slowed the spread of the pandemic and improved outcomes of those with the disease.

DHS COVID Operations: Aging and Disability Resources

43500 ARPAADR

Expenditure Category: 3.1-Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or

Human Services Workers

Funding Amount: \$575,000.00

https://wihealthyaging.org/initiatives/isolation-and-loneliness/

Project Overview

This project funded salary, benefits, and other costs associated with Department of Health Services (DHS) employees managing the COVID-related funding in the Older Americans Act and the Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness program, which aimed to address mental health and other health issues exacerbated by the pandemic.

Use of Evidence

Loneliness and social isolation have been identified as having serious physical and mental health implications in older adults and people with disabilities. This funding supported staff who provided resources and implemented evidence-based practices to assist older adults and those with disabilities experiencing loneliness or social isolation due to the pandemic.

Performance Report

DHS continuously monitored employee and contractor performance to help ensure that the program was consistently working to help elderly and disabled people weather the mental health challenges associated with the pandemic. DHS supported the program coordinator for the Social Isolation and Loneliness program, helping to build the coalition needed to support older adults respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Behavioral Telehealth Services

43500 ARPABHI

Expenditure Category: 1.12-Mental Health Services

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project is managed by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to support telehealth in the behavioral health space. The Youth Tele-Psychiatry (YTP) program aims to expand or develop pediatric, child, and adolescent tele-psychiatry services through the recruitment and retention of psychiatrists, psychiatric prescribers, and supporting technology needed to provide tele-psychiatry services, across the state of Wisconsin. The five YTP grant recipients, Essentia Health, Kenosha Community Health Center, Children's Medical Group, The Lakes Community Health Center, and Professional Services Group, have administered their YTP programs from July 2022 through June 2023. Additionally, three of the five grant recipients continued their funding into a year-two contract from July 2023 through June 2024.

The Tele-Behavioral Health Program (TBH) was created with the intention to expand tele-behavioral health services throughout Wisconsin using designated hub sites where patients could access these services via technology in a place that was safe and logistically convenient. Twenty-seven grantees were provided funds to develop their programs and hub sites. The intended outcome was to serve patients at these hub sites who would otherwise struggle to access behavioral health services and to create programs that were sustainable to ensure the programs continued past the availability of grant funds.

Use of Evidence

A program requirement was that any funding received had to be used on evidence-based interventions and practices. A DHS employee, as well as a licensed clinician, evaluated all expenditure requests to ensure agencies were complying with this requirement and that the services being provided were evidence-based.

Performance Report

The Youth Tele-Psychiatry (YTP) Program is aimed to expand or develop pediatric, child, and adolescent telepsychiatry services through the recruitment and retention of psychiatrists, psychiatric prescribers, and supporting technology needed to provide telepsychiatry services, across the state of Wisconsin. During the July 2023-June 2024 contract year, there were three grant recipients for the YTP Program, Essentia Health, Kenosha Community Health Center, and The Lakes Community Health Center.

• Essentia Health continues to focus on the recruitment of psychiatric prescribers. A psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHMP) has been hired to see children in the

- Consult Liaison role. Essentia continues to source, post, and work with search firms to fill open positions.
- Kenosha Community Health Center, LLC (KCLC), recruited two youth-specializing, part-time
 psychiatric prescribing providers, a PMHNP and a psychiatrist (MD). The YTP grant award has
 enabled KCHC to provide care to underserved youth, 3 percent of whom did not have
 insurance coverage upon initiating care. KCHC works with these families to provide access to
 Patient Care Advocates (PCAs), who help individuals apply for Medicaid coverage.
- The Lakes Community Health Center increased staff who were seeing children and adults to three PNPs and one psychiatrist and is in the process of contracting a part-time virtual psychiatrist. In addition, a Program Services Manager and Program Service Coordinator were hired. In 2023, 231 children were served with 768 visits. Over 80 percent of these children were on Medicaid. The Lakes Community Health Center has been working with Primary Medical Care providers in Ashland and Hayward on how they can best utilize a psychiatrist in a consulting role. PCPs will refer complicated cases to psychiatry, allowing for expanded access to psychiatric services in northern Wisconsin.

The Tele-Behavioral Health (TBH) Program was created to expand tele-behavioral health services throughout Wisconsin using designated hub sites where patients could access these services via technology in a place that was safe and logistically convenient. During the July 2023-June 2024 contract year, 11 grantees were provided carryover funds to continue the development of their programs and hub sites as these 11 grantees had not fully expended their first-year grants.

- Baldwin Area Medical Center (Western Wisconsin Health) has developed partnerships with satellite access sites for telehealth, including the library, schools, and senior centers, to provide behavioral health services to rural communities with poor broadband availability and no public transportation options. A commercial is in production to be shared on social media platforms and in local areas where services are available, for testimonial and educational purposes. Western Wisconsin Health has seen 189 patients through behavioral health telehealth.
- BCS of Wisconsin, S.C. (d.b.a. BCS Care Solutions, Inc.) has been able to provide significant
 assistance to nursing homes and assisted living facilities via its telehealth navigator. BCS'
 telehealth program has tripled in size and has established relationships with over one
 hundred partner sites.
- Bellin Health Foundation was able to reach a total of 65 unique patients with 95 total visits in centrally located and easily accessible locations by the midpoint of the current contract.
- Community Services Associated (d.b.a. Pauquette Center for Psychological Services) has
 established telehealth hubs within two school districts in the State (Richland Center and
 Watertown Unified School District) and has been providing telehealth services at Middle and
 High Schools within those districts. Within these districts, they have provided educational
 opportunities for families and provided devices to the schools so that students may access
 telehealth services when school is not in session (e.g., summer or after-hours appointments,
 if needed).
- Fort HealthCare (FHC) has partnered with Rock River Community Clinic (RRCC) to refer clients
 for telehealth services to either Pauquette Center or Jefferson County Human Services for
 ongoing behavioral health treatment needs/services and establish a telehealth hub (traumainformed care office) in their clinic for clients to use, providing reliable internet access and
 additional privacy for their sessions with providers. In addition, grant funds have allowed

- Whitewater Unified School District to access quality psychiatric care via telehealth for their students during the day.
- Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation, Inc. has been able to outfit school sites and
 community support sites for teletherapy capability, allowing students to have access to
 spaces and equipment to receive services from their providers. By the mid-point of the
 current contract, 75 students received school-based, outpatient care and 13 students
 received their care through teletherapy.
- Kenosha Community Health Center, Inc. (KCHC) has hired two behavioral health therapy staff
 and purchased mobile telehealth equipment to provide behavioral health services at the
 Shalom Center. KCHC has also expanded behavioral health therapy services via the Hope
 Hub Community Center hosted at the Shalom Center.
- Southeast Asian Healing Center, Inc. (SEAHC) has provided access to telehealth for the Southeast Asian (SEA) population to enable elderly individuals who have health conditions, impaired mobility, and/or trauma, to continue access to psychiatrist treatment. At the midpoint of the current contract, the SEAHC psychiatrist had provided a total of 160 sessions to the SEA population in Dane County. Of the 160 sessions, 21 sessions were done by threeway phone meetings and 22 sessions were done by video meetings.
- A licensed professional counselor has established referral sites at four Milwaukee Public Schools as well as other public-school districts throughout the State. There have been 190 virtual/telehealth therapy sessions completed because of these referrals. In addition, there have been 16 virtual/telehealth Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings as 7 client care team meetings completed.
- Tellurian, Inc. Tellurian hired an outpatient LPC who is committed to reducing barriers and increasing opportunities for those in need of behavioral health care by addressing existing disparities.
- Vivent Health provided telehealth behavioral health services to 377 clients for 1,878 visits during the first six months of the current contract. This is an increase of over 100 clients since the previous reporting period and a total of 194 additional clients served via Telehealth since the start of Year 1.

Enhanced Youth Mental Health Services

43500 ARPACHILDRNS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$5,000,000**

https://childrenswi.org/location-directory/locations/urgent-care/craig-yabuki-mental-health-walk-in-clinic

Project Overview

This project provides funding to support the Children's Walk-In Clinic, which provides same-day care for children and teens (ages 5 to 18) experiencing urgent mental health issues by offering evaluations of safety concerns, interventions through temporary, onsite counseling and coping tips, coordination of care with the child's care team, and ongoing care referrals. The clinic is designed to offer an alternative to traditional urgent care and emergency room services and meet the increased demand for immediate access to mental and behavioral health services. The clinic is located on Children's Wisconsin main campus and is open 7 days a week from 3-9:30 p.m. The supported development and expansion of the Children's Walk-In Clinic was broken up into three contract periods (1-six-month, 2-one-year) from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024, with Children's Medical Group as the recipient.

The Children's Residency Program is a partnership between Children's Wisconsin and the Medical College of Wisconsin that aims to train entry-level psychologists who will likely seek post-doctoral fellowships in pediatric health psychology. The residency is the capstone experience in doctoral training in professional psychology that occurs after the doctoral student has completed the academic requirements of their doctoral program. The psychology residency is a one-year full-time clinical training designed to provide the student with intensive clinical experience under supervision. The program operates on a scientist-practitioner model with the goal of preparing clinical and counseling health psychologists for entry-level health service psychology practice in pediatrics. The psychology resident is conceptualized as an emerging psychologist who will be working under the supervision of a faculty psychologist as an integral member of the medical team, analogous to a medical resident. Over the course of the internship year, experiences will increase in responsibility and the psychology resident will work more independently. Health psychology residents must demonstrate competence for entry-level psychology practice including: research, ethical and legal standards, individual and cultural diversity, professional values, attitudes, and behaviors, communication and interpersonal skills, assessment, intervention, supervision, consultation, and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills. All residents will participate in specialty health psychology rotations (e.g., Hematology/Oncology, Combined NICU/Cardiology, Inpatient Consultation-Liaison, and Gastrointestinal/Feeding) for three months of the year. Concurrently, residents will see patients three half-days per week in the Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Clinic. This is a clinic that is located in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, but specializes in targeted health psychology interventions with patients who are (a) referred from a specialty clinic for health psychology services or (b) referred from primary care for management of health, behavioral, and psychological health concerns. Scheduled time is also allocated for research and program development (one half-day per week) and didactics and group supervision (one half-day per week). At least 25% of the resident's time will be spent in direct 1:1 patient care.

Use of Evidence

The Children's Walk-In Clinic provides early and timely interventions for adolescents experiencing mental health issues that will result in improved quality outcomes and best practices of care. More than half of individuals with mental health conditions in their lifetime begin experiencing symptoms prior to the age of 14; however, the average length of time between appearing symptoms and treatment is often over 10 years. This lack of urgency and availability portrays a gap in care for kids that the Children's Walk-In Clinic aims to solve by providing immediate access to professional care.

By investing in a training program specifically for health psychologists, the Children's Residency Program aims to place most trainees in Wisconsin-based specialty practices, specifically with Children's Wisconsin after they train directly on their model of care. This will help fill the anticipated need of more than 50 health psychologists to support the integrated behavioral health specialty programs. By developing and expanding the program, Children's Residency will combat workforce development challenges associated with hiring and retaining health psychologists that are greatly needed in the community.

Performance Report

The Children's Wisconsin psychology residency program successfully began the second year of their program on July 1, 2024, with four new residents (a residency lasts 3 -5 years). Their training program has gained an excellent reputation, and current residents are coming from prestigious academic programs from across the country. In 2024, the four residents provided 1,295 direct hours of service to patients in our outpatient clinic, Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, on our inpatient Consultation-Liaison service and in the Neonatal Intensive Care/Cardiac Intensive Care units.

Children's Wisconsin recognizes that there continues to be a workforce shortage in Wisconsin and across the nation for psychologists. At Children's Wisconsin, they continue to have demand for psychologists from nearly every one of their pediatric specialty departments. One factor to note is that there is a significant discrepancy between the number of psychologists being trained to work with children versus adults. According to the American Psychological Association, only 6% of all psychologists are specifically trained to work with children.

Covering Wisconsin

43500 ARPACOVERWI

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: \$3,961,009.00

https://coveringwi.org/

Project Overview

Funding helps cover the efforts of Covering Wisconsin (CWI) for the enrollment assister community, community consumers, and other community consumer-serving organizations during the post unwinding of the Medicaid continuous eligibility maintenance of effort (MOE).

The program serves Wisconsin's residents by helping them learn about, select, use, pay for, and renew coverage with the goal of improved health outcomes and financial security.

Use of Evidence

Covering Wisconsin is a federally certified, state-licensed navigator agency. The Milwaukee Enrollment Network, a coalition of more than 100 agencies, convened by the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership and Covering Wisconsin, includes the City of Milwaukee Health Department, area health systems and health centers, community organizations and independent agents and brokers.

In 2024, CWI received a Service to the Citizen Award, given to state and federal government agencies to honor exemplary public service. Additionally, CWI was again selected by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as a Navigator grantee for Wisconsin, reinforcing its crucial role in helping residents access affordable health coverage. Together the Network and CWI worked with returning Marketplace consumers in 2024, resulting in 39,537 people in the Milwaukee area selecting a 2024 Marketplace plan. CWI continues to connect Wisconsin residents with health insurance coverage and other programs to support their health.

Performance Report

CWI has increased accessibility through the development, pilot-testing, and implementation of web-based Chatbot consumer support functionality. CWI has increased enrollment assistance and support through the recruitment, training, licensing, and deployment of 42 individual licensed and certified Navigators statewide and coordinated training for 242 professionals who earned full licensing credits through Covering Wisconsin.

In 2024, Covering Wisconsin Certified Navigators participated in 239 informational and tabling events educating the public about key health insurance terms, concepts, and programs. CWI has increased coordination through the recruitment, cultivation, and leadership support of 10 enrollment networks. CWI has increased outreach and engagement through the development and dedicated project management of data-driven outreach plans targeting FFS Medicaid members and engagement and mini-grants provided to community mobilizers to raise awareness in communities.

CWI has increased communications by working directly with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services communications team on post unwinding strategies, language suggestions, editing/feedback and communication plan and creating and testing How-To sheets on how to complete a Medicaid renewal, what to expect, and what to do if no longer eligible and finalizing How-To on using and installing the MyAccess app.

DHS COVID Operations: COVID Response Team Transition Operations

43500 ARPACRTO

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: \$13,485,887.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Funding for this project supported salaries, benefits, and other costs for employees managing and administering the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS) COVID testing, vaccination, contact tracing, and transition to recovery efforts.

Use of Evidence

Staff funded by this project supported key components of an evidence-based approach to preventing the spread of COVID and improving outcomes for those infected.

Performance Report

Employee and contractor performance is monitored through DHS performance management practices and contract oversight.

DHS COVID Operations: Division of Quality Assurance

43500 ARPADQA

Expenditure Category: 3.1-Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or

Human Services Workers

Funding Amount: \$10,376,880.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project assists the Wisconsin Department of Health Services with the survey and backlog in long term care facilities that increased because of the pandemic, necessitating additional resources to complete this work. Specifically used for salary, benefits, and other costs to support state employees and contracted agencies performing complaint investigations of nursing homes and assisted living facilities and completing related federal and state surveys through October 31, 2025.

Use of Evidence

This project is designed to reduce the backlog of surveys and complaints in long-term care facilities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report

Wisconsin is now trending toward meeting State and Federal metrics for surveys and complaint investigations in long-term care facilities.

Emergency Medical Services Investment

43500 ARPAEMS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$45,000,000.00

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ems

Project Overview

The Emergency Medical Services Funding Assistance Program is available to all public ambulance service providers, including volunteer fire departments, nonprofits, and county and municipality services, and can be used for things such as new emergency service vehicles, safety upgrades to existing vehicles, durable diagnostic medical equipment, immobilization equipment, patient transport equipment, and more. Each awardee received a supplemental grant of \$24,390 in addition to their regularly allocated state funds for state fiscal year 2023.

The Emergency Medical Services Flex Grant provided \$32 million to stabilize emergency medical services providers and to ensure they can continue to respond to emergencies across Wisconsin. EMS Flex Grants funds can be used for new vehicles, training equipment and staffing. All emergency medical services providers licensed in the State of Wisconsin are eligible to request funding in this process.

As funds for both Funding Assistance Program and the Flex Grant were issued between 2022 and 2023, project updates since July 1, 2024, have been to ensure that subrecipients have complied with reporting requirements or to follow up any unspent funds.

Use of Evidence

The funds were used to support local emergency medical services providers, as emergency medical service access across the state is a critical component of the health care system. As one of the core goals was to give local emergency medical service providers flexibility to adjust the most pressing local needs, funding was not directed to any one specific intervention.

The Flex Grant and the Funding Assistance Program funds had different eligibility requirements to ensure different parts of the emergency medical services system have access to funding opportunities. Funds issued through the Funding Assistance Programs were restricted to ambulance service providers licensed for response to emergencies through the 9-1-1 system. These funds were supplemental to state funds normally available under this existing program. Flex grant funds, while open to all emergency medical services providers, were awarded through a formula that prioritized emergency medical services providers not eligible for the state's Funding Assistance Program and service providers from certain qualified Census tracts.

Performance Report

The Flex Grant provided awards to 442 Wisconsin licensed emergency medical services providers throughout the state to help deliver prehospital emergency services. Recipients included both first response groups and ambulance service providers. The Funding Assistance Program awarded \$8 million to 331 ambulance service providers. Collectively, the ambulance services receiving Funding Assistance Program funds for state fiscal year 2023 serve approximately 5,794,406 people. Subrecipients for both programs were able to use the funding for training personnel, emergency vehicles, and equipment to allow flexibility to meet local needs.

The City of Milwaukee Basic Life Support Ambulance Service received \$5 million to make the services economically feasible for the providers in light of declining reimbursement rates, and increased staffing, equipment, and supply costs exacerbated by the pandemic.

DHS COVID Operations: Environmental and Occupational Health

43500 ARPAEOH

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: \$500,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Funding for this project supported salary, benefits, and other associated costs of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to support an industrial hygiene research scientist, an epidemiologist, and an environmental epidemiologist dedicated to COVID surveillance programs and providing consultation to employers, local health departments, and the public.

Use of Evidence

The positions funded provided critical information to support evidence-based decision-making throughout the pandemic.

Performance Report

Employee and contractor performance is monitored through DHS performance management practices and contract oversight

Department of Health Services Office of Grants Management

43500 ARPAGRTMGMT

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$5,854,800.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This funding supports new and expanded grant opportunities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthen Wisconsin public health, and enhance systems that will address and prevent epidemics in the future. In order to improve the efficiency and efficacy of grant management, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has centralized key grant-management functions in the Office of Grants Management (OGM).

The project includes salaries, benefits, and other costs, including the acquisition of a grants information system necessary for creating and maintaining the OGM, which will be responsible for mangaging the process of awarding grant funds to third parties and ongoing monitoring of and interaction with grant recipients.

Use of Evidence

Proper management and administration of COVID-19 federal funding is part of an evidence-based multi-faceted approach to the response and recovery effort in Wisconsin that slowed the spread of the illness and improved outcomes for those infected by the illness.

Performance Report

Since July 1, 2024, the Department has further defined roles and responsibilities for the Office and successfully recruited for the Office Director. The Director is proceeding with plans to recruit for the remaining OGM positions and procure for an agency-wide grants management system.

Long-Term Care Facility Infection Prevention Control

43500 ARPALTCIPGRT

Expenditure Category: 1.14-Other Public Health Services

Funding Amount: \$4,800,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project provided funding to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish a matching funds grant program to allow skilled nursing facilities and other types of long-term care facilities to apply infection prevention protocols, including physical infrastructure needs customized to the facility. Project categories included staff retention and recruitment, ancillary services (such as x-ray, transportation, lab draws, etc.), infection prevention and environmental services supplies, technology for education, outbreak response, or telemedicine, and HVAC or other physical infrastructure improvements.

Use of Evidence

Supports funded through this project were evidence-based methods to prevent infectious disease spread in congregate living facilities.

Performance Report

More than 1,015 applications were received from facilities resulting in 205 approved applications from skilled nursing facilities and 360 approved applications for other types of long-term care facilities.

Local and Tribal Health Department Response and Recovery Support

43500 ARPALTHD

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: \$58,460,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project provided funding to the Department of Health Services to provide financial assistance to local and tribal health departments to defray the costs of monitoring and responding to the pandemic, including addressing mental health challenges, providing access to services, strengthening recovery efforts, upgrading and improving technology, addressing health disparities in public health outcomes, and providing testing and vaccine outreach.

Use of Evidence

The efforts supported by this program are all part of an evidence-based approach to slowing the spread of COVID-19 and improving results for those infected.

Performance Report

Local and Tribal Health Departments provide quarterly reporting on staff, supplies, and other uses of these funds in addition to the programmatic needs met by the project.

In the most recent quarter, Local and Tribal Health Departments used this funding for 52,389 hours of time for local health departments to provide public health services to their communities, including recovery from COVID-19 and response efforts learned such as improving infection prevention and control and updating emergency communication efforts. A total of 162,511 hours of service was provided since July 1, 2024.

DHS COVID Operations: Medicaid Services COVID Funding Implementation

43500 ARPAMEDICAID

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: \$6,261,100.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Funding for this project supported salary, benefits, and other costs associated with supporting the Department of Health Services' Division of Medicaid Services employees and contractors to administer COVID Birth-to-3 grant funding, Medicaid and FoodShare eligibility, benefit, and service delivery changes mandated or authorized under federal COVID legislation, and other Medicaid and FoodShare initiatives implemented in response to the pandemic.

Use of Evidence

The need for additional staff was created by federal legislation.

Performance Report

Employee and contractor performance was monitored by DHS standard performance management practices and contract oversight.

Milwaukee County Mental Health Emergency Center

43500 ARPAMMHEC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$4,500,000.00

https://mentalhealthmke.org/

Project Overview

This project provided funding to the Department of Health Service to help fund construction of and start-up costs for the Milwaukee Mental Health Emergency Center (MHEC), which provides 24/7/365 crisis mental health assessment, stabilization, treatment, and transition care management for children, adolescents, and adults. The MHEC, which helps offset the significant growth in need for treatments related to community mental health and substance use disorders, offers a therapeutic environment for both voluntary and involuntary patients, with separate entrances for patients entering in police custody, and a family-friendly treatment area for youth. The anticipated length of stay for emergency care is 4 to 23 hours, with the goal for all patients to receive timely treatment and stabilization to the appropriate level of care.

The MHEC screens individuals for inpatient admissions and completes the Treatment Director's Supplement (TDS) as required under Wisconsin law for those who have been found to be a danger to self or others. The facility provides care coordination and navigation services to ensure timely connections to community-based care, including Crisis Resource Centers, outpatient services, medications, housing, food, and other social supports. The facility also provides immediate access to specialized psychiatric care for those who need it most, potentially reducing law enforcement involvement and unnecessary hospitalizations for this population.

Located in the City of Milwaukee where 93 percent of Psychiatric Crisis Services (PCS) Emergency Room users lived (as of 2019), and in a zip code adjacent to approximately 70 percent of those patients, the MHEC reduces time spent in police custody for emergency detentions, greatly improves access to crisis services in the neighborhoods with limited access and where the pandemic has had a substantial impact on the mental health of the population, and includes participation and support from four major health systems, which will reduce stigma and improve care coordination and collaboration in serving the most vulnerable patients.

Use of Evidence

Mental health issues continue to substantially impact Milwaukee County. A Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) study strongly recommended that Milwaukee County maintain the nationally recognized best practice of the specialized psychiatric emergency room but anticipated a smaller number of admissions based on the downward trajectory of admissions from 2010 to 2018.

The initial MHEC project was conceived prior to the pandemic and anticipated annual visits between 6,000 and 8,000 patients. The facility is now expected to serve 10,000 to 12,000 annually at potentially higher acuity. HSRI and Wisconsin Policy Forum studies recommended expansion in key community-based initiatives coupled with the safety net option of a specialized emergency room, as

this model has been very effective in reducing emergency detentions, expanding upstream access to crisis services, reduced psychiatric hospitalizations, and increased collaboration system wide in Milwaukee County.

Performance Report

The MHEC facility is fully completed and accepted its first patient in September 2022.

DHS COVID Operations: Office of Health Informatics

43500 ARPAOHI

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: **\$375,000.00**

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/ohi.htm

Project Overview

This project supported salaries, benefits, and other costs associated with supporting employees managing and administering data and information technology associated with providing timely, accurate, and accessible information related to the pandemic, including, but not limited to, data systems managers, help desk support, IT systems trainers, and data analysts.

Use of Evidence

The use of data in decision-making regarding the pandemic response and recovery effort is part of an evidence-based multi-faceted approach that reduced disease spread and improved outcomes.

Performance Report

Information systems and data systems presented on the Department of Health Services website are vital to pandemic response and recovery efforts and are continuously evaluated through feedback received from citizens, partners, and medical professionals.

Personal Protective Equipment

43500 ARPAPPE

Expenditure Category: 1.5-Personal Protective Equipment

Funding Amount: **\$4,151,892.46**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The State of Wisconsin maintains a medical stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE) to fill supply chain gaps created by emergency health incidents. This project funds a portion of the PPE needed to maintain this program.

Use of Evidence

The use of personal protective equipment is promoted through regulatory and policy bodies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Like many states, during the early months of the pandemic, Wisconsin suffered due to lack of sufficient PPE, prompting the need for a larger stockpile.

Performance Report

A total of 4,662,260 KN95s were distributed in state fiscal year 2024, many of which were distributed as the result of a large-scale survey. These went to organizations such as Tribes, free clinics, and non-profits across the State of Wisconsin.

Ryan White Part B Supplemental Funding

43500 ARPARWPARTB

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$3,500,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) supports the federal program that funds HIV-related services for individuals living with HIV/AIDS who have no health insurance, have insufficient health care coverage, or lack financial resources to obtain the needed care for HIV disease. RWHAP therefore, fills gaps in care not met by other payers and addresses the social determinants of health that contribute to HIV- related health disparities.

This funding supports Ryan White grantees that provide home and community-based care, treatment and medicines that prolong life and/or prevent hospitalization, and AIDS Drug Assistance Program services for HIV-related medications, and experienced a reduction to the Ryan White Part B funding.

This funding was distributed to six organizations providing Ryan White services throughout Wisconsin: Diverse and Resilient, Inc.; Medical College of Wisconsin; Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.; Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers; University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics HIV Care and Prevention Program; and Vivent Health). The organizations have used this funding to supplement current HIV care services from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2026.

Use of Evidence

As of 2024, all Ryan White subrecipients submit a work plan at the beginning of the grant year outlining SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) objectives for each Ryan White service category for which they receive funding. The work plans include long-term (3 year) and short-term (one year) goals, as well as expected number of clients to be served and performance measures. The subrecipient SMART objectives are then used to create the finalized SMART objectives for the Ryan White grant. At the end of the grant year, subrecipients submit a project narrative outlining progress on their individual work plans annually. The HIV Care Unit uses these work plans to identify any places where SMART objectives were not met and reviews this information with the internal Quality Committee. The HIV Care Unit will conduct a mid-point assessment of progress towards long-term goals in fall 2025.

Performance Report

During the first year (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025) of funding, subrecipients reported serving the following numbers of clients:

 Linkage to medical care and support services for clients newly diagnosed with HIV or previously lost to care: 18

- Medical case management and care coordination: 73
- Referral to health care services and support services: 417
- Food services, including food pantry and food vouchers: 1070
- Financial assistance with health insurance premiums, co-pays, or deductibles: 57
- Transportation to medical appointments: 23
- Outpatient medical care: 22
- Substance use disorder treatment: 2
- Rent assistance: 18
- Mental health services: 6
- Emergency financial assistance to prevent eviction or utility shutoff: 9
- Legal services, including eviction prevention: 112
- Medical nutrition therapy: 217
- Assistance in enrolling in health insurance: 58
- Oral health care services: 157

The Wisconsin HIV Care Unit tracks performance measures for all services accessed by at least 15 percent of Ryan White clients in the last calendar year. If more than 50 percent of Ryan White clients access a service, the HIV Care Unit tracks two performance measures.

Health Care Surge Staffing

43500 ARPASRGSTAFF

Expenditure Category: 1.14-Other Public Health Services

Funding Amount: \$7,727,142.89

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program was created in September of 2021 to provide emergency staffing resources to hospitals and long-term care facilities in Wisconsin. The program received 332 requests over the course of the program. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) contracted with staffing vendors to facilitate 1,879 healthcare staff being sent to 209 agencies through August 2022. The internal team developed processes to track incoming requests, work with the DHS contracting team, partner with staffing agencies, and complete payment and billing procedures. This program resulted in an incredible accomplishment that helped the residents of Wisconsin in a dire situation.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

A weekly report was created to report on staffing metrics throughout the program. Throughout the course of the program, 1,879 healthcare staff were placed at 209 agencies.

COVID-19 Oral Antivirals

43500 ARPATELE2TRT

Expenditure Category: **1.6-Medical Expenses** (including Alternative Care Facilities)

Funding Amount: **\$1,110,524.97**

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/telehealth.htm

Project Overview

The Department of Health Services partnered with a population health technology company to fund a free service that gives patients with COVID-19 symptoms access to provider consultation and therapeutic prescriptions without having to leave their home or place of care. Wisconsin providers can also use this service to consult with clinicians who are knowledgeable and experienced in prescribing available treatment. These services address critical gaps throughout the state and provide equitable and inclusive access to lifesaving therapeutics.

Use of Evidence

The oral antivirals available as part of the program received Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA and are prescribed in accordance with evidence-based protocols by clinicians licensed to practice and prescribe in Wisconsin.

Performance Report

Between November 2022 and April 2024, the program processed 8,836 consult requests, prescribed 6,312 courses of oral antivirals, and served patients from all counties in Wisconsin. During the same time, it is estimated that the telehealth program prescribed 8 percent of all Paxlovid and 5 percent of all Lagevrio that pharmacies dispensed to Wisconsin patients. Notably, these levels were maintained during the critical months of December 2022 and 2023, when Wisconsin dispensed its greatest number of oral antivirals each year. Telehealth's share of prescriptions peaked at 17 percent of Paxlovid and 13 percent of Lagevrio during the month of February 2024. Elderly residents ages 60 and up, who are particularly susceptible to severe illness from COVID-19, comprised 47 percent of all telehealth patients. The period spanning October 2023 through January 2024 – during which the program prescribed nearly 2,000 courses of oral antivirals - the weekly proportion of elderly patients regularly surpassed 50 percent, peaking as high as 64 percent.

COVID-19 Vaccination

43500 ARPAVAX

Expenditure Category: 1.1-COVID-19 Vaccination

Funding Amount: \$16,922,329.40

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-registry.htm

Project Overview

This project supported the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and necessary related activities. The Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry (WCVR) was developed for managing COVID-19 vaccine administration at local and tribal public health partners, a contracted Community-Based Vaccination Clinic partner: AMI Expeditionary Healthcare (AMI), and other local entities administering COVID-19 vaccine. The WCVR public portal is a web-based system that allows for public registration, eligibility screening, appointment scheduling, and demographic collection. The WCVR clinic operations module is web-based and enabled on mobile devices to capture demographics, vaccine dose administration, and interfaced in real-time to the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). The public-facing registry portal went live March 2, 2021. The first clinical operations day was March 9, 2021. The last clinical operations day was January 14, 2023.

Use of Evidence

This project supported distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, a critical part of an evidence-based model for the prevention and mitigation of the illness.

Performance Report

From July 2022 through January 2023, 32,204 vaccine doses were administered.

COVID-19 Vaccination Match

43500 ARPAVAXMATCH

Expenditure Category: 6.2-Non-Federal Match for Other Federal Programs

Funding Amount: \$862,677.59

Website: Not applicable

Project Overview

This program supported the provision of non-federal match for the COVID-19—Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters) (ALN 97.036).

Use of Evidence

Vaccinations were a part of public health efforts to make COVID-19 vaccinations available in communities across the state.

Performance Report

Not applicable

Ventilators Assistance DHS

43500 ARPAVENTILAT

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: **\$7,523,530.00**

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/ppe.htm

Project Overview

In April 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services executed a three-year, \$7.5-million maintenance contract with the firm that sold it 1,500 ventilators in April 2020, supported by this project. The contract, which expired in April 2024, required the firm to provide preventive maintenance recommended by the manufacturer of the ventilators and an extended warranty for the ventilators.

Use of Evidence

Ongoing maintenance of the ventilators purchased in April 2020 will help extend the lifetime of this investment and ensure ventilators remain available.

Performance Report

Ventilators have been widely distributed across the state to partners with a reasonable need within the scope of their service agreement; 72 different stewards have had ventilators: 40 EMS and 32 hospitals or clinics.

DHS COVID Operations-Storage and Transportation

43500 ARPAWAREHSE

Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount: **\$3,401,107.00**

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/ppe.htm

Project Overview

The State of Wisconsin has a medical stockpile of personal protective equipment to fill supply chain gaps created by emergency health emergency incidents. This project funds a portion of the warehouse storage costs as well as partial transportation costs for distribution of PPE and ventilators.

On July 1, 2024, inventory totaled 70,000 square feet of space. A total of 139 pallets of PPE have been transferred to Northern Wisconsin Center for no cost long-term storage. A demobilization plan was created to reduce inventory to a sustainable level. This plan includes distribution to approved entities via survey, auctioning, and finally disposal. The survey and distribution resulted in 6,138,767 inventory items distributed. Ventilators and unexpired inventory have been put up for auction with pending results. Expired inventory has been disposed of upon expiration.

Use of Evidence

CDC, FEMA, and many states provide guidance on the maintenance of a stockpile of personal protective equipment.

Performance Report

A total of 6,138,767 individual items distributed in FY25 to 1,012 requesters in 1,029 different requests.

Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion and Capacity Building Initiative

43500 ARPAWKFCHLTH

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$10,120,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Workforce Development Technical Assistance (TA) program worked with 10 Wisconsin-based organizations to provide a technical assistance forum for community-based behavioral health professionals from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. The program has three main goals: promote and develop competencies within the behavioral health workforce in identifying unmet needs for mental health and substance use services among people from underserved communities, improve the service delivery system to expand access and develop behavioral health workforce competencies.

The selected grant recipients created unique technical assistance forums to increase competency within the behavioral health workforce. These TA forums include remote, hybrid, and in-person options.

The Wisconsin Qualified Treatment Trainee (QTT) Grants Program is an integrated, systemic approach to investing in the number and quality of behavioral health professionals in this state. The centerpiece of the QTT Grants Program is the Expanding Agency grant, which creates the ability to directly address the behavioral health workforce shortage and long client waitlists by funding agencies to create placements for QTTs who will then go on to get licensed and enter the workforce.

A QTT is either a graduate student in an advanced practice internship in social work, marriage and family, or counseling or a graduate of a master's degree program in social work, marriage and family, or counseling who is working toward the 3,000 hours of supervised practice required for full licensure. QTTs must receive both direct practice experience and quality supervision to fulfill the requirements of the credentialing process. The expanding grant increases QTT access to the required experience and supervision by providing financial and supervisory training supports to qualified agencies.

The funding supports stipends to graduate student QTTs who are unpaid or underpaid by employing agencies to help promote their retention in the profession until they satisfy requirements for licensure.

The project also increases capacity of agencies to serve underserved clients by conducting a culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) standards assessment, implementing CLAS standards based on assessed need, and other activities toward hiring a QTT to meet the assessed cultural and linguistic needs of the agency.

Current regional technical colleges and 2-year UW campuses offer human service associate programs that do not align with Social Work degrees, causing students, who are frequently from

underserved communities, to repeat credits and take additional time to gain a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. This project supports an improved pathway for bachelor social work programs by aligning and creating a pathway from human service associate programs to social work degrees, ensuring credit transfers and maximizing investments of time and money.

This program also develops a Dual-Diagnosis Post-Graduate Certificate Training Program. There is a need for behavioral health professionals to have experience and knowledge in mental illness and substance use disorders. This post-master's certificate will provide the knowledge and experience necessary for treating people with dual diagnoses of mental health and substance use disorder and offers greater depth into dual diagnosis treatment than can be offered in standard graduate education due to accreditation requirements.

Use of Evidence

Each technical assistance forum design utilizes various evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies to expand capacity in working with specific underserved populations.

Performance Report

The Workforce Development Technical Assistance (TA) program provided grants to 10 Wisconsin-based organizations to provide a technical assistance forum for community-based behavioral health professionals from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Reports from each grant recipient can be found in the state's 2024 Recovery Plan Performance Report.

Maternal and Child Health Initiative Program

43500 ARPAWMIH

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$16,000,000.00

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mch/blockgrant/input.htm

Project Overview

Funding is used to support Maternal and Child Health initiatives in Wisconsin that improve maternal and child health outcomes and reduce maternal and infant mortality. The priority areas for this investment include: social determinants of health, such as food insecurity, affordable housing, employment, and social connections; mental well-being; building responsive and equitable health care systems; perinatal workforce development; connecting families to information and resources; wraparound support for perinatal populations in uncertain situations.

Use of Evidence

A 2020 report found that Wisconsin had the worst Black infant mortality rate across 36 states and the District of Columbia. Infants born to Black mothers in Wisconsin are three times more likely to die before their first birthday than infants born to white mothers in the state. This inequity has been largely unchanged for decades. According to the Wisconsin Maternal Mortality Review, the maternal mortality rate for Black women in Wisconsin is approximately 5 times the rate for white women. These disparities are also present in Indigenous and Latino communities. Infants born to women from Indigenous and Latino backgrounds are 1.5 times more likely to die before their first birthday than infants born to white mothers in Wisconsin.

This program helps bring together community organizations, healthcare providers, doulas, breastfeeding support organizations, people who have experienced high-risk pregnancies and pregnancy loss, and others to address social and economic conditions that can impact maternal and child health.

Performance Report

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health uses this funding to support the work of four organizations, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation, Meta House, City of Milwaukee, and Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital. These organizations are using this funding to advance maternal and infant health equity, particularly focusing on efforts that lessen COVID-19 pandemic efforts.

The Medical College of Wisconsin's Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment uses this funding to support 10 projects. These projects include: A Culturally-Informed Interdisciplinary Prevention Program for Perinatal Depression led by Marquette University; Advancing a healthier Sauk County led by Sauk County Health Department - Public Health Sauk County; Consistency is Key: Enhancing Family Support Services with Essential Infrastructure led by Supporting Families Together

Association; Effectively Addressing Social Determinants of Health through Early Childhood Education led by Malaika Early

Learning Center; Expanding Maternal & Child Health Equity Using the Help Me Grow Model led by First 5 Fox Valley; Food for Healthier Pregnant Women and Babies led by Progressive Community Health Centers; Improving Collaboration with Community Partners for Equitable Pregnancy Outcomes in Milwaukee led by Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin; Reaching the un-reachable: Building Maternal and Child Health Equity Workforce in Rural Wisconsin led by Arbor Place, Inc.; Sokaogon Chippewa Health Clinic Maternal and Child Health Equity led by Sokaogon Chippewa Community; and the Wisconsin Maternal Care Education Program led by Wisconsin Medical Society, Inc.

The Maternal and Child Health Initiative Program in the DHS Division of Public Health supports 20 projects with this funding. An example of these projects includes Safe Mom Safe Baby led by the Aurora Sinai Medical Center. This project supports financial counseling of participants, connections to primary care providers and other services, therapy, case management, and training and education events for families. Another example is the WeRISE Community Doula Program led by the African American Breastfeeding Network. This project provides doula services, implements the Health ConnectOne Community Based Doula training-of-training component for community leaders, and completed a 20-week session resulting in 17 individuals expected to receive their HC1 Community Based Doula Certification or Certificate of Participation.

Project Resiliency

43500 ARPAWUCMAA

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$1,552,809.79

https://www.wucmaa.org/

Project Overview

Project Resiliency supported statewide mental health services, including the Hmong Mental Health Advisory Council and the development of a statewide helpline with peer support for residents. This statewide network of agencies provided social and emotional support for children and adults with relevant activities and other resources. The Wisconsin United Coalition for Mutual Assistance Associations (WUCMAA) operated Project Resiliency and supported its current iteration from September 2022 through December 2023, the most recent contract period. WUCMAA's vision for Project Resiliency created a central hub of resources for mental and behavioral health for individuals, families, and providers, increasing capacity for local mental health programming.

Use of Evidence

Wisconsin has the third-largest Hmong population in the United States, and Hmong individuals make up the largest Asian American ethnic group in the state of Wisconsin. After immigrating here in the 1970s and 1980s after the Vietnam War, many Hmong refugees have histories of trauma exposure that have been linked to mental health challenges, such as somatization, depression, anxiety, and PTSD.

Performance Report

In 2023, WUCMAA's Project Resiliency project focused on capacity building through emotional CPR and Wisconsin Certified Peer Specialist training as well as strengthening partnerships. WUCMAA shared resources and helped to promote mental health providers by encouraging collaborations. A Southeast Asian mental health provider directory was developed to support programming for coordinators and help community members find services. Three public service announcements (27,404 views), two educational videos (300,343 views), and a webinar (12,310 users) have been created regarding mental health and suicide prevention. WUCMAA developed relationships with five school partners across the state to implement mental health programming and has coordinated 10 virtual Mental Health First Aid and QPR trainings and 5 in-person QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainings. The project coordinated 104 programs that included various workshops, training sessions, and events, reaching 2,864 participants.

Child Care Counts

43700 ARPACCC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$172,639,628.00

https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/payments

Project Overview

The Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program, administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), has provided ongoing monthly payments to eligible child care providers, ensuring financial stability needed to stay open, ability to recruit and retain qualified staff, and to continue providing high-quality care for children.

Use of Evidence

A mid-program evaluation was conducted by the Institute on Research and Poverty in 2023. Results showed that Child Care Counts provided much-needed monetary relief to child care programs across the state and helped with increasing access and funding workforce recruitment and retention. While there are not plans to do a new program evaluation, DCF would not anticipate very different results between a new evaluation and the 2023 evaluation.

Performance Report

The information below shows approximately how much funding DCF has had to make Child Care Counts payments for each Round of the program.

- * Rounds 1-2 (November 2021 April 2023) \$21 million per month
- * Round 3 (May 2023 January 2024) \$12 million per month
- *Rounds 4-5 (February 2024 June 2025) \$10 million per month
- * Note: During Rounds 4-5, the YoungStar Quality Adjustment program connected to Wisconsin Shares will also pay providers roughly \$1.5 million per month.

Throughout the program, DCF has directed available federal funding to Child Care Counts to support providers. DCF remains committed to the Child Care Counts Program and knows how impactful it has been during the last four years.

Throughout the life of the program, Child Care Counts has supported 5,762 providers, 75,740 staff, and 430,389 children.

Children and Families Staff Augmentation

43700 ARPADCFSTF

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$1,680,000.00**

https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/

Project Overview

These funds supplement staffing at the Department of Children and Families to provide services to help Wisconsinites achieve economic self-sufficiency and social adjustment.

Use of Evidence

Performance Report

This project is in its initial stages.

Dream Up! Child Care Supply-Building Grant Initiative

43700 ARPADREAMUP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$2,500,000.00**

https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/dream-up

Project Overview

The Dream Up! program focused on building child care supply through a collaborative community approach at the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Successful applicants needed to present a cross sector team that included early learning and care providers, along with other key stakeholders, such as business leaders, economic/community development, schools, and local government. Selected teams received strategic planning support and grant funding to evaluate, plan, sustain, and expand existing children, and support new child care programs. The strategic planning process consisted of four facilitated meetings, accompanied by technical assistance from First Children's Finance (FCF), DCF's Dream Up! vendor. The Dream Up! program was intended to increase the availability of child care across the state.

Upon completion of a successful applicant's plan, communities receive \$75,000 grant awards to implement activities from their approved plans. Additionally, regulated child care providers within the defined Dream Up! community are eligible to receive business training. Upon completion of the training and submission of an approved business plan, each provider received a \$5,000 stipend.

Three cohorts of Dream Up! completed this process

Use of Evidence

Project partners have demonstrated success with this model and approach in other states and communities, including in neighboring Minnesota and Michigan. More information on their work in other states, and evidence of success is located on their site at https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/

Performance Report

First Children's Finance (FCF) is DCF's vendor for this work. DCF is also utilizing Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funds to develop universal resources to assist communities interested in tackling child care supply issues in their communities beyond the life of this project. Examples include information on how to pull together a core team, ideas for marketing, and lessons learned from the first three cohorts. FCF provided the following data (includes all funding):

• In total, 337 providers completed business training as part of the Business Leadership Cohorts and received stipends.

- 9,353 child care slots were added in Dream Up! Communities between July 2022 and September 2024 (hard to say this is a direct correlation, but only four communities had slot reductions).
- 25 communities supported 205 trainings for child care providers.
- Communities held 35 local events focused on child care capacity.
- \$2.775 million supported local efforts.

Domestic Violence Prevention and Resources Initiative

43700 ARPADVPRI

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$13,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Milwaukee County's Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) manages cases identified to be at highest risk for homicide. This multidisciplinary team includes participants from the City of Milwaukee Police department, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. This funding expands on the work that the DVHRT is doing. The expansion seeks to provide an increased capacity of cases to be staffed by the team, an increase in home visits by all DVHRT members where it is safe/appropriate for victims, outreach to DVHRT offenders, and a more efficient review of all domestic violence cases in Milwaukee County. All DVHRT agencies already commit to providing the following: dedicated staff and resources for DVHRT cases, participate in DVHRT case staffing twice weekly, collaborate with all participating DVHRT agencies for the safety of victims and accountability of abusers, follow through on recommendations for their agency that are made during case staffing, refer cases their agency has identified to be at high risk for homicide, and provide relevant/shareable agency history for parties whose cases are being reviewed. Services are delivered in person at community-based agencies and in the community.

The DVHF Program and stabilization of domestic violence (DV) shelter care services are advanced through the use of this one-time, time-limited funding. DVHF is an evidence-based and traumainformed practice that moves domestic violence survivors into safe, stable permanent housing as quickly as possible. Once housed, survivors have access to supportive and holistic advocacy resources to rebuild their lives. This program is being piloted in nine communities across the state and includes both a training and technical assistance (TA) component to support implementation and an evaluation component to study the effectiveness of this approach to supporting DV victims and their families by better meeting their housing stability needs. Currently, \$1.2 million is distributed across and added to program, training and TA, and evaluation contracts. The remaining \$800,000 is and continues to be added to the annual contracts that resulted from the recent Statewide Domestic Violence Services (SWDVS) request for proposal issued for contracted services beginning on January 1, 2023. Specifically, these dollars are being used to normalize funding for those programs that saw reductions in the amount of funding dispersed for these services from the prior calendar year contract period to ensure that victims and survivors in these communities did not experience a loss of access to previously available DV services, namely emergency shelter care services.

Use of Evidence

Milwaukee's DVHRT is a multidisciplinary team that includes individuals from Sojourner (a non-profit agency serving DV victims), Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), Milwaukee County District Attorney's (DA) Office, State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Division of Community

Corrections (DCC), representative from suburban law enforcement agencies in Milwaukee County, and the Alma Center (a nonprofit agency serving those who use violence and abuse). These partners were selected as they reflect the DOJ best practice model and allow us to maximize the efficiency of the work and protect confidential information from being shared broadly. The use of domestic violence high risk teams is recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice as a best practice to address domestic violence cases at highest risk for homicide. The goals of this team are to efficiently identify and staff domestic violence cases at the highest risk for lethality in order to determine individualized recommendations for each case that will maximize safety for survivors and accountability for offenders.

Not applicable; program evaluation is being conducted and is expected to conclude by December 31, 2025.

Performance Report

The latest annual report from 2023. In July 2023, the DVHRT was able to increase the numbers of high-risk cases staffed each week from 20 to 30. This expansion was critical in addressing the biggest challenges this team has had since its inception in 2017. Additionally, the DVHRT expansion increased the number of staff and partner agencies contributing to improved case outcomes. The funding for the expansion allowed additional agencies to be able to support response to victims determined to be at increased risk of serious harm or homicide. Many partners increased staff time allocated to the DVHRT. Sojourner used expansion funds for the coordinator, data analyst, and DV advocates who work with DVHRT victims. Sojourner was also able to increase the amount of client emergency funds available to victims for safety related interventions (e.g., lock changes, installation of security cameras, moves to a safer place to live, etc.). MPD added two dedicated investigators as well as funding overtime for existing staff working on DVHRT cases, funded a crime analyst position, allocated additional space for the team, and sent team members to national training for DV investigators. The DA's office added a dedicated prosecutor as well as a victim witness specialist. Rather than add staff positions or time to their own agency, the DOC chose to allocate funding to support treatment and healing for their clients. This funding allowed the addition of the Alma Center as a regular DVHRT partner agency. The Alma Center provides services to those accused of abuse in DVHRT cases. This partnership with the Alma center makes Milwaukee's DVHRT the only DVHRT in the nation that provides services to offenders. This innovative addition is a powerful way to increase safety for victims by providing support for offenders to address the root causes of abuse as well as provide more options for victims who desire to maintain their relationships and help their partners heal.

The demographic characteristics of victims and offenders in 2023 are similar to previous years. On average, victims and offenders are in their mid-30s (35.1 and 35.4 years respectively), though the total age range of individuals served is large (17 years to 85 years). Victims are largely female (82.5%).

The performance report will not be completed until December 31, 2025.

Jobs for America's Graduates

43700 ARPAJOBS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$1,000,000.00**

https://fsc-corp.org/our-services/jag-wi/

Project Overview

The Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program at the Department of Children and Families supports Wisconsin youth who are at risk of not graduating high school. Funds aim to increase the number of students served by the JAG Program. The main components the JAG program provides are project-based learning, employer engagement, and trauma-informed care. JAG objectives focus on the graduation rate, employment rate, full-time jobs, further education rate and connectivity rate. The JAG program has many key partners which are not all listed; program key partners include the school districts, four-year colleges, technical colleges, approximately 51 businesses across the state (Goodwill, New Horizon, Slumberland, banks, YMCAs, etc.), career staffing agencies, Department of Workforce Development's job centers, and county social services agencies. Positive outcomes are measured in the 12 months of follow-up services after high school graduation to support student transition into employment, military service, and post-secondary education.

JAG is an in-school program that provides the support, connections, and training these students need to transition to adulthood. There are three pillars to the JAG advantage: Project-based Learning, Employer Engagement, and Trauma-Informed-Care. The JAG program recognizes that something isn't working in the school setting for the student that causes them to be credit deficient or struggling. They swap out traditional learning for project-based learning.

Intended outcomes include:

- Mastering 37 Core Employability Skills Competencies delivered in the classroom.
- Providing remediation assistance to meet graduation requirements and address learning loss. Promoting student leadership through the JAG Career Association.
- Supporting students in overcoming challenges outside of the classroom.
- Assisting students in securing part-time employment while in school.
- Providing 12 months of follow-up services to ensure college and employment success.

Since July 1, 2024, JAG grew from serving 10 school districts in 2023-2024 to serving 18 school districts in 2024-2025. This expansion included seven new counties.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

Positive outcomes are measured in the 12 months of follow-up services after high school graduation to support student transition into employment, military service, and post-secondary education.

For Clients Served During 2024-2025 School Year:

2023-2024 Yearly Report: Follow-up year outcomes	
Total Follow-up:	136
Follow-up Graduates:	134
Grads have FT Jobs:	78
Grads have PT Jobs:	26
Grads enrolled in secondary education:	41
2023-2024 Yearly Report: High school student outcomes	
Total Students:	513
Students with Jobs:	243
Average Hourly Wage:	\$12.61
Employers Engaged:	159

PATHS Youth Services

43700 ARPAPATHS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$800,000.00

https://changewithin.net/programs/path

Project Overview

PATHS (positive connections, academic support, training and employment, housing, and social/emotional support) is a housing-first model that provides comprehensive case management and wraparound services for young people at imminent risk of homelessness after exiting the child welfare system. Wisconsin has two PATHS programs: one in North Central Wisconsin and one in Southern Wisconsin. Both programs serve youth between the ages of 17-21, with priority being given to the highest need: the most vulnerable young people with the least protective factors. Most youth served face multiple barriers to housing stability.

Grantees funded by this project have developed and maintained key short- and long-term housing partners through the use of Housing Navigators. This project was prioritized due to the disproportionate impact of the public health crisis on youth in and transitioning from out-of-home care. During the best of times, finding and maintaining safe and stable housing for youth from out-of-home care with limited rental history, no cosigner, and other barriers is challenging. In the context of the last few years, with landlords not able/willing to show apartments, a housing market with high demand, and rental prices through the roof, partners utilized this funding to ensure youth were able to maintain housing, and agencies were able to build strong relationships with landlords and property managers. Targeted outcomes include establishing long- and short-term housing partnerships, ensuring participants experiencing a housing crisis receive immediate housing within one business day, providing financial supports for housing stability, and establishing long-term housing stability alongside participants within 30 days.

Use of Evidence

Housing First is an evidence-based framework and is intended to help mitigate long-term housing instability.

Performance Report

In 2023, PATHS served 66 young adults, excluding a participant's minor child/children, and 37 percent of PATHS participants were pregnant or parenting.

In 2023, the Northern PATHS team actively partnered with 20 different landlords and property management companies for permanent housing, 2 hotels for temporary housing, and 7 shelters for collaboration with youth and information sharing across their 9-county region. The Southern PATHS program completed a total of 792 hours of intensive case management support.

In 2022, PATHS programs served a total of 84 young adults, excluding a participant's minor child/children, and 37 percent of PATHS participants were pregnant or parenting.

In the Northern PATHS program, in 2022, 12 of the 17 young people served (70%) who were reporting an immediate housing crisis reached a resolution within one business day. The Southern PATHS program completed a total of 1,014 hours of intensive case management support in 2022.

Keeping Kids Safe & Putting Families First Initiative

43700 ARPATSSF

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$15,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program provides additional operational and program funding to expand its child welfare work, including through expansion of the Department of Children and Families' Targeted Safety Support Funds (TSSF) program. This will support county, Tribal, and child services organizations and DCF's Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services for purposes of, among other things, keeping children safe, increasing parental protective capacities, decreasing out of home placements, helping families develop informal supports, reducing maltreatment of children, keeping families intact, and for providing safe, permanent and nurturing homes for children.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

Funds allocated for this project have not been utilized to date.

Services for Children with High Acuity Needs

43700 ARPAWAFCA

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$7,500,000.00**

https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5824.pdf

Project Overview

This investment enhances programming for children and youth with complex needs by supporting partnerships that assist in the design and implementation of additional supports in group care settings, community-based supports for children in treatment foster care settings, and the development of a statewide electronic referral system for group care providers.

This project was established to increase the number of caregivers statewide that would accept placement of youth with a high acuity of needs within community settings, especially in treatment foster care. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) developed a competitive grant that was issued to agencies statewide that licensed foster homes. The goal of the grant was to increase and support the number of caregivers statewide that can successfully support placement of youth ages 10 and older with high acuity needs, reducing the number of youths placed in congregate care settings like residential care centers and group homes. The grant was announced in September 2022, applications were accepted through November 2022, and the funding period for the grant was in calendar years 2023 and 2024.

Use of Evidence

Wisconsin identified that children with high acuity of needs in community care settings often had to be placed in congregate care settings due to lack of available supports for other care providers and developed this program to address this issue.

Performance Report

Through the Community-Based Treatment Foster Care grant, funding was made available to serve children with high acuity needs in out-of-home care. There has been a lack of resources for children with high acuity needs that are in the child welfare system, including child protective services, youth justice, and youth who are difficult to serve in the community due to a variety of presenting behaviors and needs. Some of these children were being sent to out-of-state residential care, which causes significant distances between the children, their families, and their communities.

A total of 29 agencies applied for the Community-Based Treatment Foster Care Solution funds. Grants were awarded to the 10 highest scoring agencies, which included private child placing agencies, a Tribal licensing agency, and county agencies. Each agency developed programs and services specific to youth with high acuity needs served by their agency. This included the development of county level treatment foster care programs, professional foster parent program models, additional clinical positions and peer parent support professionals, and provision of wrap-

around services to foster homes. Funding was also used toward the development of family find programs, in addition to concrete supports provided directly to relative caregivers in the process of becoming a licensed foster home.

Throughout a two-year period, DCF worked closely with each agency awarded the Community-Based Treatment Foster Care Solutions grant to track, evaluate, and review program plans and spending throughout the grant period. At the conclusion of funding period, 99% of the \$2.9 million in allocated funds was spent on approved programing and services. Agencies reported a high level of success with the programs and services developed, which resulted in agencies providing data to their local boards to maintain developed programs and positions, after the grant period concluded.

Intended outcomes were to provide community-based clinical and therapeutic services to enhance caregiver capacity, maintain placement stability, leverage co-parenting practices, support the youth's transition to permanency, and provide post-permanency stabilization to avoid re-entry for youth ages 10 and older with high acuity needs. These outcomes were met, with agencies developing sustainable county level treatment foster care programs and professional foster parent programs. Other agencies developed programs focused on providing treatment level support to relative caregivers, like-kin caregivers, and parents. Agencies grew programs that supported family find and engagement and developed clinical support services for foster parents. Several children were transitioned from congregate care to relative caregivers.

Evaluation of project outcomes is forthcoming.

Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Grant

43700 ARPAWANGRT

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$210,000.00**

https://www.wiafterschoolnetwork.org/

Project Overview

The department allocates funding to the Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance (WOSTA) to provide school-age child care programs throughout the state with training and technical assistance around topics such as mental health and trauma-informed care. Specifically, the funding will support Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance personnel to coordinate and deliver trainings, consultants for delivering training, a formalized center for technical assistance, and professional development courses.

Use of Evidence

A program evaluation will be completed at the end of this project.

Performance Report

During this commitment period, WOSTA facilitated a number of learning events:

Introduction to School-Age Care Profession					
Registrants:	382				
Completions: *course closed 6/30/25	278				
Tools to Help Children Cope with Anxiety Depression w/ Dr. Kelso Offenwanger					
Registrants:	147				
Live Participants:	82				
Recording Views:	145				
Social Determinants of Health Learning Series					
Navigating Challenging Family Dynamics w/ Tiffany Kula, LMFT					
Registrants:	39				
Live Participants:	24				
Recording Views:	211				

Specialized trainings were done by request for Understanding Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program; Partnership with MPS; Partnership with Fox Valley YMCA; Partnership with Waukesha YMCA; and Partnership with MSCR.

A total of 598 total hours of techical assistance were delivered covering:

- Supporting supervisors and staff in meeting educational requirements for licensing
- Starting a program
- Connecting system to support programs
- Mental health resources (including crisis response)
- Sustainability

Civil Legal Services

43700 ARPAWISTAF

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$13,064,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Funding for this project has supported COVID-related civil legal services for low-income individuals, as well as the construction of the Wisconsin Law Help website, which is a user-friendly online legal assistance portal that will help visitors access accurate legal information and referrals.

Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WisTAF) contracted with 16 civil legal aid provider subrecipients (e.g., nonprofit law firms) to provide direct client services throughout the state. The legal services provided range from limited advice to full representation in a variety of civil areas (family, health, housing, consumer, employment, and more), and will in some cases include technology solutions to connect the target population with online information and tools to assess legal needs and connect them with appropriate service providers.

Since July 1, 2024, the Wisconsin Law Help website is now live and available for Wisconsin residents to use at <u>wislawhelp.org</u>.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

As of March 31, 2025, WisTAF has submitted \$7,300,265 in subrecipient reimbursements to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) as part of the COVID-19 Civil Legal Services Program. This funding supplemented a competitive grant that Judicare Legal Aid in Wausau received in a national competition to lead to the development of Wisconsin Law help. Future website improvements will add additional functionality and more areas of law for Wisconsin residents.

Civil Legal Area of Law	Total services provided (since 4/1/2022)		
Advance Directives	445		
Bankruptcy	376		
Consumer/finance	740		
Education	137		
Employment	900		
Estate planning	321		
Guardianship	952		
Family	1,031		
Juvenile	28		

Health	3854
Housing	1,062
Income Maintenance	274
Individual rights	359
Immigration	505
Long-term care	10
Public Benefits	906
Taxation	27
Unemployment	379
Victim Rights	249
Totals	12,555

Substance Abuse and Prevention Compliance Database

44500 ARPADBSAPPWU

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$122,239.68

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/press/2024/240617-sapp.htm

Project Overview

This project helped fund an online, searchable database of substance abuse prevention policies for public works and utility contractors and subcontractors. Since Wisconsin employers must have a written policy in place, the database serves as a clearinghouse to verify this information.

The project was completed, and the portal is live, and no further updates are scheduled.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

This project helped successfully launch an online, searchable database of substance abuse prevention policies for public works and utility contractors and subcontractors. The database serves as a clearinghouse to verify this information.

Early Childhood Education and Workforce Training

44500 ARPAECEWKTRN

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$3,028,674.00

https://madisoncollege.edu/academics/professional-continuing-education/early-childhood-education

Project Overview

This project implements the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Workforce Training program through subawards to ECE providers and trainers supporting participants working to upskill or open career pathways in the field of ECE and to financially support the construction of an ECE center at Madison College's Goodman South Campus.

The project's goal is to increase access to quality, affordable, reliable, and flexible early childhood education as a critical component of workforce support for Wisconsin families by serving the dual purpose of providing secure funding so childcare businesses can offer fair compensation to their employees and ensuring that employees of the participating businesses have access to quality and affordable childcare. The Early Childhood Education and Workforce Training program will also support student parents at Madison College through the construction of an ECE center and complete work started in Milwaukee to develop an innovative ECE workforce training and pipeline program by providing career counseling, wrap-around and case management services to students to remove barriers that prevent the successful completion of coursework.

The purpose of Madison College's grant is to develop a childcare center for Madison College's Goodman South Campus, resulting in the creation of seven classrooms serving approximately 80 children, ages infant through 4K. The project is in progress. To date, there have not been any significant issues with the construction.

The Early Childhood Education and Workforce Training program proposes to complete work started in Milwaukee to develop an innovative ECE workforce training and pipeline program by providing career counseling and wrap-around and case management services to students to remove barriers that prevent the successful completion of coursework. Under a grant with UCC, the project continues the work under a previous grant program called the Early Childhood Education and Workforce Training Program, which made significant strides in preparing candidates for Infant/Toddler and Preschool Credentials through structured coursework and hands-on field experiences. The program successfully enrolled 21 participants into Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) ECE coursework and have supported students in college-level courses designed to enhance participants' knowledge and skills in early childhood development. Despite some challenges related to technology and personal commitments, student retention and academic performance remained strong, 20 of the 21 candidates are continuing course work in the next semester. Nine students utilized UCC childcare service to help them continue MATC training and UCC has hired 21 students to work full time at their organization.

Use of Evidence

Applicants were required to include data and evidence-based practices in developing their project proposals. Training provided to participants using grant funds aligns with high-demand and high-growth industries and occupations, and employment outcomes.

DWD-DET has engaged a Research Analyst who is collecting and analyzing evaluation data related to these projects. The evaluation design process began December 2024 and launched to grantees in June 2025. Results from the evaluation are expected by Fall 2025 and this information will be used to help identify long-term, sustainable programs that can enhance Wisconsin's workforce development infrastructure.

Each grantee is required to report programmatic data, including training and employment outcomes when applicable, to DWD-DET on a semi-annual basis.

Performance Report

The agreement with Madison College has the goal of developing a childcare center for Madison College's Goodman South Campus, resulting in the creation of seven classrooms serving approximately 80 children, ages infant through 4K. The project includes both education and support to staff the location.

During the reporting period UCC's Early Childhood Education and Workforce Training Program made significant strides in preparing candidates for Infant/Toddler and Preschool Credentials through structured coursework and hands-on field experiences. The program successfully enrolled and supported cohorts in college-level courses designed to enhance participants' knowledge and skills in early childhood development. Despite some challenges related to technology and personal commitments, candidate retention and academic performance remained strong. Below is a detailed summary of activities completed during this period, planned upcoming activities, and progress toward the program's goals and objectives as outlined in Attachment A of the grant agreement between UCC and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

During the reporting period, the program continued to advance its dual-track career training initiative for early childhood education candidates. Participants were enrolled in one of two credential pathways: The Infant/Toddler Credential (serving children ages 0–3) or the Preschool Credential (serving children ages 3+) coursework. Each track requires completion of five courses and a Field Experience Practicum, with work-based placements observed by the career training staff at MATC.

Since the inception of the grant, the program has made substantial progress toward its primary objectives:

- Enrollment and Retention: High rates of enrollment and retention have been maintained, with 95% of Spring Session 2 participants continuing their credential pathway.
- Academic Achievement: The majority of participants are achieving strong academic outcomes, with over two-thirds earning grades of A- or higher in their coursework.
- Attendance: Cohort attendance rates consistently exceed 80%, with a significant proportion of participants achieving perfect attendance.

Credential Progression: While most candidates are at the midpoint of their credential pathways, one Infant/Toddler Credential was earned in the Fall 2024 cohort, and all

participants are on track for timely completion.

Hire Heroes Workforce Development

44500 ARPAHEROES

Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Funding Amount: **\$500,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project funds the expansion of the Hire Heroes program, administered by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The Hire Heroes program provides a financial incentive to hire, train, and support veteran employees by subsidizing employers for wages up to 1,040 hours at federal minimum wage rates. With the supplemental funding provided by this project, Hire Heroes will be working to increase outreach to eligible veterans by connecting with candidates through new and existing pathways, utilizing partner agencies to assist with recruitment and screening, bolstering wraparound support services, and creating a Certified Pre-Apprenticeship Program through local Wisconsin technical colleges.

The pre-apprenticeship training is intended to provide industry-specific training opportunities for veterans leading to permanent employment, enrollment in related industry coursework, continued training through registered apprenticeship, increased job placement, more awareness amongst Wisconsin veterans about opportunities/services available, and better awareness amongst employers of the benefits available to them if they hire veterans. From July 1 to the close out of the grant in December 2024, work focused on continued outreach to veterans regarding wraparound services, employment support, and training opportunities including registered apprenticeship. Additional efforts were made to connect with individuals that participated in a bootcamp, held near the end of this period, resulting with successful contact with one individual who then received information on additional veteran supports as well as additional employment assistance through a connection to the local Job Center of Wisconsin. DWD received no additional responses from bootcamp participants and was, therefore, unable to confirm post training outcomes of secured employment or continued education.

In terms of employer engagement, DWD continued outreach to employers on the advantages of hiring veterans as well as information on how to access the wage reimbursement incentives. DWD connected with the Veterans in Piping (VIP) Certified Pre-Apprenticeship program, a training initiative provided through a partnership with DWD, designed to assist veterans, returning service members, reservists, and National Guard members in transitioning into the pipe trades. Information and resources were provided to participants, as well as industry employers regarding the benefits of hiring veteran completers, with a wage repayment provided to one employer.

The remainder of work in this period was focused on providing technical assistance to employers seeking the wage repayment incentives, with an additional 15 employers receiving repayments for the hiring of 23 veterans.

Use of Evidence

The Hire Heroes Program expanded on pathways that were already developed and shown to be successful in preparing individuals for registered apprenticeship such as pre-apprenticeship training and recommendations from employers in high-demand industries.

Despite efforts to collect information regarding post-training employment or continued education, responses were not received from participants. However, DWD was able to obtain wage information for veterans whose employers received a reimbursement from the program. Hire Heroes has expanded outreach to educate veterans on supportive services available as well as job trainings to upskill and better prepare veterans for new and upskilled employment opportunities. Additionally, Hire Heroes provides greater awareness to employers about the benefits for hiring and working with veterans.

Performance Report

Through extensive outreach to both employers and veterans, Hire Heroes has been able to provide greater awareness to employers about the benefits of hiring and working with veterans. Additionally, through the expanded outreach to veterans, Hire Heroes has been able to educate veterans on available support services and job trainings to upskill and better prepare veterans for new and upskilled employment opportunities.

Hire Heroes shared program recruitment and informational materials with numerous groups for further dissemination such as NEW Manufacturers Alliance; Northeast Wisconsin Technical College - Veterans Office; University of Wisconsin Green Bay – Veterans Office; County Veteran Service Officer – Brown, Calumet, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano Counties; Green Bay DAV Chapter 3; American Legion Post; the Wisconsin Veterans Housing and Recovery Program; Garske's Veteran Services; Job Service Career Counselor Workforce Development Area 5; Green Bay Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce; Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Reps WDA 5; Job Center of WI; Northeast WI and Fox Valley Technical Colleges' industry advisory committees.

DWD conducted outreach efforts to both potential veteran participants and employers and led to the following outcomes in this performance period, for example:

- No participants were directly hired following the bootcamp.
- 15 employers received wage repayment incentives for the hiring of 23 veterans.
- Wages of veterans over the course of the program, including the 23 noted above, were an average of \$29.86 per hour.

This project did not include summer youth employment. Five workers have been enrolled in sectoral job training programs, and three workers have completed sector job training programs.

Job Center Staffing Resources

44500 ARPAJOBCTR

Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Funding Amount: \$3,599,600.00

https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/

Project Overview

Wisconsin's Job Service is the front door for customers seeking a variety of employment-related services. Staff work involves assisting customers with registration with the Job Center of Wisconsin, the unemployment insurance claim process, job searching, and career exploration. This work is not focused on any particular sector. Additionally, the Department of Workforce Development provides labor exchange services to businesses and job seekers through job centers statewide. Job centers also provide underemployed and unemployed workers access to critical job and skill development services and resources.

Through this project, DWD funded increased staff resources at the Job Centers statewide, which provide individuals unemployed or underemployed due to the pandemic with access to education, training, and employment opportunities, as well as business services.

Since July 1, 2024, Job Service staff have continued working with customers in the Job Centers, in remote locations including libraries and job labs in correctional facilities and other DOC locations, and remotely with customers via Teams. During this period, DWD has expanded the job labs beyond the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) correctional institutions. DWD now has job labs at probation and parole offices as well as DOC correctional centers.

Use of Evidence

Job service staff use labor market information to develop recruitment strategies in collaboration with employers and help workers identify good jobs. Staff also use labor market information to target specific populations to increase participation in the labor force and certain sectors.

Job Service participated in an evaluation of its Reemployment Services to identify program components that can lead to evidence-based improvements. The staff that provide the Reemployment Services are the same staff that provide Wagner Peyser services., with time split between the two programs. The results of the Reemployment services evaluation provide a positive assurance that the staff are also providing sound services under Wagner Peyser. Additionally, the employment services provided by the Department of Workforce Development's Wagner-Peyser staff are consistent with evidence-based practices for services.

Performance Report

During the course of this project, nearly 64,500 customers accessed services through Wisconsin Job Centers. Job service staff refer customers to the appropriate partner as more specific and tailored services are identified.

This project did not include summer youth employment. Seven workers have been enrolled in sectoral job training programs, and four workers have completed sector job training programs.

PartnerUp! Program Expansion

44500 ARPAPRTNRUP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$3,596,815.00

https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/partner-up

Project Overview

This project has enhanced and expanded the Department of Children and Families (DCF)'s existing Partner Up! Program by helping employers secure dedicated childcare slots in existing childcare facilities. The program aimed to provide slots for a minimum of 400 children of participating businesses' employees and pay up to 75 percent of the cost of the dedicated childcare slot. Funds were be paid directly to childcare businesses to cover the subsidized portion of the childcare slots.

Use of Evidence

In a 2021 survey issued by DCF, employers indicated that lack of available, affordable child care is a barrier to recruiting and retaining staff. 42 percent of employers surveyed in 2021 had difficulty attracting new employees due to child care access and 34 percent of employers surveyed in 2021 had difficulty retaining employees due to child care access.

A survey of Partner Up participating employers in 2023 indicated that 82 percent agree that Partner Up! has directly impacted the success of their organization and 70 percent agree that Partner Up! has helped their organization avoid labor shortages and attract and retain quality employees. 61 percent of employer participants said Partner Up! had a significant impact on their organization's success (revenue and/or growth).

Additionally, 87 percent of employee participants said Partner Up! had a significant impact on their decision to continue working for their current employer and 93 percent of employee participants said Partner Up! had a significant impact on their level of satisfaction with their current employer.

Performance Report

This project has helped employers secure dedicated childcare slots in existing childcare facilities. The program had the goal of providing slots for a minimum of 400 children of participating businesses' employees, paying up to 75% of the cost of the dedicated childcare slot.

Leveraging existing research DCF has conducted with the business community, DWD extended DCF's PartnerUp! initiative, working with businesses to secure employer-funded childcare spots for their employees at existing childcare facilities. The project provides secure funding so childcare businesses can offer fair compensation to their employees and ensures that employees of the participating businesses have access to quality and affordable childcare.

Success of this project is gauged by the number of children who receive care. However, this is not necessarily indicative of the number of families served (due to households with multiple children). As

of June 2, 2025, 368 children have been served. Additionally, 76 businesses have benefited directly from this funding.

Detailed information on the project can be found at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/partner-up

This project has been completed and has not had any activity during this performance period.

Employment and Training System Application and Upgrades

44500 ARPATRNSYS

Expenditure Category: 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Funding Amount: \$12,856,150.00

https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/

Project Overview

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) provides a seamless continuum of services to employers and workers to ensure employers have the talent they need and to individuals and families achieve economic independence by accessing job search assistance, participating in training and related services, making sound employment decisions, and maximizing their workforce potential.

DWD accomplishes this by administering key workforce programs, including the state labor exchange system, the Job Center of Wisconsin, the Office of Veterans Employment Services, the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment program, Wisconsin Fast Forward, and the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.

DWD maintains several systems, applications, and tools that allow employers and job seekers to access services. Many of DWD's systems and applications require technology improvements and modernization to increase the efficient delivery of services, and better connect with employers, job seekers and other customers.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) administers a federal/state program designed to obtain, maintain, and advance employment for people with disabilities by working with DVR customers, employers, and other partners. DVR staff uses a legacy case management system developed by DWD to manage the customers' progress through the program, delivery of service, partner relationships and adherence to federal state and program requirements.

Funding for this project supports modernization across all DWD programs, including the following features: an updated visual presence to improve user experience and access; modernized case management applications to more efficiently focus DWD's service delivery; and improving and enhancing for the existing DVR case management functions to better support the delivery of services and overall support for its customers.

DWD will conduct a number of projects to accomplish its goals, likely including but not limited to:

- Modernizing its visual presence to improve user access and experience with the agency's public-facing website and its public delivery of services;
- Modernizing the case management applications to more efficiently focus DET's service delivery; and
- Modernizing the case management solution to more efficiently focus DVR's service delivery.
- A project is in the early stages to provide a new look and feel to the Jobs Center of Wisconsin site.
- Conversations are occurring to secure a vendor provided case management solution for DET.

- For the seamless project, the infrastructure that is needed to support a modern content management solution has been developed as well new webpage designs have been begun.
- Development has started for the DVR case management solution. This is still in the early stages.

Use of Evidence

In addition to improving current performance, the DWD system-applications upgrades and other innovations will support future use of evidence in program development and evaluation.

Performance Report

The DET modernization work under this project began in the last fiscal year but is anticipated to be completed in the next fiscal year. To date, DWD has completed Google Translation Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for job seekers and unemployment claimants work search related information and some modifications to its case management systems to provide additional functionality, such as a new reporting feature for various grant programs, enhanced document uploading features, and ability for grantees to efficiently upload financial information so that the customer, and new applications to provide transparent monitoring of grant programs.

The seamless web project has been able to create the infrastructure that is needed to support a modern content management solution has been developed as well new webpage designs have been begun. Once these have been reviewed, work can begin to move existing content to the content management solution.

The modernized case management solution contains multiple elements. The first component of this has been completed with the completion of this was to provide ACH payments to consumers items under the consumer. Additional projects are underway to increase the number of services providers that can use our successfully use the service provider module and a new consumer portal that will allow consumers to be informed on their cases and interact electronically with things on their case.

Unemployment Insurance Modernization

44500 ARPAUIMOD

Expenditure Category: 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Funding Amount: \$80,828,962.00

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uifeedback/modernization/

Project Overview

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Modernization project is an effort by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to modernize its UI IT systems from a COBOL-based mainframe system to a modern cloud-based flexible system able to nimbly adapt to changes in the demands on the agency and changes in the program requirements. The current antiquated system limits customer service options and slowed the processing of unemployment claims both during the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic. The current system also forced DWD to delay implementation of new federal unemployment programs and extensions created in response to the pandemic.

This project will modernize UI's information technology systems used for processing and paying claims for benefits. Ultimately, DWD intends to create a fully modern, maintainable, sustainable, adaptable system to meet current and changing UI needs. Other interrelated projects (using other funding sources) will eventually replace the existing, antiquated mainframe with a cloud-based modern UI system that will provide end-to-end services to customers in a timely manner and allow staff to administer programs efficiently and effectively with modern, online tools.

Use of Evidence

The need for UI system modernization was substantially supported by data from the early days of the pandemic when the UI system failed to keep up with an unprecedented volume of UI claims. The goal of this project is to materially reduce or eliminate delays in processing benefits during times of significant demands on the system. This first phase of modernization will ensure DWD can timely adapt to changes in law and policy and a sudden rise in the number of claims filed to ensure timely payment of benefits.

Performance Report

DWD has undertaken various projects to modernize the suite of Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance (UI) systems. These efforts include this project to modernize UI's information technology systems used for processing and paying claims for benefits (referred to as the "monetaries" project), enhancements to the employer portal, and advanced security features to assist in preventing and identifying UI fraud. The UI modernization projects have been supported by \$80 million in federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) (the funds at issue in this report) and \$29 million in ARPA grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL).

DWD had specific plans to use both sources of federal funds (ARPA-SLFRF and ARPA-U.S. DOL funds) to complete modernization projects of its UI systems. The UI modernization projects were to ensure effective and efficient payment of benefits, provide secure and accessible communications with employers, and reduce fraud and overpayments. Unfortunately, \$29 million of DWD's modernization grants were terminated forcing work to halt on the following UI modernization projects.

Termination of the \$29 million U.S. DOL ARPA grants prevent DWD realizing efficiencies for Wisconsin employers, workers, and DWD staff that it would gain from a fully modern and integrated UI IT system. DWD requested U.S. DOL to reconsider its termination of the grants. On July 23, 2025, U.S. DOL declined to reverse its terminations.

While the \$80 million ARPA-SLFRF modernization funds are not impacted by the grant termination, those funds are insufficient to support the full modernization work and integration of UI IT systems in a cloud-based environment. The UI IT systems, including monetaries, correspondence, adjudication, audit and QA, appeals, and employer portal, are complex and interdependent of each other. All components must be updated before the systems can be fully cloud-based. To best position itself to modernize the interconnected UI systems after losing the U.S. DOL funds, DWD will continue using the SLFRF funds to modernize the monetaries system on premise with a focus on converting to modern coding language that is more flexible and adaptable. When DWD has sufficient resources from other sources to convert the code for all interconnected UI systems, it will be poised to migrate fully to cloud-based system.

Equal Rights Division ALJs and IT

44500 ARPAWDERD

Expenditure Category: 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Funding Amount: **\$4,087,850.00**

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/reports/default.htm; https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/tech/caseportalguide.htm; https://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/laborstandards/workpermit/

Project Overview

This project provided funding for five additional Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Equal Rights Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) and IT modernization projects in DWD program areas that implement, among others, state non-discrimination, wage and hour, and child labor laws. The funding allowed DWD to hire, train, recruit, and retain staff to weather unanticipated attrition among permanent staff, eliminate a backlog in case processing resulting from the pandemic, and maintain more manageable case load levels for staff.

A key IT modernization project funded by this project is an upgraded child labor work permit system. The system has long needed modernization, as it has relied on a manual and localized network of permit offices to issue work permits. The inefficiencies of this system were made apparent by the pandemic when (1) local permit offices were closed due to pandemic shutdowns, and (2) demand for essential workers in the grocery and other industries made child labor even more critical. A modernized, online work permit application will allow minors/parents to request work permits online, without needing to find a physical work permit office location. Additionally, DWD can review employment for compliance with child labor laws, notify the minor, parents, and employer of their rights and responsibilities, and better audit the information with a modernized system.

The Case Portal and Research Portals are other key modernization efforts, in that they will allow parties to directly access case information, file documents, and conduct other transactions online in close to real-time. The portals will also create efficiencies in case management.

The team is continuing to work on user experience improvements in the Case Portal, Research Portal, and Work permit systems. Additional modernization work on the Civil Rights Information System and the Labor Standards Information System continues. Many new features and improvements have been released to production for these projects.

Use of Evidence

DWD is committed to evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement. Accordingly, a significant part of the case management system and the child labor work permit modernization, as well as the development of the research portal, is the improvement of data collection, reporting, and analysis functionalities that will inform future policy and program recommendations. The research portal offers information on mediation rates and complaint filings, including numbers and types of cases filed and where the alleged violations occurred.

The IT improvements are ongoing, but DWD regularly monitors key data, such as individual caseloads, case closures, and reduction of unassigned cases using the improved case management system.

Performance Report

The latest phase of the Case Portal modernization is completed. Parties and their legal representatives are now able to create a password-protected account that gives them access to the status of their case(s), the contact information for whom their case(s) are currently assigned, and the ability to review and download documents from their file.

The Research Portal has been published and provides the public with information regarding DWD case information in real time on DWD's website. This information includes mediation rates and complaint filings, including numbers and types of cases filed and where the alleged violations occurred.

Between May 1, 2024, and April 30, 2025, DWD issued 28,921 Child Labor Work Permits online through the modern system, providing convenience to employers and teen workers.

Provided below are supporting materials:

- DWD Equal Rights Division Launches New Online Portal for Case Information
- <u>DWD Launches "Welcome to the Workforce" Initiative with Webinar, Speakers Series for Teens, Parents, and Employers</u>
- DWD Offers Online Resource for Public Access to Equal Rights Data
- DWD Continues Customer Service Enhancements
- Wisconsin Labor Laws Keep Ag Economy Strong

Workforce Data Quality Initiative

44500 ARPAWDQI

Expenditure Category: 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Funding Amount: \$1,809,200.00

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wdis/

Project Overview

In 2019, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to create a longitudinal data warehouse under a DOL grant called the Workforce Data Quality Initiative. Under this program, the work performed under the U.S. DOL grant was extended through December 2024 by providing additional staffing and contractual resources. The program resources have allowed DWD to increase research and program evaluation by making evidence-building activities more efficient, creating repeatable and transparent data-sharing mechanisms, and improving processes among various state programs to answer relevant questions about workforce development programs by expanding and sustaining the longitudinal data warehouse.

The purpose of the Workforce Data Quality Initiative Sustainment (WDQIS) is to improve workforce data quality and build evidence to inform policy and practice to improve job training programs. This project will not result in direct enrollment in job training programs or summer youth employment programs, but rather provides data and evidence, so job training programs can improve enrollment, completion, and outcomes.

Staff continue to build evidence, with updated and new evidence reports are available on the Workforce Data Integration System (WDIS) resources website at: https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wdis/Resources.htm

Since July 1, 2024, evidence activities have included:

- building a dashboard for the Council on Workforce Investment (https://cwi.wisconsin.gov/dashboard/)
- building an evidence playbook using AI for DWD staff
- analyzing influence of apprenticeship co-enrollment with other workforce programs
- evaluating the influence of training on employment outcomes
- analyzing workforce program return on investment
- collecting data on the effects of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth waivers

Further, staff updated DWD's longitudinal workforce database (LWD) to include other workforce programs, including the Worker Advancement Initiative. To further inform evidence-based decision-making, staff gave presentations on evidence-building activities at a variety of venues (both in person and online), and staff facilitated data sharing agreements for evidence activities. Staff have

collaborated with a variety of education, corrections, health, and human service partners, providing consultation for workforce development in advancing technology (e.g., Al, quantum), agriculture, and better identifying underutilized talent pools. One current collaboration includes a partnership with Germany to write a paper on data and evidence in apprenticeship.

Use of Evidence

Data from this project will be used to evaluate and inform evidence-based interventions and follows the Foundations of Evidence Based Policymaking Act and federal methods established by the Advisory Committee on Evidence Building. The project also developed an Evidence Playbook for DWD staff. The Evidence Playbook includes over 500 peer-reviewed research articles focused on research and evaluation on workforce development. These papers were incorporated in an internal sandbox, so DWD staff can search for relevant evidence using a search or chat function. The Evidence Playbook continues to be updated with newly published research and based on staff feedback. In addition, WDQIS staff post research and evaluation results on the WDIS website at https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wdis/Resources.htm to share with workforce boards and other partners.

The evaluation staff conducted program evaluations and research. Staff are required to use rigorous statistical methods to understand the outcomes and efficiencies of workforce programs. The projects will identify evidence on which to base future program interventions. The evaluation staff document their analysis and data structured used to ensure replicability in the projects. Results are posted on the WDIS website at https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wdis/Resources.htm

The goals of the project include:

- Base programs, policies, and service delivery on evidence.
- Understand the impact of training services on outcomes.
- Improve data availability to improve service delivery.

The WDQIS follows the Foundations of Evidence Based Policymaking Act and federal methods. These proven methods are advised by the Advisory Committee on Evidence Building (ACDEB).

The WDIS website https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wdis/ includes standards, dashboards, public reports, and DWD's learning agenda and evidence plan. The website provides information about WDIS.

The WDQIS uses several evidence clearinghouses. The Department of Labor's CLEAR, and the Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, are two sites routinely utilized. Other utilized sites include the Pew Charitable Trusts, Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse, Career Pathways Research Portfolio, and Brookings Institution.

Performance Report

Over the past year, program staff conducted evidence-building activities using rigorous statistical methods to understand the outcomes and efficiencies of workforce programs and to identify evidence on which to base future program interventions. The program staff documented their

analysis and data structures to ensure replicability of the projects for future use. The following are examples of work completed under this program:

- Updated and new evidence reports are available on the Workforce Data Integration System (WDIS) resources website, including DWD's Comprehensive Employment Planning Toolkit (CEPT) Evaluation Report at: https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wdis/Resources.htm
- Dashboard for the Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) was released on 8/27/2024 https://cwi.wisconsin.gov/dashboard/
- Building an evidence playbook for DWD staff
- Analyzing influence of apprenticeship co-enrollment with other workforce programs
- Evaluating the influence of training on employment outcomes
- Analyzing workforce program return on investment
- Data collection on the effects of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth waivers
- Updated longitudinal workforce database (LWD) to include other workforce programs, including the Worker Advancement Initiative
- To further inform evidence-based decision-making, staff gave presentations on evidencebuilding activities at a variety of venues (both in person and online), including presenting a poster and panel discussion at the Coleridge Convening in March 2025
- Facilitated data sharing agreements for evidence activities
- Collaborating with a variety of education, corrections, health, and human service partners, providing consultation for workforce development in advancing technology (e.g., AI, quantum), agriculture, and better identifying underutilized talent pools

Worker Advancement Initiative

44500 ARPAWKADV

Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Funding Amount: \$31,397,137.00

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/workforce-solutions/wai/

Project Overview

This funding supported the development of the Worker Advancement Initiative (WAI), a program that serves people whose previous employment has not come back post-pandemic, those who were not attached to or were not successful in the labor market prior to the pandemic, and individuals seeking to improve their employment status. WAI consists of two rounds: Round 1 operated from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2024, and Round 2 began on April 1, 2025, and will end on June 30, 2026. The program offers subsidized employment and skills training opportunities with local employers and/or training providers. Building on lessons learned during Round 1 of the project, Round 2 of WAI introduced the requirement of cost-of-living stipends and/or incentives to support participants in achieving their program-related goals. WAI builds on the success of current transitional job and workforce training programs in the state by launching a new, statewide effort to provide subsidized work and training opportunities that are not able to be supported under existing program and funding constraints.

Leveraging the existing relationships that local workforce development board grantees have with local employers and service providers, WAI grantees target the unique needs of the underserved populations and high-demand industries in their communities.

WAI grant projects include substantial supportive and wraparound services to enable participation in work-based and classroom-based training programs. These programs simultaneously provide new skills, direct connections to local employers and wage subsidies for participation hours, thereby immediately improving the economic standing of grant participants and helping to reduce inequities in opportunities in the future.

For Round 1, The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) awarded grants to all 11 of Wisconsin's regional workforce development boards to support this program in amounts ranging from \$487,000 to \$5.3 million. Training was provided in several areas including CNC Machining, Information Technology, Banking and Financial Services, Digital Marketing, Respiratory Therapy, Early Childhood Education, Construction, Renewable Energy, Maintenance, Administrative Assistant, Food Service, Engineering, CDL Truck Driver, Nursing Assistant, Tourism, Carpentry, and Welding.

For Round 2, DWD awarded grants to 10 of Wisconsin's regional workforce development boards to support this program in amounts ranging from \$610,061 to \$1.3 million. Round 2 will provide subsidized work, training opportunities and stipends and/or incentives to approximately 1,000 individuals. This round will provide training in several areas that include CNC Machining, Information Technology, Banking and Financial Services, Construction, CDL Truck Driver, Nursing Assistant, Urban Forestry, Urban Agriculture skills, Clean Energy, Early Childhood Education, Artificial Intelligence (AI) fundamental courses, Tourism, Carpentry, Fire Academy and Welding.

Round 1 of WAI ended on September 30, 2024. Round 1 provided subsidized work and training opportunities to 4,494 individuals with 22,228 unique services delivered.

Use of Evidence

DWD evaluated WAI grantees on three indicators of performance: employment in Quarter 2 after program exit; employment in Quarter 4 after program exit; and the percentage of participants achieving a measurable skill gain. To perform this evaluation, DWD reviewed programmatic data showing enrollment, service delivery, and employment outcomes from the organizations as well as other available data, such as Unemployment Insurance wage records.

DWD will use this data to evaluate the efficacy of the programs. Round 1 has been completed and the evaluation of the outcomes is in progress. Round 2 will be evaluated upon the program completion.

Performance Report

The goal of the WAI project was to serve 2,000 Wisconsin residents in Round 1, and 1,000 in Round 2, for a cumulative total of 3,000 participants, through the provision of sectoral job training and related supports.

As of the end of FY25, and following the conclusion of Round 1, grantees have far exceeded this goal. WAI served 4,473 individuals for round 1 and has already served 66 individuals in Round 2, for a cumulative total of 4,539 participants.

For Round 1, of the 4,473 participants served, 2,335 were unemployed at program entry; 1,171 were employed part-time at program entry; and 394 were considered "underemployed" at program entry. Of the 66 participants being served in Round 2, 58 were unemployed at program entry; 8 were employed part-time at program entry; and 0 were considered "underemployed" at program entry.

For Round 1, 2,539 workers have enrolled in sectoral job training programs cumulatively, and 2,138 workers have completed sectoral job training programs. In Round 2, participants have not yet enrolled in sectoral job training programs.

In addition to 2,801 sectoral job training services provided in Round 1, grantees have provided the following assistance to unemployed, part-time, incumbent, and underemployed workers are included in the graphics upload section.

Round 2 participants have not yet enrolled in sectoral job training services. Grantees have provided the following assistance to unemployed, part-time, incumbent, and underemployed workers are in the graphics upload section.

This grant is ongoing and is separated into two rounds. Round 1 of the grant ended on September 30, 2024, and had a total of \$20.3 million in funding. Round 2 of the grant began on April 1, 2025, and has a total of \$10.3 million in funding. A total of 66 participants are actively engaged in the grant and intend to complete. Grant enrollment continues to increase; a small number of local boards have accepted participants and will begin cohort training in the coming weeks. The remaining local boards are beginning recruitment and entering participants into the grant. These cohorts will begin over the next quarter.

Improving Workforce Training Programs

44500 ARPAWKTRN

Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Funding Amount: **\$2,057,600.00**

https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/pub/programs

Project Overview

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) administers various workforce training programs, including grants for mobile classrooms, institutional job centers, and developing and maintaining a labor market information system. These programs address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic by providing job skills training to individuals in underserved areas of this state, including those at institutional settings who are preparing for reentry into the workforce.

With the funding from this project, DWD will establish eight self-service job labs for people who are under the care of the correctional institutions, including some who are receiving mental health services or community supervision, so they are prepared to seek employment upon their release. This project will assist those who are both justice-involved and mentally disabled connect with jobs.

Funding will also support additional mobile career labs, which were delivered to DWD in December 2023.

Lastly, under this project, DWD has hired additional Labor Market Information staff. The staff are currently working on the following projects: creating sample career paths based on the "hot jobs" brochure on WisConomy (Wisconsin's labor market information web application) for DWD's Career Pathways Advancement project; developing labor force supply and demand projections; assisting Youth Apprenticeship (YA) in planning new occupational tracks; developing a prevailing wage for migrant seasonal farm workers; assisting in publication of the updated Wisconsin Recovery Report based on short-term projections; compiling data on childcare costs and availability; and contributing to health services-related models with labor supply/demand research.

Additional Job Centers within State Prison Systems and Mini-Mobile Labs: To address the negative economic state impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing job skills training to individuals in underserved areas of this state, including inmates at correctional facilities who are preparing for reentry into the workforce and increased service delivery flexibility for all with use of mini-mobile labs.

LMI System: To address the negative economic state impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on current and projected employment opportunities in this state and other appropriate information relating to labor market dynamics.

Since July 1, 2024, DWD has continued to expand the use of the mobile career labs as a resource for connecting with customers, especially in rural areas.

Use of Evidence

The additional Job Centers within the state's correctional institutions and mini job labs are based on successful current practices. Project performance will inform future policy and program recommendations.

The additional staff hired provide, produce, and disseminate labor market information to not only Job Service and DWD staff, but also other State agencies, policymakers, educational partners, economic developers, businesses, and others to help address complex and multi-disciplinary workforce and economic issues. The additional Job Centers within the state's correctional institutions and mini job labs are based on successful current practices. Project performance will inform future policy and program recommendations.

Job Service staff used the labor market information to develop recruitment strategies with/for employers. DWD have used this information to target specific populations in hopes of increasing their participation in the labor market.

LMI Systems

BWITS produces and disseminates labor market information that is used by not only Job Service, but other programs in the department and with other partners across the state. LMI influences strategic decision-making and aims to support, educate, and collaborate with other State agencies, legislative stakeholders, educational partners, economic developers, businesses, and others on the application of LMI for solving complex and multi-disciplinary workforce and economic issues.

Performance Report

As of the end of state fiscal year 2024, two new mobile job labs have been employed to meet customers where they reside across the state. The goal of the mobile labs is to be able to access more customers, particularly rural customers, including unemployed, underemployed, and youth workers. One mobile career lab is housed in the eastern part of the state and one housed in the western part of the state. Staff and other workforce partners and employers are now able to request one of three mobile career labs to work with customers at a variety of workforce and hiring events and other off-site locations; having three mobile career lab stations strategically across the state makes access easier for underserved and underemployed populations.

Three additional job labs have been added within the state correctional system. DWD continued to work with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish the remaining five for people who are under the care of DOC or in community supervision, who can prepare to seek employment upon their release. Additionally, DWD established two job labs, one for men and one for women, in a state facility that provides mental health services for some people under the care of corrections. This project will assist with connecting these people with jobs. These job labs have enabled the reentry community to start their job search efforts pre-release.

The additional project positions funded have been used to hire staff to research, gather, and analyze data from the Labor Management Information System to help the Department better serve workforce stakeholders. These staff have supported the following evidence-based research projects forecasting the supply/demand of labor and studying related policy implications to improve workforce and economic conditions throughout the state; exploring the economic impact of opioid addiction;

contributing to new youth apprenticeship programs and co-authoring a paper with German workforce partners on the impact of apprenticeship; supporting DOA demographic services with technical expertise to create new population projections that highlight the demographic shift with retiring baby boomers; staff continue to work on AI implications for workforce, and literature review of studies that project effects on various occupations and the labor market overall; and researching best practices of prevailing wage surveys to investigate impacts on migrant seasonal farmworkers and the associated workforce impacts.

The ISBA Specialist funded position worked on many important initiatives to support and enhance labor market information, including: reviewed database structure changes that are being implemented in 2025 as part of deliverable requirements for the Workforce Information Grant, to upgrade the Workforce Information Database from version 2.8 to 3.0; worked with BITS to improve job processing for loading data to the WID; finalized the 2025 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) survey which is conducted in collaboration with DSPS and incorporated in the LicensE renewal portal (per State Statute 106.30, all LPNs and Registered Nurses (RN) are required to complete the workforce survey when renewing their licenses); was part of the project team that implemented much needed updates to the Skill Explorer tool/website (a press release was issued announcing the updated tool that launched at the end of August 2024); worked with DWD's Chief Data Officer to explore use cases for Google Vertex AI to develop best practices and governance policies where previously none existed.

This project did not provide direct assistance to individuals or include summer youth employment. Five workers have been enrolled in sectoral job training programs, and three workers have completed sector job training programs.

Worker Connection Program

44500 ARPAWRKCNCT

Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Funding Amount: \$11,200,000.00

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/workforce-solutions/wcp/

Project Overview

Under the Worker Connection Program, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is funding career navigators in Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) 2 (Milwaukee County) and 5 (Bay Area) to conduct outreach and help participants understand available options, empower career-seekers to make the right choices for themselves, and connect them to employment and supportive services as needed. The career navigators serve as experts in workforce resources and link people to programs and services offered by community-based organizations, workforce development boards, and other state and local government agencies. Under this program, DWD also funds training contracts for indemand, sector-focused training with local employers who are ready to hire. Additionally, with this funding, DWD supports opportunities for community stakeholder engagement to provide technical assistance, offer organizational support, facilitate examinations of local workforce issues, and generate collaborative solutions.

The Worker Connection Program offers a combination of the following connection services to ensure that eligible individuals attempting to reengage in the workforce have the information and support necessary to overcome employment barriers that may inhibit their full participation in the labor force:

- Navigational Services, which includes outreach and recruitment to target individuals' traditional workforce programs are not reaching, partnership connections for bi-lateral referrals, rapid engagement and goal identification using strength-based service delivery, and resource navigation assistance and support planning
- Community Conversations and Action Planning, which supports system improvements at the local level. Elements of this effort include coordinating and facilitating community events and supporting local goals with data, analysis, operational support, and policy advocacy
- Support for Evidence-Based, Sector Training Programs, which identifies training programs
 that align with the WorkAdvance training model, supports training programs through
 technical assistance, and funds services for up to 500 individuals
- Evidence Building, which completes evaluations of both the navigational services, as well as the training programs supported

The program relies on many partners, including community-based organizations, libraries, local and state government partners, housing insecure and recovery organizations, educational institutions (high schools and WorkAdvance training programs), and other support agencies.

In December 2024, building on the success of the pilot programs, Worker Connection was expanded statewide by assigning a Career Navigator to each of the 11 Workforce Development Areas.

Use of Evidence

The Worker Connection Program has spent \$3,930,569.10 on an valuation of the program with Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER) which will answer leadership questions related to program continuation and/or expansion in other localities. As a part of the Workforce Data Integration System's (WDIS) annual evidence plan, Worker Connection provided the learning questions, relevant data/information, methods of evaluation, challenges, and dissemination strategies for use in a publicly available report. See WDIS report, #5: https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wdis/pdf/24-25-evidence-plan.pdf

Worker Connection is based off a strong body of existing evidence predicated on findings from the Wisconsin Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE) grant, where targeted outreach and service navigation were found to be key components in integrating career and training service delivery. The training model selection was based on research by MDRC, which found the WorkAdvance training model offers the most successful features, targeting high-demand sectoral training opportunities that offer high credential attainment and job placement services. MDRC's examination of the programs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, New York City, and northeast Ohio found the program resulted in higher wages and benefits for participants and the findings from the benefit-cost analysis are positive from the perspectives of the participants, the government, and society. To be considered a WorkAdvance program, the education program must meet the following:

- Intensive screening.
- Preemployment and career readiness services.
- Occupational skills training.
- Job development and placement services.
- Retention and advancement services.

Data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs, and information from current research literature, has been used to identify target groups for program outreach.

Performance Report

Over the last year, Worker Connection general enrollment and WorkAdvance enrollment has slowed due to a decrease in the number of Career Navigators.

In the last program year (data as of May 30, 2025), career navigators have completed over 675 hours of outreach with partner organizations.

Career Navigators have enrolled 546 clients since July 1, 2024.

The enrollment goal for the Worker Connection program is to have served 2,658 clients with a subset (445 clients) going through a WorkAdvance program by June 2024. In January 2024 both the enrollment and WorkAdvance goals were met.

Through the Worker Connection program, 925 workers have enrolled in sectoral job training programs, and 692 workers have completed sectoral job training programs. This program does not include a summer youth employment component.

Improving Service Delivery for Worker's Compensation

44500 ARPAWRKCOMP

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$1,200,000.00

Website: Not available

Project Overview

The goal of this project is to sufficiently fund Department of Workforce Development operational costs for Workers Compensation (WC), including pass-through costs from the Department of Administration's Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA).

The project funding fully covered DHA charges in December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025, and a portion of DHA charges in March 2025, which has helped WC sufficiently fund operational costs through FY25.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The Worker's Compensation Division faced challenges due to statutory organizational and funding constraints, even with cost-saving measures implemented by the WC Division. The Improving Service Delivery for the Worker's Compensation program funding allowed WC to better serve its customers and stakeholders to cover administration of the worker's compensation system by covering pass-through costs from DHA for the period covering December 2024 through February 2025, as well as a portion of pass-through DHA costs in March 2025. The program funding is projected to enable the Division to sufficiently fund operating costs through the end of state FY25.

Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories

45500 ARPACRIMELAB

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$10,848,252.00

https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dfs/division-forensic-sciences

Project Overview

Funding received is specifically for the Division of Forensic Sciences (DFS), which operates the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories. The Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory (WSCL) program provides forensic science testing, consultation, evidence collection and training related to Wisconsin criminal justice cases. The provision in this project includes funding overtime pay for staff, purchasing updated equipment to identify synthetic drugs and drug analogs that are toxic at very low levels, and purchasing and implementing a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), which will allow law enforcement and district attorneys to access lab results in real time.

In addition, costs associated with salaries, fringe benefits and supplies and services in furtherance of the state crime laboratory system program in a total amount are not to exceed \$7,188,252. Investing in DFS has helped the WSCL operate at full capacity with the latest technology which will help law enforcement and the court system work more efficiently as it returns to pre-pandemic levels of court case processing. The current backlog of court cases is at historic levels and courts heavily depend on the forensic science services of DFS to provide reports of laboratory finding as well as robust, reliable and unbiased scientific testimony. Experts travel across the state to provide testimony in court with court demands on scientific staff increasing over the past year.

DFS completed the purchases of supplies and services by the end of the performance period which ended December 24, 2024. These activities include new instrumentation and subsequent construction to accommodate, outsourcing of casework, overtime opportunities to facilitate the processing and analysis of casework, and purchase and implementation of the LIMS. DFS has already completed the procurement process, contracts, statement of work, project planning, development, testing and go-live for the LIMS. The go-live occurred in March 2025. DFS is currently working with the vendor through the identification of future state and change orders with each of the disciplines in the state crime laboratories.

DFS has already completed the procurement process, implementation, construction and installation and is currently completing validations of methods for the Triple Quad Liquid Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometers (LC/MS/MS) and Liquid Chromatography Quadrupole Time of Flight (LC-QTOF). This updated equipment comes with updated technology that will allow for the detection of low-level drug and drug analogs in toxicology samples for cases submitted to the state crime laboratories.

Since implementation, the Toxicology discipline has improved their capabilities to detect lower levels of drugs as well as additional novel drugs with the purchase of Triple Quad Liquid Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometers (LC/MS/MS) in the division. They have validated several new analytical methods for drug classes including benzodiazepines, fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, cannabinoids, nitazenes, stimulants and hallucinogens. Future methods include opiates, general drug classes, and a few individual drugs that do not fall into the aforementioned classes. The

Toxicology discipline has also added Liquid Chromatography Quadrupole Time of Flight (LC-QTOF) instruments which are currently undergoing method development and validation. Once fully completed, the unit will have greatly improved drug screening efficiency and capability.

DFS has completed the recruitment and training process for the additional staff to assist with the volume of cases that the WSCL is facing. Many of these cases have strict timelines as they are needed for jury trials or court proceedings. All staff funded through this initiative are now in full-time state-funded positions.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The investment in WSCL allowed the laboratories to gain momentum toward operating at full capacity with the latest technology which will help law enforcement and the court system work more efficiently as it returns to pre-pandemic levels of court case processing. The current backlog of court cases is at historic levels and courts heavily depend on the forensic science services of DFS to provide reports of laboratory finding as well as robust, reliable, and unbiased scientific testimony. As the state had invested in the criminal justice system to overcome this backlog, a crucial investment in the crime laboratories was imperative. Many of the aforementioned initiatives (staff, instruments, software) have only been recently activated for routine work, therefore there is very little data to provide meaningful demonstration of change/benefit.

Legal Services Initiative

45500 ARPALEGALSVC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$603,919.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

One project attorney worked in the Environmental Protection Section to litigate a wide variety of civil enforcement cases to assist in the resolution of additional enforcement referrals sent to DOJ from our partner agencies towards the end of the COVID pandemic. The project attorney was expected to participate in all aspects of their assigned cases—from case development to litigation and then resolution. This project attorney was employed at DOJ from February through December 2024.

One project attorney worked in the Consumer Protection Section to advance housing and price enforcement matters. Through the enforcement actions, the project attorney helped to gain compliance with these laws to ensure that all Wisconsinites enjoyed access to housing and were protected from abusive pricing conduct. The main activities involved assisting in enforcement matters from the investigative stage, litigation, and settlement negotiations. Since July 1, 2024, the consumer protection project attorney spent most of their time focused on settlement negotiations in the state's largest landlord-tenant case.

One project attorney worked as a Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor (CARP). The purpose of the CARP was to provide training and consultation to local prosecutors in the area of child abuse and neglect. The attorney provided multiple trainings, including presentations on Child Abuse Investigations for prosecutors and for multidisciplinary team members, expert testimony in Child Abuse cases, and two presentations on the unique implications of victims' rights in child abuse cases. The purpose of the trainings was to equip prosecutors with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to support law enforcement through effective child abuse investigations and prosecution. The training on expert testimony was intended to help forensic interviewers understand the judicial process and the purpose of their testimony in child abuse cases. During this reporting period, the Division of Legal Services also paid for three local prosecutors and one Assistant Attorney General to attend the Nineteenth International Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma in Salt Lake City, Utah. The intent was to develop additional attorneys in the state equipped with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to handle complex abusive head trauma cases.

Use of Evidence

The goal of this project was to protect the public through environmental and consumer enforcement as well as in the prosecution and training in child abuse. The measurables in this area are reflected in the enforcement actions and prosecutions by these project attorneys.

Performance Report

The project attorney position in Environmental Protection was successful. The attorney reviewed agency referral documents; investigated possible lawsuits; drafted pleadings, internal memos, motions, briefs, and declaration; conducted negotiations; and represented the State in court hearings. All this work was done at a high level of quality. This work was critical to the Environmental Protection Section's mission by getting cases resolved.

The Consumer Protection project attorney was a key member of the team working on price-gouging investigations and enforcement of other consumer protection matters. This attorney also worked to promote stable housing. Often, it is economically disadvantaged people who are denied access to housing and/or are forced to live under substandard and illegal rental conditions. This can cause detrimental impacts to their physical, cognitive, and emotional well-being. By gaining a Consumer Protection project attorney, the DOJ was able to extend its reach and promote stable housing for all, regardless of socioeconomic status.

School Safety Resource Center

45500 ARPAOSSRC

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$3,214,100.00

https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-school-safety/office-school-safety

https://speakup.widoj.gov

Project Overview

The COVID-19 public health emergency and resulting economic disruption and response efforts, including school closures, negatively affected the mental health of adults and children and exacerbated existing mental illness, anxiety and stress conditions among school-aged children because of pandemic-related disruption of routines, loss of social contact and increases in household stress. This funding supported the Office of School Safety (OSS), which provides resources to all Wisconsin schools to help keep students and staff safe.

OSS promotes model practices of behavioral threat assessment and management, threat reporting (Speak Up, Speak Out), comprehensive school safety topics including school safety drills and emergency operations plans, and crisis response and recovery. OSS trains all stakeholders in these model practices for local implementation, with a focus on violence prevention. The critical services provided by OSS include:

- Threat assessment consultation, technical assistance, protocol development and trainings
 - The threat assessment coordinator provides training, support, and case consultation for school behavioral threat assessment and management teams. OSS has instructed 8,735 school staff, emergency responders, and community members from all 72 counties in threat assessment topics. The primary goals of the threat assessment and management are keeping schools safe and providing interventions for struggling youth.
- Crisis response and recovery consultations and trainings
 - The crisis response and recovery specialist provides expertise to schools who experience crisis events and manages 12 regionally based critical incident response teams comprised of over 150 multi-disciplinary volunteers who are trained and ready to assist in these events. As part of these efforts, OSS has provided recovery support and guidance in Wisconsin to schools exposed to traumatic events including school shootings, death of a student, child abuse, school threats, and in the aftermath of community violence.
- Speak Up, Speak Out reporting tipline
 - Since its inception in 2020, Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO) has received more than 17,500 tips resulting in intervention to stop planned violence attacks, resolve grievances early, provide mental health care to those struggling and promote a healthy school climate. Research confirms that students are more likely to report

warning signs of potentially threatening behavior if an anonymous reporting system is available to them. OSS resource center analysts are trained in digital threat assessment and psychological first aid. They provide 24-hour real time supports for students and community members. They efficiently and effectively provide information to school district administrators, safety resource officers, and law enforcement when a student needs intervention, when someone is planning a violent act, or when a crime is reported.

- Individualized support for schools as they submit legislatively required documents to OSS.
 - OSS is a repository for an average of more than 16,000 school submission documents per year. State law requires public and private schools to submit school blueprints, safety assessments completed in collaboration with local law enforcement, a copy of the school safety/emergency operations plan, the date(s) of annual violence drills, and the dates and participants in school safety trainings. In Wisconsin, there are 421 school districts and 809 private schools. School safety consultants (SSCs) have provided consultations on Wis. Stat. § 118.07 requirements to 2,542 public and private schools in all 72 Wisconsin counties. In addition, SSCs provide statewide trainings on the Standard Response Protocol and Standard Reunification Method, school safety plan support, and outreach to non-submitting schools.

Use of Evidence

OSS utilizes and promotes evidence-based comprehensive school safety practices through its free services to all Wisconsin schools and school safety stakeholders:

Speak Up Speak Out (SUSO) Reporting Tipline - Support for SUSO as an evidence-based practice is clear. More than 20 years ago, the Columbine Review Commission recommended the use of tip lines to aid students in breaking the "code of silence" when they have concerns. Recent research findings from the University of Michigan and a report by the Department of Homeland Security confirm the value of tip lines.

Research supports the use of behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM) practices to identify when a student may be planning an act of targeted violence, creating opportunities to intervene and meet the child's needs. The OSS director, deputy director, threat assessment coordinator and crisis response and recovery specialist are all US Secret Service National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Office Master Trainers. The OSS director is an Association for Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) Certified Threat Manager (CTM). OSS staff have created trainings to educate multidisciplinary teams of school officials, community partners and law enforcement on how to assess and manage cases where students demonstrate concerning behaviors. OSS developed and in 2024 revised a BTAM subjective professional judgement protocol in consultation with the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC).

OSS provides training and consultation to schools when critical incidents occur. The specified evidence-informed interventions of the "PREPaRE 2" curriculum (from the National Association of School Psychologists) are taught and implemented. OSS has developed 12 regional Critical Incident Response teams in Wisconsin, available for deployment under the direction of the OSS Director. OSS has provided recovery support and guidance in Wisconsin as part of the response and recovery

efforts of schools exposed to traumatic events including school shootings, death of a student, child abuse, school threats, and in the aftermath of community violence.

SSCs also promote using evidence-based, trauma-informed model practice templates. Resources shared include those from the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS), US Department of Education and What Works Clearinghouse, National Association for School Psychologists, National Center for School Safety, School Safety.gov, National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Institute of Justice Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, CrimeSolutions.OJP.gov and Model Programs Guide, Safe Schools Best Practices Clearinghouse, and the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC).

Performance Report

OSS continues to provide school safety model practice resources, trainings, guidance, and critical incident response to all schools in Wisconsin to prevent violence from occurring, protect students and staff from violence, mitigate the impact of critical events if they do occur, and respond using evidence-informed interventions to promote recovery.

From July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, 700 Wisconsin educators and school safety partners received training in behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM) topics. Since OSS began offering threat assessment training in July 2018, OSS staff have held 148 training events and presentations, instructing more than 8,700 people in all of Wisconsin's 72 counties on threat assessment topics.

OSS partnered with the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Office and DPI to release an eLearning module to educate the public on threatening or potentially concerning behaviors and where to report them, providing an opportunity for intervention. This important training has become a requirement in some Wisconsin schools. More than 2,800 Wisconsin local, tribal, territorial, and private sector homeland security partners and community members have taken the course since its release in February 2023.

From July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, OSS's threat reporting tool, Speak Up, Speak Out Wisconsin (SUSO), has received 3,109 tips. Since the tipline's inception in September of 2020, 17,538 tips have been reported to SUSO. This important resource is being used at an ever-increasing rate by Wisconsin students, resulting in intervention opportunities for struggling youth and preventing tragedy in Wisconsin schools and communities.

OSS school safety consultants (SSCs) have reviewed all documents submitted through 2024 and have provided consultations to 2,542 public and private schools in all 72 Wisconsin counties. SSCs offer best practice guidance, recommendations, and resources to schools to improve their emergency operations planning.

In the period between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, OSS staff provided comprehensive school safety trainings on Standard Response Protocol (SRP), Standard Reunification Method (SRM), mitigating trauma in school safety drills, and presented on various school safety topics to more than 1,800 attendees at training events and conferences.

While focused on preventing violent events from happening, when a crisis does occur, OSS provides resources to minimize the psychological impact of a school crisis and help stabilize the school community. Between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, more than 500 people throughout

Wisconsin received instruction from OSS staff on crisis response and recovery topics, improving access to best practices statewide.

2017 Wisconsin Act 143 and 2021 Wisconsin Act 109 require OSS to administer grants to schools. The Office of School Safety grant specialist currently manages 159 active grants and during the time period from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, 107 grants were awarded to Wisconsin schools, totaling \$1.4 MM. An additional 52 grant recipients have completed and closed OSS grant funded projects during the same period. Grant funding is used by schools to bolster student mental health services, support critical incident response and stabilization, and back digital mapping projects throughout the state.

Victim Services Initiative

45500 ARPAVSI

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$20,711,000.00**

https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs

Project Overview

The Victim Services Initiative supported the continuation of Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funded programming in non-profit and public agencies providing direct services to victims of crime. The VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant is awarded annually to the Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS) from the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, reductions in federal VOCA funding impacted the availability of victim services statewide. Funds were intended to and did, in fact, supplement the remaining VOCA awards to existing victim service programs to offset loses and sustain core services, including shelter services, survivor support groups, safety planning, address confidentiality, victims' rights enforcement, and high-lethality risk advocacy. Since July 1, 2024, funds were used by subgrantee agencies external to OCVS to bridge the VOCA funding gap through September 30, 2024. Funds were used by subgrantee programs administered within OCVS to bridge the VOCA funding gap through December 31, 2024. VOCA and direct victim services administered by OCVS include the administration of the Safe at Home address confidentiality program and the statewide Victim Resource Center.

Use of Evidence

OCVS utilizes evidence-based practices and tools to support and provide services to victims of crime. The following outlines how OCVS utilizes data and outcome measurements for the Victim Services Initiative.

- As a part of the VOCA application, subgrantees provide project goals and objectives. Each
 goal is specific to that agency and the outlined project. OCVS measures individual progress
 on the goals through semi-annual program reports. A final disposition of their goals and
 objectives is relayed with the agency's final program report.
- The Office for Victims of Crime Performance Measurement Tool (OVC PMT) website collects subgrantees' performance data related to VOCA activities. The OVC PMT website also collects intended and actual expenditures by the following Federal performance categories: Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence, Child Abuse, and Underserved.

Over the course of this initiative, OCVS worked with the VOCA data analyst to implement a new standardized process and methodology for providing VOCA allocations at the end of the grant period. OCVS utilized a small group of subgrantees to pilot this new process and gather feedback to ensure clear and understandable instructions were provided to subgrantees. Full implementation of this new process is now in place.

Additionally, the UW La Follette School of Public Affairs recently concluded an evaluation of VOCA-funded victim service programs to determine how limited funds were leveraged to sustain best practices and service delivery across the state. This evaluation was published in May 2025 and is currently being utilized by OCVS to inform further policymaking.

Performance Report

A publicly available performance dashboard related to services provided utilizing funding may be found here: https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/performance-measures/data-analyses/voca-victim-assistance.

Noise Mitigation Study

46500 ARPANZSTUDY

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$2,000,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This funding supports a study of noise mitigation for buildings in the vicinity of Dane County Regional Airport. Results are a prerequisite to applying for mitigation funds from the Department of Defense. This project consists of utilizing a vendor to complete the following tasks:

- Perform community outreach by hosting informational meetings, preparing homeowner communications and outreach materials, and preparing and distributing homeowner application packets to homeowners who wish to participate in the study
- Develop acoustical testing protocols and eligibility determinations that comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Advisory Circular 150/5000-B.3
- Survey and categorize property to determine the applicable building codes and how they may impact the acoustical treatment package
- Develop an acoustical test for a pilot program which includes testing for up to 10 homes which includes the testing of only one residential unit per day per the FAA Advisory Circular 150/5000-B.3
- Develop blueprints for construction for noise mitigation purposes

The vendor will produce a written report on the methodology and results of the study which the agency will utilize to apply for additional noise mitigation funding.

Use of Evidence

Acoustical testing will be conducted on up to 10 homes. The testing will meet the requirements of the FAA Airport Improvement Program Handbook, FAA Order 5100.38D. Testing around airports is heavily regulated by the FAA. This project will meet the noise criteria set forth within the FAA regulations and policies.

Performance Report

This project is still ongoing. The agency has contracted with a vendor with the expertise to complete the study. The vendor has developed community outreach plans and developed acoustical testing protocols and eligibility determinations. The vendor is continuing to survey and develop the acoustical tests and blueprints for construction as required by the project.

Comprehensive Health and Wellness Initiative

46500 ARPAWINGCHWI

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The deployments of National Guard personnel have increased in the past four years for state needs related to natural disasters, cybersecurity response, pandemic response, and recovery and civil unrest as well as maintaining federal deployment requirements. The repeated activation of the National Guard has significantly impacted the health and wellness of the service members resulting in fatigue, family hardship, increased substance abuse and mental health issues.

The Comprehensive Health and Wellness Initiative is intended to support Wisconsin National Guard service members and their families with regards to reducing burnout; reducing and addressing suicide; addressing mental health and stress-related concerns; and addressing substance use disorders by focusing on the five pillars of health and wellness: physical, mental, social, spiritual, and financial.

The Comprehensive Health and Wellness Program is taking a multi-pronged approach to impacting service members in a positive way. This is done through the following methods:

- Trainings focused on culture and leadership with follow-up counseling sessions that assist with identifying root cause problems impacting service members
- Courses focused on all aspects of Comprehensive Health and Wellness that are offered to junior and senior military staff
- Learning Labs where a professional is brought in to discuss a topic with service members.
- Resource library of small videos focused on a singular topic
- Staff support, counseling, and coaching
- Dietitian to assist service members struggling with food and eating concerns
- Health coaches to assist service members in any or all the pillars of comprehensive health on a one-on-one basis
- Social Workers to assist service members dealing with substance abuse or misuse
- Targeted offerings to reduce or alleviate a mental health stressor
- Lactation pods at armories with large numbers of female service members
- Design and development of a reporting tool for Agency to report on sexual assault and harassment complaints within the Wisconsin National Guard and Agency

During this reporting period, most of the activities were completed. As of January 1, 2025, the only remaining activity left is the development of the reporting tool for sexual assault and sexual harassment. The agency is involved in collecting data to develop the vendor scope of work statement.

Use of Evidence

An evaluation of the Comprehensive Health and Wellness (CHW) Program Leader's Course through the U.S. Army DevCom Soldier Center was completed. The evaluation determined the effectiveness of the CHW Program Leader's Course and provided program recommendations for the future.

Performance Report

Updates on program goals and outcomes are as follows:

Provide 400 coaching and counseling sessions by December 30, 2024 to service members on lifestyle choices, dietetics, and overall health to assist them with understanding choices they make and why and provide social work personnel to improve service members in decision making abilities. FY25 results: 422 sessions. Total results: 1,500 sessions (375 percent) were completed.

Conduct 25 leadership and cultural training events by December 31, 2024. FY25 results: 11 events. Total results: 36 events (144 percent) were completed.

Achieve 3,000 participants attending trainings by December 31, 2024. FY25 results: 850 participants attended trainings. Total results: 4,582 participants (153 percent) attended trainings. Conduct 50 unit visits to provide full comprehensive health and wellness services (five pillars) on an individualized basis to service members at drill by December 31, 2024. FY25 results: 18 units visited. Total results: 125 units (250 percent) were visited.

Identify behavioral health concerns of service members and provide referrals to specific health professionals related to their concern by December 31, 2024 and 80 percent of service members referred will contact and use a comprehensive health and wellness services. FY25 results: 93 percent referral utilization and 26/28 service members referred to comprehensive health and wellness services used those services. Total results: 80% percent of referrals (202/251 service members) used comprehensive health and wellness services.

Assistant District Attorney Initiative

47500 ARPADAI

Expenditure Category: 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Funding Amount: \$13,271,124.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic had unexpected effects on the criminal justice system. As courts shut down or limited certain activities due to the public health crisis, it created a cascading backlog of cases that have yet to work their way through our judicial system. This project added 46 positions statewide and provided funding for other pandemic related operational costs/expenses/issues. The positions were initially added for a two-year time span from April 2022 to 2024 to facilitate the processing of pandemic backlogged cases, but positions have since been extended in order to address Assistant District Attorney (ADA) workload needs.

Use of Evidence

Most District Attorney offices have adopted evidenced-based decision-making processes and are significantly invested in monitoring and understanding what efforts from the DA office are best able to decrease crime in the community.

By allocating additional human capital to 29 District Attorney offices across the state, the evidence-based practices already in effect in those offices would improve. Treatment courts and Alternative Resolution efforts are incredibly time-intensive efforts so by providing additional prosecutors these best practices could continue and were not consumed or overwhelmed by the effect of the COVID courts backlog.

Performance Report

The funding has allowed the continuation of project positions for ADAs to address ongoing caseloads.

County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices Initiative

48500 ARPACTVSO

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$1,500,000.00

https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/benefitsClaims/Veterans-Service-Organizations.aspx

Project Overview

This funding allows the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) to increase grant funding for existing County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) and Tribal Veteran Service Officers (TVSOs) to immediately improve Veteran access to resources and benefits at both the federal and state Level. CVSOs and TVSOs provide direct support at the local level in the community and are uniquely positioned to provide connection and assistance to veterans and their families. The initiative used existing administrative processes and, by using the Veteran Service Offices that operate in each of Wisconsin's 72 Counties and in 11 Tribal communities, ensured that services were delivered statewide. Recipients applied funds to provide veterans with transportation to healthcare appointments, conduct outreach and marketing to Veterans, digitize service records, and improve facilities to promote handicap accessibility.

Use of Evidence

This initiative was recommended by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity, which solicited input from stakeholders statewide on veterans' issues, including months of testimony, research, a listening session, and consultations with experts.

Performance Report

The WDVA disbursed \$1,473,118.00 across 71 counties and 10 Tribal communities. The significant majority of funds were expended in FY24, with residual funds being expended by recipients in FY25. Each county and Tribe approached the funds with an individualized plan for their jurisdiction. Common features from expenditures across the 81 recipients include:

- Transportation assistance for Veterans to healthcare appointments
- Gas cards to support Veteran transportation for claims/benefits appointments
- Internet and other infrastructure to support telehealth and virtual appointments
- Facility accessibility and renovation to assure access and privacy for Veterans
- Lendable cell phones for Veterans undergoing financial hardship
- Outreach and training opportunities (i.e., seminars on avoiding Veteran-services fraud)

Lao Veterans of America Initiative

48500 ARPALAOVETS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$75,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This funding enabled the Wisconsin Lao Veterans of America, Inc. (WLVA) to improve services to Wisconsin Hmong-Lao Veterans who fought alongside Americans in the Secret War to combat the North Vietnamese Army and communist Pathet Lao forces. The initiative allowed the Hmong Community to direct the resources directly to Veterans, to include enabling support of Hmong-Lao Veteran funerals.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs disbursed \$75,000 in grants to the Wisconsin Lao Veterans of America (WILVA) for 2023.. The program served over 300 individual Veterans during the period of performance and supported the delivery of trainings and services, with a focus on mortuary and funeral support.

Veterans Housing Recovery Program Initiative

48500 ARPADVHRP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$537,162.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Funds were used to provide transitional housing services to housing-challenged Wisconsin Veterans across the three locations and 105 transitional housing beds managed by the WDVA. The Veterans Housing Recovery Program (VHRP) operates the transitional housing program in conjunction with the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) pursuant to the federal Grant Per Diem (GPD) program, which provides a daily stipend for eligible and enrolled Veterans. The State of Wisconsin provides the remaining funds to ensure effective delivery of services across the state, with a focus on underserved regions. The USDVA provided an additional daily payment during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the lapse of that program, coupled with increased costs on labor and materials, resulted in a program shortfall of approximately \$500,000.

Use of Evidence

Among the many findings of the Wisconsin Blue Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity was that federal data demonstrates that economic investments in veteran well-being reduce veteran homelessness.

Performance Report

Project funds ensured that the VHRP was able to continue supporting 105 transitional housing beds in FY24. Use of these funds was critical in continuing the program, but unfortunately, the program did not receive additional investment from the state legislature during the 2025-27 biennial budget and two sites will be winding down operations due to lack of resources.

Veterans Mental Health Grant Programs Initiative

48500 ARPAVMHI

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$3,900,018.05

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Project encompasses four distinct components to improve the mental health of Wisconsin veterans.

- Community-Based Organization grants to nonprofit organizations that promote positive mental health through activities, programs, and services that enhance the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of Wisconsin veterans. Each nonprofit can receive up to \$100,000 to support its efforts in providing mental health support for veterans.
- 2. Ancillary Services grants to organizations providing recognized and appropriately-licensed ancillary therapeutic services to eligible Veterans.
- 3. Emergency/Crisis Mental Health Treatment Program grants to licensed providers offering nocost emergency and crisis therapies and counseling to eligible Veterans.
- 4. Targeted Promotional Program to make veterans and services providers aware of the available grants under this program and assure accessibility of the grant program.

Use of Evidence

Nearly one in five adults in the United States live with a <u>mental illness</u>, and veterans face even greater challenges with mental health than the general population. Approximately one-third of post-9/11 veterans report traumatic brain injury or a <u>mental health condition</u>, and approximately 18.5 percent of the same group have PTSD or depression. Veterans may also experience anxiety, substance use disorder, and suicidal thoughts. Among the general population, about half of individuals experiencing mental illness will also experience a co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD). SUD and PTSD often co-occur among veterans. Nearly one-third of veterans seeking treatment for SUD also suffer from <u>PTSD</u>, and more than one in four veterans suffering from <u>PTSD</u> experience co-occurring SUD. In 2019, the <u>suicide rate</u> among non-veteran U.S. adults was 16.8 per 100,000, and 31.6 per 100,000 for veterans. In 2018, over 1.7 million veterans received treatment in a VA mental health specialty program. Despite that staggering number, estimates provide that less than a quarter of veterans needing mental health treatment <u>access care</u>.

Performance Report

The WDVA disbursed funds through two rounds of each of the following three grants:

• Veteran Mental Health Community-Based Organization Grants* (\$1.5 million) – 23 subrecipients.

- Veterans Mental Health Ancillary Treatment Program Grants (\$685,700) 12 subrecipients.
- Emergency/Crisis Mental Health Treatment Program Grants (\$1,2 million) 7 subrecipients.

^{*}The Department fielded a third round of the Community-Based Organization grants in Q4 SFY2025, for \$300,000 in available funds, with awardees to be announced in Q1 SFY2026. Prior awards of \$1.25 million in funding deployed.

Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program Initiative

48500 ARPAVORP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$1,562,819.15

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Funds are used to expand the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP), which connects veterans to mental health services, substance use treatment, financial assistance, housing and utilities assistance, claims and benefits assistance, employment and education, and other services in the community. VORP staff provide case management and support, with a special focus on treatment and recovery.

By utilizing an existing program that delivers services in communities statewide, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) was able to bolster its ongoing efforts to reach people who often have trouble accessing state benefits.

Use of Evidence

The Wisconsin Blue Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity, informed by months of stakeholder testimony and expert consultation, recommended the increase of VORP from 11 to 16 Regions in 2022. The WDVA implemented these recommendations using this funding. Data collected regarding the number of Veterans served, case management services offered, and referrals made to community partners will inform future policy and budget recommendations for the State of Wisconsin.

Performance Report

The FY23-25 VORP expansion enabled the Department to increase field staff by expanding from 11 to 16 Regional Coordinators, and to increase support staff by one additional clinician and one statewide coordinator. VORP's regional model enables the rapid delivery of case management and clinical services to Veterans in rural and underserved communities, and connects Veterans to the full range of government and nonprofit resources, programs, and benefits. Focus areas for VORP include homelessness, substance use disorders, financial hardship, physical and mental health and disabilities, sexual trauma, domestic violence, and justice system involvement.

In FY22, prior to the expansion, VORP served 1,046 Wisconsin Veterans and case managed 1,945 different services for that population.

In FY23, the year of the expansion, VORP served 1,329 Wisconsin Veterans and case managed 4,617 different services for that population. The increase in case managers enabled more time with each Veteran, which increased the number of services provided to each Veteran enrolled in the program.

In FY24 and operating at the 16-region model for the entire year, VORP served 2,222 Wisconsin Veterans and case managed 3,387 different services for that population.

WHEDA Foundation Housing Grant Program Supplemental Funding

49000 ARPAWHEDAGRT

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$1,000,000.00**

https://www.wheda.com/about-wheda/wheda-foundation

Project Overview

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) makes grant funds available through the WHEDA Foundation, Inc. 2023 annual Housing Grant Program competition. The Program's mission is to assist in the improvement of the state's housing for individuals or families who do not have access to traditional or permanent housing.

The most recent Housing Grant Program was funded by \$1 million from WHEDA and an additional \$1 million with this funding. Grants were announced in late 2023 and were fully disbursed to recipients by fall 2024. The overall funding is being used to create or improve 1,674 beds and housing units in 51 communities in 27 counties. Investments at the community level support economic recovery by creating construction jobs.

Use of Evidence

Applications were reviewed according to, but not limited to, the following criteria: need, implementation, impact, and budget.

WHEDA received 96 applications requesting more than \$3.8 million through the housing grant process this year, an indication of the high demand and need in Wisconsin. Program performance will inform future policy and program recommendations.

Performance Report

The funds have resulted in 1,014 beds and housing units being improved thus far. Projects have helped expand access to housing in Wisconsin communities.

Community Action, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties – Outdoor Playground Replacement Project

Community Action, Inc. (CAI) is a not-for-profit organization offering programs to fight poverty in Rock and Walworth counties in Wisconsin. Through innovative programs and strong community partnerships they eliminate barriers, establishing clear pathways to economic self-reliance. CAI develops and implements a broad range of services across their two-county area including: childcare, pre-school and school age programs, affordable housing, at-risk youth programs, weatherization, community organizing and development, a homeless shelter, health education, and the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

Community Action has operated the Twin Oaks shelter since 1992 and it is currently the only permanent, year-round facility for homeless individuals and families in Walworth County.

Approximately one third of Twin Oaks' shelter residents are children. WHEDA Foundation's \$40,438 grant to CAI was used for the replacement of aging and deteriorating playground equipment with a new playset that accommodates a range of child ages and abilities providing safe, outdoor play and physical activity for children during their stay at the shelter.

NeighborWorks Green Bay - Admiral Court Apartments Window Replacement Project

The Admiral Court Apartments are located in the Western Corridor Neighborhood of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Seventy-two percent of the rental units in this complex are reserved for very low or low-income residents. WHEDA Foundation's \$50,000 grant funds were used to install 81 new front-facing Energy Star windows in nine buildings. The new energy-efficient windows will help residents save money on their electric bills. WHEDA Foundation's Housing Grant funds were critical to meet the financial costs of necessary rehabilitation at Admiral Court Apartments.

The Veterans Assistance Foundation – East Wall Repair Project

The Veterans Assistance Foundation, located in Tomah, Wisconsin, is a non-profit organization devoted to helping homeless and at-risk Veterans. Originating in 1994 as a supportive services organization, it has grown to encompass 16 rental units providing affordable housing along with a coffee-shop style community center and a thrift shop that continue to provide supportive housing services to not only the tenants but other military veterans in the community and people in need.

WHEDA Foundation's \$37,418 grant funds were used for repairs due to safety hazards resulting from previous renovation efforts. With this critical funding, the VAF was able to continue their housing and support services to their tenants and other military veterans in the community.

Multifamily Housing

49000 ARPAWHEDAHSG

Expenditure Category: 2.15-Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Funding Amount: \$25,000,000.00

https://www.wheda.com/developers-and-property-managers/tax-credits/htc/htc-financial-gap-fund;

https://www.wheda.com/developers-and-property-managers/tax-credits/htc

Project Overview

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) deployed this funding to support affordable housing projects that received an award of competitive Housing Tax Credits in the 2020 or 2021 cycles and that required additional resources to close and complete construction. A significant portion of affordable housing projects that received awards of Housing Tax Credits in the 2020 and 2021 cycles faced great challenges in achieving a financial closing and completing construction in the face of rising costs of construction and interest rates and that required additional resources to close and complete construction. WHEDA distributed the funds with the goals to support as many projects as possible based on need and in a manner that is fair and equitable.

Use of Evidence

Supplementing Wisconsin's Housing Tax Credit Program projects ensures the creation of new affordable housing units using evidence-based approaches. The development of a typical HTC housing development results in local income, generates new property taxes, and creates jobs—all on an ongoing basis.

Performance Report

This funding enables the development or substantial rehabilitation of 1,148 affordable housing units. This project is ongoing.

Air Services Replacement Parts

50500 ARPAAIRSVCS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$400,000.00**

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/Wisconsin-Air-Services-Program.aspx

Project Overview

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) will use up to \$400,000 for procurment of spare parts to minimize the downtime during repairs of the State's passenger fleet; provide additional control over the timeline/process of repairs; and save costs. Purchasing shall be made in accordance with needs as determined by the DOA Division of Facilities and Transportation Services.

Use of Evidence

The goal of this project is to minimize the downtime during repairs on State owned aircarft.

Performance Report

The projected outcome of this funding is to reduce the time State-owned aircraft are down for maintenance while waiting for replacement parts and engine overhauls. Current wait times for aircraft engine overhauls are three to six months. During that time the aircraft is out of service. Having replacement aircraft engines and parts on hand will improve efficiencies.

Grants to Bad River and LDF

50500 ARPABRLDF

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$2,000,000.00**

Website: Not available

Project Overview

Grants of \$1 million each to the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa for ongoing operations, other than gaming-related expenses, allowing them fiscal flexibility to meet their individual needs.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

Not applicable

Concordia 27

50500 ARPACONCRD27

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$5,000,000.00**

www.nearwestsidemke.org/concordia27

Project Overview

Milwaukee's Near West Side (NWS) has limited communal assets that promote health and wellness for residents and traditional fragmented strategies have not adequately addressed the significant issues present in the neighborhood. Near West Side Partners (NWSP) recognized the need for a comprehensive resource for residents.

A consortium of residents, community and business stakeholders, and service providers came together to address six issues, including health disparities, trauma, food and housing insecurity, unemployment, and transportation access through a transformative community center called Concordia 27.

Concordia 27 (C27) is a comprehensive community resource hub advancing equity by providing essential services and support to address critical needs and priorities of Near West Side residents. Services include nutritious food, trauma care and education, wellness services, job training, entrepreneurial space for emerging businesses, and high-quality, affordable housing in the Near West Side and the broader community.

The redevelopment of C27 began in summer 2022 and the first floor tenant space was completed in early 2024 and housing units on the second, third and fourth floors were completed in late 2024.

The following service providers took occupancy through mid-2024 and offer a variety of services and access to residents of the NWS neighborhood and throughout Milwaukee:

- Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI), Operating Wisconsin's second-largest schoolbased meal service program, provides culinary workforce training for marginalized populations, and incubator space for emerging culinary businesses.
- Fruition MKE, providing creative co-working and maker spaces with retail units for neighborhood businesses and a locally operated café offering healthy food options.
- Scaling Wellness in Milwaukee (SWIM), a center for resilience and trauma-informed services and training.
- Near West Side Partners (NWSP) new office, providing enhanced health, safety and housing coordination, and programming and managing two flexible community gathering spaces for job fairs, education, and wellness classes.
- Wiegand Enterprises, managing 33 units of high-quality, affordable housing for renters that earn up to \$15 per hour.

Use of Evidence

Funds were used for capital expenses related to the redevelopment. Following the launch of services at C27, NWSP and the C27 partners will collect data to determine the effectiveness of resource delivery and usage through participant surveys and focus groups.

Performance Report

The following activities took place from July-December 2024:

- Centers for Independence expanded their meal services to provide over 25,000 school lunches a day from their facility.
- Near West Side Partners (NWSP) hosted over 100 meetings and events in their community space, including a weekly meal for housing insecure individuals, three employment fairs, and two parent cafes in collaboration with the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.
- Scaling Wellness in Milwaukee began hosting free community yoga classes, breath work, and art therapy sessions in October, and hosted six partner meetings and workforce trainings.
- Fruition MKE opened their retail spaces, hosted two makers markets over the holiday season, and hosted bi-monthly meetups and workshops for creative entrepreneurs.

Cooperative Network

50500 ARPACOOPNTWK

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$900,000.00

https://cooperativenetwork.coop/blog/

Project Overview

These funds provided financial assistance to the Cooperative Network to help offset financial losses due to the pandemic when charitable funding, revenue-generating events, and sponsorships declined. The funding helped ensure that the Cooperative Network could continue to provide its unique services to the Wisconsin business community.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The funding enabled the Cooperative Network to continue to delivering services to the Wisconsin business community. This program is now complete, with no new activity in the past performance period.

Community Resources Grant

50500 ARPACRG

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$4,000,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program provides funding to Centro Hispano, a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 1983 that is dedicated to empowering youth, strengthening families, and engaging the community.

The project includes expenses associated with resource navigation, peer support for youth and young adults, ensuring access to basic needs for families, providing school-based parent support, and funding statewide services including legal services, in addition to certain expenses related to the organization's marketing, administrative, and overhead necessary for the work.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable.

Performance Report

Since January 1, 2025, there were a total of 1,498 inquires for peer case management and client support, including 17 families receiving long-term/intensive case management, school-based and direct peer, as well as school-based support and other case management. Three workshops were held monthly for the community.

Capitol Police K9 Investment

50500 ARPADCPK9

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$90,000.00

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/WisconsinStateCapitolPolice.aspx

Project Overview

The Wisconsin State Capitol Police Department purchased, trained, and equiped two new explosive detection K9 teams. The main activities included acquiring two specially selected dogs, assigning two officers as handlers, completing a comprehensive training program, and purchasing the necessary equipment such as detection gear, leashes, harnesses, and vehicle modifications.

The intended outcome was to expand the department's explosive detection capabilities to better support security operations at the State Capitol and other government facilities, events, and public gatherings across Wisconsin.

Since July 1, 2024, both K9s and their handlers successfully completed training, received certification, and are now fully deployable. The teams have already been integrated into daily operations and are actively supporting security sweeps, high-visibility patrols, and special event planning.

Use of Evidence

This project followed established standards for K9 acquisition, training, and certification, ensuring that funds were used to implement a proven public safety intervention with a strong evidence base.

The goal of the project was to enhance the State Capitol Police Department's ability to detect and deter explosive threats at the Capitol, Executive Residence, and state events. While a formal program evaluation was not conducted, the project relied on law enforcement industry standards and best practices.

Performance Report

The Wisconsin State Capitol Police Department used these funds to acquire, train, and certify two explosive detection K9 teams. Two existing officers were assigned to this special role and completed the required certification process. Since deployment, the K9 teams have actively supported security operations at the Capitol, Executive Residence, and statewide events. The project aimed to increase detection capabilities, improve response times during security threats, and enhance the overall safety of government facilities and public gatherings.

Handlers were selected from within the department based on qualifications and interest. The project stayed on schedule and within budget. One unexpected benefit was the increased visibility of Capitol Police at public events, which improved public engagement and contributed to a stronger sense of safety. The presence of K9 teams has also served as a visual deterrent to potential threats.

While no formal public performance dashboard exists for this program, the department tracks the teams' activity through internal logs, training records, and feedback. Overall, the project has been effective in meeting its goals and has strengthened public safety operations in visible and meaningful ways.

Division of Capitol Police Protection Initiative

50500 ARPADCPPRTCT

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$1,220,000.00

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/WisconsinStateCapitolPolice.aspx

Project Overview

The Division of Capitol Police Protection Initiative—internally referred to as the Court Protection Unit—funds a dedicated team of law enforcement personnel tasked with enhancing the security of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the broader Wisconsin Court System. This initiative funds four positions: three police officers and one police sergeant. These officers are responsible for protecting the justices, judges, and court personnel during the Supreme Court's in-person proceedings, meetings, and official events. Their work includes threat assessment, dignitary protection, intelligence gathering, and coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners.

The initiative is intended to ensure a safe and secure judicial environment by proactively addressing potential threats. The Court Protection Unit sergeant position was filled in December 2024, and the three officer positions were filled in February 2025. The unit is now fully staffed, trained, and operational, and officers have been successfully deployed to perform protective services across the state.

Use of Evidence

The Court Protection Unit is based on established best practices in judicial and dignitary protection, drawing on proven strategies for threat assessment, protective details, and intelligence coordination.

The goal of the project is to ensure the safety of Wisconsin's justices, judges, and court personnel by assigning trained, dedicated officers to perform ongoing protective functions.

Although no formal program evaluation or evidence-clearinghouse review was conducted, the unit's design and implementation was modeled on the state's Dignitary Protection Unit, a specialty unit within the Wisconsin State Patrol (WisDOT). Internal performance assessments, deployment records, and operational feedback continue to guide its improvement.

Performance Report

The Court Protection Unit became fully operational in FY25 following the creation of four project positions. The unit has since provided consistent protective services to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and other members of the Wisconsin Court System. Officers have supported court proceedings, meetings, public events, and secure transportation assignments involving justices and judges.

Key performance outputs included:

- Full staffing of three police officers and one sergeant assigned exclusively to court protection duties
- Protective coverage provided for dozens of official court functions since deployment began
- Completion of multiple threat assessments, coordination with external law enforcement agencies, and intelligence reviews relevant to judicial safety

Unit activities are monitored internally through daily briefings, shift reports, and feedback from the judiciary. These mechanisms serve as the primary means of performance review.

An unanticipated benefit of the project has been the enhanced relationship between Capitol Police and the judiciary. Justices and court officials have expressed increased confidence in their personal safety, and the consistent presence of assigned officers has improved communication and threat reporting protocols between agencies.

DHA Case Management System

50500 ARPADHARMA

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$1,200,000.00**

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/HearingsAndAppeals.aspx

Project Overview

This funding is being used to replace an unsupported failing case management system, and develop a new case management system with an external public portal. The system will be a systematic process of organizing, coordinating, and overseeing all aspects of a case throughout its life cycle. The application will unite the three business units with a standard flow and functionality while allowing necessary customization within each unit to meet timeliness standards and due process. Intended Outcomes: The system will initiate cases, schedule court events, case and document management, track deadlines, communicate with parties to the case, document production, administrative events, agency and public portal interface, and reporting. Project updates since July 1, 2024, include meeting with vendor to gather requirements and develop the project contract.

Use of Evidence

The goal of the project is to supply a document system to manage appeals for the constituents of Wisconsin utilizing a internal system, public and agency portal to supply due process. The system will supply necessary information and specific case data to petitioners and litigants.

Performance Report

The system will supply reporting to case types, Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement (MOUA) deadline dates, appeals handled and decisions written.

Diverse Business Assistance Grants

50500 ARPADIVASSIST

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$70,663,833.15

https://doa.wi.gov/pages/DiverseBusinessAssistance.aspx

Project Overview

The Diverse Business Assistance (DBA) grant program, administered by the Department of Administration, awarded over \$70 million to assist 38 chambers and non-profit organizations assisting businesses owned by individuals who have experienced barriers to capital and have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants, up to a maximum of \$5 million, encourage more business development by these community members and ensure adequate support for them as they navigate the economic impacts of the pandemic. The goal of this program is to provide robust services and technical assistance to small businesses.

The DBA program provides coaching and mentoring, technical assistance, equipment and internet services, digital literacy, online marketing and social media training, financial aid, and financial literacy support, as well as networking and educational opportunities for new business owners and emerging entrepreneurs.

Use of Evidence

Studies, such as Neighborhood Investment Flows in the City of Milwaukee (urban.org), have shown that investment disparities "are sobering, are striking, and merit urgent and robust attention." Policy recommendations suggest developing strategies that build greater mainstream capital flows, exploring weaknesses in communities' institutional and policy environment and asking whether there is a need for greater technical assistance to developers, business owners, landlords, or other investees to help them access market capital. The State intends to work with recipients to use evidence-based practices and program evaluations.

Performance Report

A total of 38 chambers and non-profit organizations have been awarded funding. Of the projects that have been closed out thus far, 1,274 individuals and 425 organizations were served, with 2,154 jobs created and 308 jobs retained.

Diverse Business Investment Grants

50500 ARPADIVINVEST

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$42,206,012.00

https://doa.wi.gov/pages/DiverseBusinessInvestment.aspx

Project Overview

The Diverse Business Investment grant program awarded more than \$42 million to 12 Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to support grants and forgivable loans to small businesses that are owned by individuals from communities that have in the past been denied access to capital or who have been underbanked, including those in qualified census. All grant recipients are working to improve the capacity and long-term viability of businesses and entrepreneurs that historically have had trouble in sustaining investments and access to capital. The goal of this program is to help ensure all businesses have access to the capital they need to thrive.

DBI grants were awarded to CDFIs to support micro and small businesses, not only through lending and providing access to capital and credit, but many also support programs that provide additional technical assistance, coaching and mentoring, and credit counseling.

Use of Evidence

Studies, such as the Urban Institute's Neighborhood Investment Flows in the City of Milwaukee, have shown that investment disparities "are sobering, are striking, and merit urgent and robust attention." Policy recommendations suggest developing strategies that build greater mainstream capital flows, exploring weaknesses in communities' institutional and policy environment, and asking whether greater credit enhancements or more robust subsidies to stimulate demand will generate more market investment in underinvested neighborhoods.

Data regarding the number of jobs created and retained because of each grant award will be collected as part of the grant closeout process and will be provided in subsequent reports. Project will inform future policy and program recommendations.

Performance Report

DBI projects are designed to provide additional assistance to businesses that have in the past lacked access to capital and were therefore disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Of the projects that have been closed out thus far, 519 organizations/businesses were supported, leading to the creation of over 183 jobs and retention of 1,214 jobs. Closed out projects include:

Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) received an award for \$5 million to identified eligible businesses through community outreach as well as review of existing loan portfolio and pipeline to provide grants and loans to small businesses to match equity injections into projects in the City of Milwaukee. Businesses continue to suffer the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and MEDC shifted focus from a mix of grants and loans to grants exclusively to address the challenges faced by these small businesses.

Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation received \$5 million through the DBI grant program to provide grants to eligible micro and small businesses in both urban and rural communities across Wisconsin, focusing on individuals who face barriers in accessing business financing and training support.

First American Capital Corporation received an award of more than \$2.8 million through the DBI grant program to manage the Pandemic Business Equity Resilience Investment project designed to assist qualifying businesses recover from the impacts of the pandemic and build the strength and resilience of business balance sheets of those disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As grantees complete their projects they will report on the number of organizations and individuals served during the performance period and whether funds led to the retention or creation of jobs.

Destination Marketing Organization Grants

50500 ARPADMO

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$15,020,031.77

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/DestinationMarketingOrganizationsGrantProgram.aspx

Project Overview

The Destination Marketing Organization grant program, administered by the Department of Administration, awarded nearly \$15 million to 120 tourism-promotion and tourism-development nonprofit organizations and local and Tribal governments to assist with restoring economic activity in Wisconsin following the pandemic. The program was aimed at supporting tourism-dependent communities that sustained economic impacts because of the pandemic. Awards were made on a competitive basis, with a maximum award of \$500,000 or 25 percent of the organization's fiscal year 2019 (pre-pandemic) operating expenses, whichever was less. Additional awards of \$500,000 were made available to eligible organizations that lost guest rooms and bookings for meetings, conferences, and sporting events in 2020 and 2021. Examples of eligible expenditures include expenses for attending trade shows and events, marketing and attraction activities, and media buys targeting attraction.

The program's goal was to accelerate economic and tourism recovery in areas that saw pandemic incurred financial losses.

Use of Evidence

The pandemic caused cancellations of travel, meetings, conventions, and sporting events impacting Wisconsin's tourism and entertainment industries.

Performance Report

According to 2023 economic impact data, the Wisconsin tourism industry generated \$5.0 billion in total economic impact, surpassing the previous record year of \$23.7 billion set in 2022. This program's critical relief dollars, along with historic marketing investments from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, and the efforts of communities across Wisconsin helped contribute to the new record, as well as the highest-ever overnight visitation rate. The grant program provided funding that allowed tourism entities to fund staffing and marketing efforts, resulting in a resurgence in tourism and sporting and meeting events and in turn, increases in hotel occupancy rates and direct visitor spending during the performance period.

 The Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau reported "spending rebounded by 40 percent in 2021 to nearly 91 percent of pre-pandemic levels, putting them in the top 10 percent of recovery for Wisconsin." After losing 47 meeting events and 111 sporting events and more than \$5.2 million in direct visitor spending in 2020, the Fox Cities area hosted 228 sporting

- events with estimated visitor spending of \$4.4 million and 41 meeting events with nearly \$2.5 million in visitor spending.
- The Fennimore Chamber of Commerce implemented new tourism initiatives, including a holiday light display that has expanded into a holiday festival and the reintroduction of a community heritage festival.
- The Oconto County Economic Development Corporation used the grant funds to promote the county's outdoor recreation opportunities, which was instrumental in helping county businesses recover from the negative impacts of the pandemic.
- The Wisconsin Association of Campground Owners to redesign its website to allow a mobilefriendly user experience and create new content, secure digital marketing ads, and create contests for social media to encourage campers to visit Wisconsin resulting in increased website traffic from Illinois and Minnesota.
- The Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau saw an increase of 26.2 percent for hotel occupancy and 56.6 percent revenue per available room through October 2022 over 2021.
- The Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau utilized grant funds to promote the county's trails and natural beauty through social and digital marketing efforts, website redesign and video production that will reap benefits for years to come.
- The Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau used funds to rehire staff and resume marketing efforts, resulting in hotel occupancy to increase to 50.2 percent in 2022, compared to 42.1 percent in 2021, 39 meetings, conferences, and tournaments in 2022 compared to 5 in 2021.
- The Viroqua Chamber reported that their marketing efforts targeted at their Saturday Farmers Markets generated \$413,407 in vendor sales with a total economic impact of \$585,504s in 2022, no small feat for a community of 4,500 people.
- The New Glarus Chamber of Commerce saw visitor traffic increase by 80 percent from 2020 to 2021 and 31.8 percent in 2022.
- Visit Beloit utilized grant funds for digital, social, and print advertising, website development
 and innovative outreach. Compared to 2021, occupancy percentages increased 6.4 percent
 to 54.7 percent, average daily rates increased \$9.67 to \$109.66, revenue per available
 room increased \$11.26 to \$61.23, and total demand for lodging increased on average by 49
 rooms per night. Hotel revenue generated in Beloit increased by 22.35 percent to
 \$17,253,610.
- The Wisconsin Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau spent over 76 percent of their budget on marketing. While they saw a 46 percent reduction in annual income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on gathering, through increased tourism promotion and marketing saw a year over year increase of 26 percent from 2020 to 2021 and an increase of 31 percent in 2022.
- East Troy saw a 37 percent increase in Room Tax revenue from Quarter 4 in 2022 above Quarter 4 in in 2020 and a 25 percent increase above Quarter 4 in 2019. The Chamber's

main goal was to show off East Troy by building the New Year's Eve Light Show & Ball Drop. In 2022, they added an 8 p.m. ball drop, which increased attendance by more than 25 percent over 2021.

- The Three Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Welcome Center utilized funds for a new website, launched in October 2022, creating an opportunity to showcase their "beautiful, timeless destination."
- The Manitowoc Area Visitor and Convention Bureau reported \$404,703 in room tax collections in 2020. The Destination Marketing Organization grant facilitated strong recovery from the impact of COVID-19 with 2021 collections of \$721,211 and \$736,125 in 2022. Room tax collections for Two Rivers were \$132,299 in 2020, and 2021 collections were at \$261,161, due in part to the opening of a new hotel.
- In Lodi, grant funds facilitated the return of large annual events in 2022, including the popular Susie the Duck Day, a family friendly event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. They saw significant increases in attendees for the parade held on Main Street (estimated 2,500 attendees) and the duck races (1,800 ducks were raffled off).

This program is complete with no new activity this past performance period.

Equitable Recovery Grants

50500 ARPAERG

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$88,507,445.80

https://doa.wi.gov/pages/EquitableRecovery.aspx

Project Overview

Targeted investments were needed to help reduce disparities in the state's key economic recovery indicators related to economic, educational, health, housing, and environmental initiatives, as identified by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's Wisconsin Tomorrow 2021 report. The Equitable Recovery Grant program, administered by the Department of Administration (DOA), was designed to support a comprehensive recovery from the pandemic that benefits all Wisconsinites.

The program awarded over \$87 million in competitive grant funding to 133 community-based organizations providing services or programming for health, early childhood development, education, economic support, housing, and environmental services in hard-hit communities. Based on application data, the Equitable Recovery program could be expected to serve more than 700,000 Wisconsin families, residents, and Tribal members, many of whom reside in federally Qualified Census Tracts, are members of populations identified by the National Institutes of Health as being heavily impacted by the pandemic or are residents of rural communities without equitable access to resources.

Examples of projects include:

- \$998,300 to expand oral health services for rural residents through the Fowler Free Memorial Dental Clinic that serves uninsured and elderly residents in Green and Lafayette Counties
- \$976,440 to complete improvements to MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary's building to utilize the entire building, rather than the previous 22 percent use in the City of Milwaukee
- \$210,056 for the Women's Resource Center SafeStart initiative, which educates youth in Racine on dating violence, empowers them to engage in healthy relationship behaviors, and disrupts the cycle of violence
- \$95,800 for Madison Reading Project to provide free books and literacy resources to children, educators, and community partners
- \$386,000 for **Dream Keepers, Inc.** in Milwaukee to provide personal development; after school; college tour; community event; and networking programming

In addition, a multi-agency partnership between DOA and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) provided virtual training and technical assistance to recipients of several initiatives. Trainings were specifically offered to recipients of the Equitable Recovery Program,

Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Grant Program, Tourism Capital Grant Program, Diverse Business Assistance Grant Program, Diverse Business Investment Grant Program, and Neighborhood Investment Fund Program.

The \$1 million technical assistance program helped grantees develop proper policies and procedures regarding internal controls, fund segregation, financial and accounting procedures, procurement procedures, and records retention.

Virtual trainings were offered during the first half of 2023, followed by technical assistance administration that continued into 2024 with the development of one-on-one technical assistance to grantees through virtual meetings.

The intended outcomes of this technical assistance project are to ensure all grantees are aware of what is required of them in their grant agreement and have the necessary information to meet expectations. Additionally, if a grantee does not have the capacity to develop and implement the policies and procedures required by their grant agreement, technical assistance is intended to increase their capacity to develop the required policies and procedures. Overall, training and technical assistance is intended to increase compliance with the grant agreements while also enhancing grantees' organizational capacity for future grant opportunities.

Use of Evidence

For the Equitable Recovery grants, project performance will inform future policy and program recommendations. The technical assistance program used a grantee survey to determine which entities needed assistance developing and implementing appropriate policies and procedures. Grantees also provided documents pertaining to their policies and procedures for DOA's review. Using this information, DOA selected which grantees to prioritize with a mandatory, first round of technical assistance. After each training session, a survey was provided to grantees who attended. The responses were analyzed to gauge training usefulness and improvement opportunities.

Performance Report

Under this project, 133 community-based organizations have received Equitable Recovery grant awards. As grantees complete their projects, they will report on whether they utilized grant funding under the health, early childhood or education category or the economic support, housing, or environmental category, the number of individuals or organizations served from qualified census tracts and/or hard-hit communities, whether funds led to the retention or creation of jobs, and information regarding individuals served during the performance period.

Following successful training provided in 2023, 141 grantees across several competitively awarded grant programs received mandatory technical assistance to ensure they had appropriate measures in place for financial and accounting, procurement, records retention, and internal controls policies. An additional 49 grantees voluntarily participated in technical assistance for grant monitoring and closeout, payment requests, and beyond their grant requirements for activities like single audit preparation, procurement and conflicts of interest, financial management, and internal controls.

Front Door Constituent Services Initiative

50500 ARPAFRNTDOOR

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$5,200,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program funds the establishment of a web-based and mobile constituent services portal to improve the experience of individuals navigating online resources at state agencies and help citizens better reach State of Wisconsin solutions, services, and support.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

No metrics are available at this time.

Get Kids Ahead K-12 Mental Health Initiative

50500 ARPAGKABHVHLTH

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$31,889,424.00

https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health/get-kids-ahead-initiative

Project Overview

The Get Kids Ahead (GKA) Initiative provides funding to 450 Wisconsin school districts, independent charter schools, and tribal schools ("Grantee Schools") to help build Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems (CSMHS). A CSMHS provides a continuum of services and supports to promote student and staff mental health and wellbeing. A CSMHS is not limited to treating mental illness or substance use disorders. Rather, it includes services and supports that promote social and emotional wellbeing, foster positive mental health and school culture, and eliminate systemic barriers to wellbeing and success for all students.

Grantee Schools received the first GKA Initiative allocation in Spring 2022 (Round 1) and the second allocation in Spring 2023 (Round 2). In working with the Department of Administration, a second amendment regarding funding for GKA Initiative to Program Schedule 1 extended the end of the Performance Period to June 30, 2025. Since July 1, 2024, GKA Consultants have been providing consultation and technical assistance to support Grantee Schools in spending final funds sustainably and completing final reporting requirements.

Use of Evidence

GKA DPI Consultants provide technical assistance and consultation to support Grantee Schools in using GKA Initiative funding for the purchase of evidence-based interventions, such as social emotional learning curricula. To support this, the DPI Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team maintains a spreadsheet of evidence-based improvement strategies related to mental health, social emotional learning, and behavior. This spreadsheet notes each program's ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) tier as well as its inclusion in national databases such as CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning). In addition, the DPI Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team, through a partnership with WCER (Wisconsin Center for Education Research), has developed a process through which programs can be evaluated for inclusion on the evidence-based improvement strategies spreadsheet. GKA DPI Consultants use and share this spreadsheet when providing technical assistance and consultation to Grantee Schools to promote the use of funding for evidence-based interventions. Links to applicable materials can be foud below:

- SEL Evidence Based Strategies Flyer:
 https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Social_and_Emotional_Learning_and_Mental_Health_Evidence-Based_Strategies Quick_Guide.pdf
- Spreadsheet Link: https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/xls/Verified_EBP.xlsx

Performance Report

This handout (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/GKA 2022-2023 Funding Overview.pdf) showcases key performance indicators of the GKA Initiative and demonstrates the many ways that Grantee Schools have built, improved, and sustained Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems (CSMHS) through GKA Initiative funding. This handout was created using data submitted by Grantee Schools in 2023. Data analysis for 2024 and 2025 has not been completed at this time. This handout highlights key ways in which Grantee Schools have spent or plan to spend GKA Initiative funding.

Key GKA Initiative spending areas include increasing school mental health professional staffing (35 percent of Grantee Schools); suicide prevention, bullying prevention, and other school safety programming (20 percent); social emotional learning (39 percent), mental health screening (10 percent); staff training and professional development (40 percent); family engagement and support (8 percent); and student and family access to therapy (29 percent). Please note that these figures represent the percentage of Grantee Schools who spent funds in this way, not the percentage of overall funds spent. In addition, please note that percentages total greater than 100 percent because many Grantee Schools used funds in two or more spending areas.

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center

50500 ARPAGLITC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$15,000,000**

https://www.glitc.org/about-us/adolescent-recovery-and-wellness-center/

Project Overview

This program helps fund the construction of a 36-bed adolescent recovery and wellness treatment center to provide substance abuse and mental health treatment and services to youth ages 13 to 17.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

As of June 30, 2025, site preparation activities are being conducted. This project is still ongoing.

Governor's Office Federal Oversight Staffing Plan

50500 ARPAGOVSTF

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$1,676,000.00

Website: Not applicable

Project Overview

This program provides federal funds to enhance staffing capacity to the Governor's Office to assist with the Governor's policy, administrative, and external relations goals.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The project is in its initial stages.

Homeless Case Management Services

50500 ARPAHCMS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$499,326.82

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/ICH.aspx

Project Overview

Homeless Case Management Services (HCMS) funds were awarded to shelter facilities and/or motel voucher programs due to increased demand created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Administration awarded funds to shelter facilities in December 2022 for services provided to families experiencing homelessness across Wisconsin.

The goal of HCMS was to provide additional case management services to vulnerable populations during the harsh winter months, with the goal of stabilizing their individual circumstances and placing them in permanent housing. The project was structured to achieve this goal efficiently by issuing additional funding for case management services, utilizing existing program contracts, processes, and trusted partners.

Individuals and families in the State Shelter Subsidy Grant Program HCMS program received intensive case management services that focus on areas such as housing stability planning, financial management, employment, health services (mental/physical), ensuring school continuation for children, and enrolling employed or underemployed parents in W-2 or FSET.

Intensive case management services are intended to assist homeless singles and families connect to mainstream resources and find permanent housing.

Use of Evidence

Case management services for people in emergency shelter was a recommendation from the Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness, which is a statutory body charged with the goal of preventing and ending homelessness in the State of Wisconsin.

Performance Report

The project achieved its goals of providing critically needed case management services during the winters of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, serving 2,011 individuals in 1,241 households. Funds allowed shelters to provide critically needed services to the most vulnerable populations during the periods of greatest need.

Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment Grants

50500 ARPAHLTHINF

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$100,400,354.44

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/HealthcareInfrastructure.aspx

Project Overview

The Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment Grant program (HCI), administered by the Department of Administration, provides funding to local and tribal governments or non-profit healthcare organizations for capital projects that specifically support increasing access to healthcare for low-income, uninsured, and underserved communities and the ability to handle future pandemic response needs. Projects could include new or upgraded facility space that enables additional capacity for care.

The HCl program awarded more than \$100 million to 26 local and tribal governments and nonprofit healthcare organizations through competitive grants to support investments in healthcare infrastructure necessary to reduce disparities in healthcare services provided to individuals living in Qualified Census Tracts or to other populations disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Program prioritized funding projects in certain categories based on the program's objectives. Applicants in certain categories that received the highest scores and were determined to best fit the program objectives were funded. The Program funded 26 applicants that received the highest scores in the eligible application categories of Dental Services (2), Outpatient Services (16), Inpatient Critical Access Hospitals (5), and Public Safety (4), as well as one Outpatient Services project from the Neighborhood Investment Fund Grant Program.

Use of Evidence

The goal is to reduce healthcare disparities for individuals living in qualified census tracts or other populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Project performance will inform future policy and program recommendations.

Performance Report

The program awarded funding to 26 local and Tribal governments and nonprofit healthcare organizations, which have begun work on their projects. As of June 30, 2025, 14 projects have been completed and another nine fully paid and undergoing the closeout process. The closeout report data show that 59,109 individuals, 42,188 of whom were enrolled in Medicare/Medicaid, have been served during the program's performance period.

Ranging from \$15,000 to \$20 million in size, these grants enabled local and Tribal governments or nonprofit healthcare organizations to invest in capital projects that specifically supported increasing access to healthcare for low-income, uninsured, and underserved communities.

Examples of completed projects include:

- The Family Health La Clinica (recently renamed Noble Community Clinics): was awarded \$6.9 million for a 38,000-square-foot integrated healthcare facility. The facility was substantially completed in May 2025, and its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony was held on July 14, 2025. The facility houses medical, dental, behavioral health, chiropractic, optometry, and pharmacy services and have space for community rooms. The clinic is expected to triple the number of people served from the Portage County/Stevens Point region from an average of 4,500 every year to an estimated 15,000 annually by 2027.
- The Forest County Potawatomi Community Health and Wellness Center facility (Center) in Crandon was awarded \$4.8 million to complete a remodel and expansion project, including renovations of its pharmacy, the development of a new drive-thru with a dedicated space for medication packaging, and an expansion of its registration area which now provides increased patient safety and privacy with separators between each counter. Since its opening in August 2023, the full-service health center has served thousands of Tribal members, and Forest County Potawatomi employees and their families, providing general medical services as well as vision, dental, community health, behavioral health, substance use, rehabilitative health, medical imaging, laboratory, and pharmacy services. The grantee reported that the Center's patients live in a rural region without access to a hospital or major medical center and, if not for the Health and Wellness Center, would be required to drive over an hour to access healthcare. The project was completed in August 2023.
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Center: was awarded \$5.8 million to expand its clinic in Milwaukee. The building was completed in March 2025 and houses a pharmacy, expanded behavioral health services unit, and the clinic's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and Lead Outreach Program. The clinic serves a population of over 22,000 annually. The project was completed in December 2024.
- Tri-County Community Dental: \$160,000 to install 10 new dental chairs and necessary
 equipment at a dental clinic serving low-income children and adults in Calumet, Outagamie,
 and Winnebago Counties. The program serves 9,000 to 10,000 children and adults each
 year. Receipt of the chairs allowed the clinic to increase their capacity. The project was
 completed in December 2021.
- City of De Pere: \$206,831 to purchase and remodel a vehicle to use as a mobile medical unit and emergency response vehicle serving the City of De Pere in Brown County. The vehicle operates as an immunization clinic, communicable disease follow-up, emergency response, ICS command center, and outreach in an area with an underserved elderly population that lacks public transportation. The project was completed in December 2022.
- Kenosha Community Health Center: \$5,923,454 of a \$6,577,740 project to purchase and remodel a 21,000-square-foot clinic on 3.2 acres offering integrated medical, dental, and behavioral services to the City of Kenosha and surrounding communities. The project was completed in early fall 2022, and patient appointments began in September 2022.

- Ripon Medical Center: \$158,000 project to renovate space within the Ripon Community Hospital to serve as a Day Stabilization space and program offering care for patients experiencing mental health crises. The program offers them immediate care in resolving their crisis and makes appropriate community linkages for on-going services. The project was completed in December 2022.
- Southwest Health, Kieler Clinic: \$2,250,000 to help purchase the land and build the clinic, which will serve approximately 3,500 patients in Grant and Lafayette counties. Southwest Health Center is anticipating approximately 6,120 total clinic visits annually, with approximately 3,000 of these visits being from individuals receiving Medicare and Medicaid benefits. The project was completed in December 2022.
- City on a Hill: was awarded \$1.6 million to expand access to care for economically disadvantaged families through the construction of a 9,858 square foot dental and medical facility on Milwaukee's near west side, expanding access to free urgent and preventative dental services and creating spaces for supporting mental and behavioral health services. In the six months after it opened, the clinic served over 1,200 new patients. The project was completed in December of 2024.
- The City of Elroy and the Gundersen Health System: was awarded a combined \$6.4 million in awards to build a new clinic in a medically underserved area, with a state-of-the-art facility opening in the heart of Elroy's downtown. A 30 percent growth in the number of patients served as a result of the new facility has been reported. The project was completed in November 2023.

Transforming Human Resources Initiative

50500 ARPAHRTRSFRM

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$5,707,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The people of Wisconsin deserve a high-quality state workforce that can render government services efficiently and effectively, particularly in times of crisis. Process and structural limitations, along with changing labor market conditions exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasized the need for an improved State human resources (HR) model that can ensure timely retention and recruitment of employees.

The Department of Administration's Division of Personnel Management (DPM) recognized the opportunity to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of human resources (HR) service delivery in support of a more effective delivery of government services which resulted in launching Project thRive in 2023. This funding is to complete phase 2 and begin Phase 3 of this multi-staged project to further progress towards the goal of a shared infrastructure that can support consistent HR employee experience across the enterprise by consolidating processes and software utilized by DPM shared services while maintaining agency IT support.

Funding and resources dedicated to the project were increased to meet the recognized need and has included DPM contracting with expert strategic consultants in the areas of change management, project management and process analysis to further develop an improved HR service delivery framework as well as support the software licensing and technology costs required by the staged transition. More specifically, phase 2 efforts focused on technology, process, data and building communities of excellence to embed an agile approach and create a sustainable continuous improvement approach.

The launch of phase 3 focused on creating consistency in technology enablement across DPM through a staged approach to consolidate software into a standardized bundle/approach by functional area for those doing similar work across the division. The primary projects for this phase involve Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)/ Reasonable Accommodations (RA) and Recruitment & Selection along with operationalizing the foundational structures for communities of practice and data enablement.

These deliverables create the framework for creating a new sustainable way of doing business that will assist in realizing the intended benefits of HR shared services with success related to effectiveness and efficiency, as well as increased satisfaction for the employee and customer.

Use of Evidence

The contractors selected for the project bring extensive expertise acquired through prior research and work with other states and countries, the federal government, higher education institutions, and

private employers. As part of the work with DPM, the contractors reviewed internal artifacts, conducted multiple interviews and focus groups with DPM leaders and staff, agency customers, and DOA leadership. This work also included close examination of existing metrics and data to ensure its understanding of the current state was evidence-based.

The contractors use this information to make evidence-based recommendations that will be the foundation for the redesign of Wisconsin's HR service delivery model.

Performance Report

Phase 2 included the completion of an initial stakeholder assessment, an overall change management strategy along with a high-level project plan to track the progress and deliverables of the 4 workstreams associated with process, data, technology and communities of excellence. Phase 2 outcomes included current state process maps for five functional areas, a foundational governance structure for initiative requests, HR query data standards, as well as the creation of the governance structure and support resources to launch communities of practice as well as an interactive directory to connect personnel across the division.

Phase 3 included a change management strategy shift to focus on individual projects and change management plans to communicate with those impacted by the changes including planning and supporting learnings as processes, tools and technologies that will be introduced, resistance and risk mitigation and ensuring a sustainment plan to drive adoption. Simultaneously working on further defining and executing a project plan that consolidates milestone tracking for all current efforts. Process analysts have led and documented process maps for the different functional areas along with facilitation of business requirements gathering to drive technology project launches.

Outcomes in this phase that have been achieved thus far include an approved technology design of a Single FMLA System for the enterprise, exploration of a standardized software bundle/approach for those who do FMLA/ Reasonable Accommodations work, operationalization of three communities of practice, and the launch of business requirements gathering for a single/consistent technical solution for those who do Recruitment & Selection.

DPM will assess this project by monitoring its existing performance benchmarks, notably its goal that 90 percent of announced positions are filled within 90 days.

Customer and employee satisfaction measures continue to be conducted on an annual basis, in addition to reporting on DPM's Service Level Agreement (SLA) metrics, and for which the results are anticipated to improve following the implementation of a new HR service delivery model.

Collective Bargaining Agreement Administration and Oversight

50500 ARPALABOR

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$9,622,500.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program funds additional resources in the form of staffing and consultative services to support work in the Department of Administration and the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission related to the administration, management, dispute resolution, and arbitration services pertaining to any collective bargaining agreements extended to general State of Wisconsin employees arising out of ongoing litigation, including both preparation and implementation.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

This project is in its preliminary stages.

Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund

50500 ARPAKWWF

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

https://www.kwwf.org/

Project Overview

The Keep Wisconsin Warm/Cool Fund (KWWF), administered by Energy Services, Inc., was founded in 1996 and is a statewide, nonprofit charity that assists eligible households with energy costs. KWWF leverages private donations with federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds to provide additional energy assistance statewide. Eligibility is tied to federal LIHEAP household income limits and is based on household size. . KWWF is a critically important safety net for vulnerable populations in Wisconsin, especially given recent spikes in energy costs and increased need resulting from the pandemic.

Nonprofit partner Energy Services, Inc (ESI) ran both 30- and 60-second TV commercials in every market throughout the state. To ensure the maximum exposure possible, ESI developed and ran ads promoting the program on over 25 radio stations that reach the largest number of low-income households and targeted groups. Recognizing from our customer feedback that a significant number of targeted households do not interface with electronic media, ESI used targeted outdoor advertising to reach priority populations.

ESI also undertook a targeted streaming and digital marketing strategy that reached out to over 100,000 low-income, elderly, and or veteran households. Separately, ESI utilized text and phone call blasts to complement the TV, radio, and social media campaigns. ESI disseminated more than 30,000 pieces of literature to those who had not yet applied or had initially chosen not to participate, with some measurable results.

These additional funds helped increase the number of Wisconsin's vulnerable populations that received heating benefits during the heating season. The project was structured to achieve this goal efficiently by issuing heating benefits to populations who meet the KWWF eligibility requirements, utilizing existing program structures, processes, and trusted partners.

Use of Evidence

ESI targeted demographic groups or isolated areas of the state with populations hardest hit by the pandemic. In addition to a social media and digital campaign, ESI identified and surveyed statewide stakeholder groups to identify on a grassroots level their most effective means of reaching out. Based on feedback received, ESI identified and targeted those with highest medical risk, the greatest disparity between income and energy costs, and further targeted those households or stakeholders who were actively involved with our highest COVID-19 risk demographic groups.

The project was structured to achieve its goal efficiently by issuing heating benefits to populations who meet the KWWF eligibility requirements, utilizing existing program structures, processes, and trusted partners.

Performance Report

The project achieved its goal of providing timely energy assistance funds to vulnerable, underserved populations in Wisconsin. With this funding, the initiative served a total of 8,520 eligible households since program inception. The funding helped KWWF to target and serve elderly, working poor families, people with disabilities, and other underserved groups. In addition to absorbing statewide increases in calls for assistance from overloaded counties, ESI surveyed callers and received feedback indicating they were aware of the low-income energy assistance initiative from ESI's outreach efforts. Caller volume increased by 50 percent early in the performance period and swelled to a 250 percent increase following marketing campaigns. ESI believes a large percentage of the caller volume increase was due to a boost in program exposure.

Tribal and Local Law Enforcement Agency Initiative

50500 ARPALAWENF

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$20,943,224.12

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/LEAGrant.aspx

Project Overview

The Department of Administration allocated an amount to each local and tribal law enforcement agency (LEA) across the state based on the size of the population served, with an add-on for communities where violent crime exceeded the state average. The program was later expanded to include water patrol enforcement and University police departments. The program offered reimbursement of expenses from March 15, 2022, through December 31, 2023.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

Under this program, 472 law enforcement agencies across the state received funding. This program is now complete, with no new activity this past performance period.

Event Venue and Live Event Small Business Grants

50500 ARPALESM

Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

Funding Amount: \$30,853,409.28

https://doa.wi.gov/pages/EventVenueAssistance.aspx

Project Overview

These grant programs were created and later combined to address the revenue shortfalls experienced by event venues and small businesses that cater to live events during the pandemic. These small businesses felt the brunt of the pandemic and were most likely to close permanently, leading to lost jobs and opportunities within the community.

Use of Evidence

Grant applicants were required to demonstrate a financial loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report

The \$20-million Event Venue Assistance Grant Program provided up to \$200,000 in assistance to venues that host ticketed and non-ticketed live events. The \$11-million Live Event Small Business Assistance Grant Program provided up to \$200,000 in assistance to small businesses providing services to live events. The investments were designed to help restore economic activity in Wisconsin following the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to the significant impact the pandemic had on these industries. More than 225 small businesses were supported through the combined programs. This program is complete, with no new activity during the past performance period.

Local Government Investment Pool System Modernization

50500 ARPALGIP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$207,000.00**

https://lgip.wisconsin.gov/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/default.aspx

Project Overview

Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) is an application that provides management for public funds on behalf of the local government sector. A review of applications requiring the MyWisconsin ID integration led to a closer look at the technology used for this application. It was found that this application is currently sitting on an unsupported code base. Further, the server that this application utilizes will require an upgrade within the next three years, and without modernizing LGIP's codebase, the server's operating system will not be compatible with LGIP. Additionally, modernizing this application will allow for better security updates since it currently consists of unsupported software that is no longer receiving patching updates.

Use of Evidence

The standards for this project have been reviewed and analyzed by DET staff.

Performance Report

Not applicable

Low Income Home Energy Assistance

50500 ARPALIHEAP

Expenditure Category: 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent Mortgage and Utility Aid

Funding Amount: \$13,426,004.30

https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/Pages/AgencyResources/energy-assistance.aspx

Project Overview

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), administered by the Department of Administration, assists eligible households with their heating and electric bills. WHEAP provides both regular benefits and crisis assistance. The Weatherization Assistance Program helps homeowners and renters reduce energy costs while increasing comfort in their homes. The Furnace Assistance program helps with the costs of repairing or replacing a heating unit for eligible households. Each program is funded by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the state Public Benefits (PB) program.

Eligibility is based on household size and up to 60 percent of the state median income. WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). The funding pays a portion of energy costs; however, it is not intended to cover the entire energy costs of a residence. The amount of the energy assistance benefit depends on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs. In most cases, the energy assistance benefit is paid directly to the household's energy supplier.

LIHEAP is funded by the federal government and focuses primarily on heating assistance for low-income households. These funds helped vulnerable populations heat their homes earlier than the timing of the federal LIHEAP award allowed for. The project was structured to achieve this goal efficiently by issuing heating benefits to populations who meet the LIHEAP eligibility requirements at the start of the heating season before the federal award funds could kick in, utilizing existing program structures, processes, and trusted partners.

Use of Evidence

The Office of Administration for Children and Families and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services maintain a <u>virtual library</u> that includes performance measures for LIHEAP.

Performance Report

The allocation of these funds provided a bridge in benefit funds prior to the allocation of LIHEAP funding and prevented a delay in issuing heating benefits at the start of the heating season to the state's most vulnerable populations.

The project achieved its goal of providing timely energy assistance funds prior to the receipt of federal LIHEAP funds. A total of 38,574 eligible households benefitted from these funds.

State-Managed Parking Lot Services

50500 ARPALOTSVCS

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$100,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Since July 2024, four charging stations have been maintained at three publicly accessible parking lots in Madison. In Winter 2025, the charging stations were upgraded to new leases. The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) plans to lease and install two more stations at the Monona Terrace parking ramp for state employee and public use, and look to expand electrical service to accommodate stations at more locations. Management and installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations is directed by Wis. Stat. § 66.0442 (2024).

Use of Evidence

The locations of the initial installations and upgrades were determined by public accessibility and existing infrastructure/ capacity to add stations. ChargePoint provides usage monitoring which is evaluated to determine whether or not the number of stations at an existing location is meeting the need. The availability of EV fleet purchases will influence location planning as the opportunity to procure these vehicles opens up.

Performance Report

Excluding the winter months, the EV chargers average about 88 charging sessions per month. The newly installed lease stations are more user friendly, and DOA looks forward to adding at least two more stations by the end of Summer 2025.

MATC Office of Workforce Solutions Early Childhood Pathway

50500 ARPAMATC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$68,700.00

https://www.matc.edu/employer-services-resources/workforce-solutions/index.html

Project Overview

Milwaukee Area Technical College's (MATC) Office of Workforce Solutions offered six Early Childhood Pathway closed cohort courses to support participants who are working towards earning an early childhood educational credential.

Participation in the courses is limited to employees of the United Community Center, Children's Outing Association (COA) Youth and Family Centers, or other childcare centers. Each course offered enrolled up to fifteen participants.

Participants earned three to six college credits upon successful completion of each course with a C letter grade or better. These courses were scheduled from August 19, 2024, to December 13, 2024.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) delivered six Early Childhood Education courses supporting two Child Care centers in the greater Milwaukee Area. Of the 45 unduplicated students, 7 withdrew from the courses. Of the remaining 38 students, 33 passed the courses with a letter C or better earning 3 college credits for a total of 99 college credits earned.

Minor League Sports Team Grants

50500 ARPAMINORLGE

Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

Funding Amount: **\$2,792,655.50**

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/MinorLeagueSportsTeamsAssistanceGrants.aspx

Project Overview

The Minor League Sports Team Assistance Grant Program provided up to \$200,000 or the amount of the decrease in the applicant's federal taxable income (for-profit entities) or total revenue (non-profit entities) between tax years 2019 and 2020, whichever was less. Grants were provided to help teams recoup lost revenue and restore economic activity in Wisconsin following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence

Grant applicants were required to demonstrate a financial loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report

Grants were provided to 17 minor league sports teams around the state. This program is complete, with no new activity in the past performance period.

Milwaukee County Forensic Science and Protective Medicine Facility

50500 ARPAMKEC0911

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$ 23,950,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

With the support of these funds, Milwaukee County will partner with the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) to construct a facility to house the Milwaukee County Offices of the Medical Examiner and Emergency Management in a building that also houses the DOJ Milwaukee Crime Lab. The facility will have a major impact on solving crimes and enhancing public safety. Construction began in October 2024, and the project is scheduled to be substantially complete in early 2026.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

Construction is underway and scheduled to be completed next year.

Movie Theater Grants

50500 ARPAMOVTHTR

Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

Funding Amount: \$10,084,032.08

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/movietheaterassistancegrants.aspx

Project Overview

The Movie Theater Assistance Grant Program provided up to \$15,000 per screen owned and operated in Wisconsin or the decrease in the applicant's federal taxable income between calendar years 2019 and 2020, whichever was less. The grants assisted movie theaters that experienced significant losses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence

Grant applicants were required to demonstrate a financial loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report

The grants assisted 49 movie theaters across the state. This program is complete, with no new activity in the past performance period.

Milwaukee Public Schools Independent Audits and Implementation

50500 ARPAMPSAUDITS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$5,500,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project funded an operational and an instructional audit of Milwaukee Public Schools to analyze the district's programs and operations and effectiveness of teaching and instruction, respectively, and building on that work, will assist MPS in funding the remediation and implementation of any audit findings.

Use of Evidence

Each audit was completed in 2025 and independent auditors utilized information gathered via document review, process mapping, staff, family, and student surveys, site visits, classroom observations, interviews, focus groups, and community outreach to compile a report of findings. Each audit was publicly released and independent auditors conducted school administration and school board briefings. Each audit included a list of recommendations to address any findings.

Performance Report

Audits are complete and MPS school administration is in the early phases of prioritizing and identifying implementation strategies.

Municipal Services Payment Program Supplementation

50500 ARPAMSP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$759,565.27

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/Municipal_Services_Payments.aspx

Project Overview

The annual Municipal Services Payment (MSP) made in state fiscal year 23 included a supplement for municipalities that would have otherwise seen a decrease in payment. This one-time supplemental payment was in an amount equal to the greater of last year's program reimbursement or the estimated payment reported to municipalities in the fall of 2022, less the current year payment.

The primary purpose of the MSP program is to make an equitable annual payment to host/site municipalities in recognition of the fire, police, and solid waste collection/disposal services provided directly to State-owned facilities located in a municipality's jurisdiction. Communities rely on these payments to fund these critical services, and the intent of this program was to ensure that communities did not see a reduction in anticipated funds during a time when inflation and labor costs were increasing during the economic recovery from the pandemic.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

A total of 363 municipalities received supplemental funding.

Neighborhood Investment Fund Grants

50500 ARPANIF

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$235,235,738.41

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/NeighborhoodInvestment.aspx

Project Overview

While the entire state was impacted by the pandemic, certain communities faced additional barriers that would prevent them and their residents from being able to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as quickly as others. Targeted investments were needed across the state to build long-term, sustainable economic wellbeing. The goal of the program is to build stronger neighborhoods and communities.

The Neighborhood Investment grant program, administered by the Department of Administration, awarded nearly \$235 million to 36 local and Tribal governments for making significant and sustainable investments that would help communities recover from the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and offer long-term economic benefits.

The Program prioritized funding projects in certain categories based on the program's objectives. Applicants in categories that received the highest scores and were determined to best fit program objectives were selected for funding.

Categories (and number of projects) awarded include Housing/Homelessness (20), Revitalization/Blight Elimination (9), Support of Vulnerable Populations (6), Non-profit Support (5), Economic Development/Workforce (4), Public Safety (4), Child Care/Education (1), and Community Infrastructure (1).

Examples of projects include:

- \$1.4 million toward a \$1.9-million project to construct a homeless shelter in Menomonie
- \$11.8 million toward a \$12-million project to develop 28 affordable small-home units and 10 supportive housing units by the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency in Jackson, Monroe, Sauk, Shawano, and Wood counties
- \$15 million toward a \$25-million project to construct an Innovation Center in Kenosha's Innovation Neighborhood
- \$4.3 million toward an \$8.8-million project to expand and renovate an assisted living facility in Neenah
- \$5.7 million toward a \$6-million project to construct a YMCA in Park Falls

Use of Evidence

Project performance will inform future policy and program recommendations.

Performance Report

Fourteen projects have been completed or substantially completed. As reported in project completion documentation to-date, over 33,000 individuals have been served, 331 housing units have been created, 168 jobs have been created, and 104 jobs have been retained, as a result of the project funding. Example outcomes from completed projects are as follows:

- The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians was awarded over \$3 million to construct a 7,200-square-foot facility to meet the needs of tribal elders and to replace the current Reserve Senior Center, which was not in compliance with accessibility and coding standards, nor was it meeting the needs of its elderly clients. The unduplicated number of clients able to be served increased by 63% over the prior year to serve a total of 294 clients. The project was completed in March 2024, and all funding for the project has been received by the La Courte Oreilles Band.
- The City of Neenah was awarded almost \$4.4 million to build a new 14-unit addition for the Valley VNA Senior Care building; this addition supports the demand for senior care services in the community. The new units and space were designed to meet maneuverability, social distancing, and staff visibility needs. An additional 5,000 square foot space was also added as a new dedicated space for community engagement, and will be used for resident activities, family visits, and community events. The project funding created eight jobs and extensively assisted with improving working conditions and thus retention of current staff. The project was completed in September 2024, and the full amount award has been expended.
- Dodge County was awarded \$3.2 million to subgrant to PAVE for the remodel and renovation of a shelter for domestic violence and sexual assault victims residing within Dodge County. This remodel adds essential functional space to address safety and ADA accessibility needs. For example, the remodel adds two emergency apartments, a night advocate office, replaces windows and roofing, and adds and remodels ADA-accessible ramps and bathrooms. In 2023, 3,319 nights of shelter were provided for victims and families. Prior to the renovation, emergency stays in motels for victims were required for more than a quarter of the year in 2023, costing \$31,000. The newly renovated space eliminates the need for emergency motel use and spending. The funding of the project created five jobs and extensively assisted with improving working conditions and thus retention of current staff. The project was completed by January 2024, and the full amount award has been received by grantee.
- The City of Wausau's Community Partners Campus (CPC) was awarded \$1.5million to support Wausau-area non-profit, human service organizations, by creating a shared-space nonprofit center. The CPC was expanded and remodeled to be the new home of area non-profits to meet client needs with an emphasis on food, shelter, and medical and mental health. The additional construction and renovations were completed in December 2022, and with this addition the building is now approximately 30,000 square feet. While built in the

City of Wausau, the campus will serve the entire metro area and beyond as a crucial connector between agencies and community members and will enable these agencies to more effectively address the negative economic impact caused by the pandemic.

Northridge Mall Demolition and Redevelopment Initiative

50500 ARPANRIDGE

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$15,000,000.00**

https://city.milwaukee.gov/DCD/Projects/GranvilleStation

Project Overview

These funds will contribute to the City of Milwaukee's efforts to demolish and remediate the Northridge Mall property for future redevelopment of the Granville Business Improvement District.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The following activities were accomplished as of the most recent available grant reporting:

- The City continued to employ a third-party security contractor to provide 24/7 security services.
- A city-hosted public town hall meeting was held on August 5, 2024, to address the demolition work and the future of the site.
- A contract for asbestos abatement and demolition services was signed with Veit & Company (Veit). Veit began executing the contract in mid-August 2024.
- City staff had weekly progress meetings with Veit and their subcontractors.
- The former Younkers Store was fully abated and razed.
- The City hosted a press conference on November 19, 2024, to update the public on the progress of demolition activities. This included a summary of economic impacts to Wisconsin businesses.
 - 37 companies have been utilized for the Northridge project services include trucking, security, environmental, demolition, fencing, board-ups, etc.
 - 55% of those companies are located in the City of Milwaukee.
 - o The remaining 45% of companies are located in Southeastern Wisconsin.
- City staff are working with an engineering consultant to create construction documents for the utility re-alignment work associated with the demolition project. This involves outreach and coordination with adjacent property owners and businesses.

- This project will open up 60 acres of land for ground up investment. This will be the largest continuous development site in the City of Milwaukee.
- Planning for the future economic investment is underway. WEDC provided funding for planning and market analysis.
- The City will be updating infrastructure in the area and expects to start marketing the site using a RFP process in late 2025/early 2026.

Beyond the Classroom Grants

50500 ARPAOUTSCHL

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$48,222,162.50

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/BeyondtheClassroom.aspx

Project Overview

Non-profit organizations that provide educational, programming, and mental health supports for Wisconsin children outside traditional classroom hours offered a connection and a sense of normalcy for many families throughout the pandemic, played a critical role in supporting the educational and emotional well-being of Wisconsin kids, and allowed working parents to maintain their hours of employment. These organizations required additional resources to be able to continue offering their critical services safely throughout the pandemic.

The Beyond the Classroom grant program, administered by the Department of Administration, awarded nearly \$50 million to 114 nonprofit organizations to assist them in serving school-age kids both virtually and in-person outside of school hours and during the summer months. Program goals included mitigating the economic impacts of the pandemic on these organizations and support increased enrollment capacity, additional learning opportunities, and increased mental health support for school-age children. Funding was, in part, used to attract and retain qualified staff through competitive wages to deliver high-quality, engaging programming for kids. Funding was also used for financial assistance, supplies, technology, operational expenses, and outreach to ensure that youth and their families were aware of the services grantees provided.

Based on program costs and increased demand and expenses related to the public health emergency, grant awards of not more than \$1.5 million were made for summer 2021 programs, and no more than \$1.5 million for 2021-2022 school year and summer 2022 programs. Total awards were limited to no more than \$3 million or 25 percent of the applicant's 2019 fiscal year operating expenses, whichever was less.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

Many grantees reported exceeding their own enrollment goals, and sometimes even bypassing prepandemic enrollment levels. Grantees reported approximately 91,000 children enrolled prior to the program's performance period and reported serving approximately 230,335 students during the performance period. Of those, grantees reported 23,007 or 10 percent of students participated in evidence-based tutoring programs. Overall, grantees reported the Beyond the Classroom grant program allowed them to keep their doors open and retain and hire staff, providing needed educational opportunities for students during summer months and outside of school hours, as well

as creating an opportunity for organizations to address mental health needs of students. This project is now complete, with no new activity in the past performance period.	:

Park Falls Water Main Improvements

50500 ARPAPKFLSWTR

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$3,750,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

To prevent freezing water mains in the City of Park Falls, the following construction projects have been undertaken:

- Phase 1 2023 Reconstruction: Replacement of shallow water mains, copper water services, fire hydrants, sanitary sewers and reconstruction of curb, gutter, and sidewalks on First Avenue North from Second Street North to Fourth Street North. Replacement of shallow water mains, copper water services, fire hydrants, sanitary sewers and reconstruction of curb, gutter, and sidewalks on Second Avenue North from Seventh Street North to Ninth Street North. Water Tower Mixers installation.
- Phase 2 2024 Reconstruction: Replacement of shallow water mains, copper water services, fire hydrants, sanitary sewers and reconstruction of curb, gutter, and sidewalks on Wisconsin Street from Sherry Avenue to Paddock Avenue. Ash Street Lift Station reconstruction.
- Phase 2 2024 Construction: Installation of water main, fire hydrants, and water services on North River Road from First Avenue North to Boettcher Road. Heritage Lane water main loop connection. Installation of water main, fire hydrants, water services and reconstruction of the street on Boettcher Road from North River Road to Ninth Avenue.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

As of June 30, 2025, all funds have been disbursed to the City of Park Falls for substantial completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the water improvement project.

Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Initiative

50500 ARPAPRVCSEC

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$2,634,538.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program funds additional resources to support work on the development and implementation of changes to the Wisconsin Department of Administration's (DOA) data privacy policies, standards, and practices, and to develop and implement a comprehensive enterprise strategy, for the contemporary management and governance of information, data and data privacy, and electronic records. It also provides amounts to obtain a Governance Risk and Compliance tool to, among other things, track statewide IT security policies and monitor compliance, and to engage a retainer service for digital forensic and incident response in the event of a cybersecurity threat and/or attack leading to a potential ransomware situation.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

Additional metrics will be developed as DOA completes additional work on the development and implementation of its cybersecurity efforts.

City of Racine Public Safety Video Surveillance Solutions

50500 ARPARACCAMS

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$1,500,000.00

https://www.cityofracine.org/New-Community-Camera-Program/

Project Overview

These funds support the City of Racine's purchase of body cameras and related equipment, software, and accessories on behalf of its police department.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The project is still ongoing.

City of Racine Municipal Operations

50500 ARPARACOPERS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$7,500,000.00

https://www.cityofracine.org/Home/

Project Overview

These funds expand the current ARPA-funded partnership with the City of Racine through the Blueprint for Peace initiative to ensure funding is available for basic community services. The program will run through September 2026.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The project is ongoing.

City of Racine Blueprint for Peace Initiative

50500 ARPARACPEACE

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$715,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

Communities across Wisconsin experienced disturbing increases in crime and gun violence during the pandemic. In the first five months of 2022, Racine reported a doubling of its homicide rate and a 49 percent increase in shots fired calls for service. The Blueprint for Peace initiative is a program that employs public health approaches to prevent violence before it occurs, and to intervene after violence has occurred to reduce its impact and prevent further victimization. The City of Racine hired a violence interruption coordinator to oversee the program.

The project also included the establishment and support for Safe and Sound, which is a program that works in the city's neighborhoods by deploying neighborhood safety teams. Each team includes three key positions. A neighborhood safety coordinator (NSC) coordinates a team of law enforcement and government representatives to address nuisance property issues. The NSC serves as a civilian liaison between community members and officers. A community organizer (CO) and youth organizer (YO) work side-by-side, engaging residents and youth in activities to build collective efficacy and reduce the likelihood of unsafe and/or criminal activities.

Use of Evidence

The Blueprint for Peace framework applies a public health approach model which has shown high success. The City of Racine will report on outcomes of the violence interruption coordinator in future reports, which will inform future policy and program recommendations.

Performance Report

As of June 30, 2025, \$491,834.85 has been disbursed to the grantee for Blueprint for Peace project activities, including for the following activities that occurred from July to December 2024:

- Hosted eight community conversations to solicit community residents' feedback to inform the City of Racine Comprehensive Community Safety Plan. Over 150 community members attended and participated in conversations
- Conducted a community-wide safety survey through October 2024 with over 650 respondents
- Continued a group violence intervention strategy led by the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC); shooting reviews began in February 2024 and have continued every other week. Participants include the Racine Police Department, Racine Country Sheriff's

Department, Racine County District Attorney's office, Racine Unified School District Security, Racine County Human Services, and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections' Community Corrections

- Enrolled five high-risk adults in intensive outreach and supportive services through custom notification, proactive outreach, and partner referral
- Funded a Community Camera program to assist residents with purchasing home security cameras to reduce risk of victimization

During the same timeframe, the Safe and Sound Program:

- Continued regular community engagement two times per week via door-to-door canvassing
- Provided information about programs, services, and connecting to essential resources
- Conducted 69 front porch conversations out of 248 doors knocked from neighborhood canvassing efforts
- Distributed nearly 7,000 resource materials to the community
- Hosted three community barbershop pop-ups
- The Youth Steering Committee conducted two neighborhood cleanups in August and October 2024
- In August 2024, the City hosted a large outdoor community event in collaboration with police and fire departments to foster connection with residents and safety professionals and to offer connections to supportive services.

Milwaukee Criminal Justice and Community Safety

50500 ARPASAFECOMMUNITIES

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$13,052,006.00

https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Courts/Court-Resources/Mental-Health-Treatment-Court;

https://city.milwaukee.gov/dpw/Infrastructure/Programs/Safe-Routes

Project Overview

The award amount was increased by \$2.3 million from \$10,752,006 to \$13,052,006. Funding supports multiple projects in the Milwaukee area to address criminal justice and community safety needs:

The City of Milwaukee's \$3.5 million grant for Prevent Reckless Driving Through Design Initiative consists of projects that will improve safety and comfort for people walking, biking, and taking transit. Transportation emissions, and specifically emissions from single occupancy vehicles, are a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions in the US. Making streets safer to walk, bike, and take transit will encourage more trips by these modes, thus reducing the number of auto trips and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Projects include the following:

W. Roosevelt Drive Project (\$1 million): The City's Department of Public Works (DPW) will transform W. Roosevelt Drive between W. Fond du Lac Avenue and W. Capitol Drive by providing safe pedestrian crossings, curb extensions, and protected bike lanes. These improvements will create a safer and more enjoyable street by slowing speeds and reducing crashes on one of the streets identified in Milwaukee's High Injury Network.

Safe Routes to Parks (\$1 million): DPW will implement traffic safety improvements to enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access to Tiefenthaler Park and King Park on the Near West Side of Milwaukee. Improvements may include curb extensions, pedestrian refuge islands, bus bulbs, and pedestrian signalization, as well as other treatments deemed appropriate. Improvements will be focused on 17th Street and Vliet Street adjacent to King Park, and 27th Street adjacent to Tiefenthaler Park.

Safe Routes to Schools (\$1.5 million): DPW will implement traffic safety improvements around schools (one-quarter-mile radius) throughout Milwaukee to make it safer for students and families to walk, bike, and take transit to school. DPW will work with Milwaukee Public Schools to identify priority schools for improvements, as well as utilize the City's recently adopted Safe Routes to School Policy Plan to invest in high-priority schools. Improvements may include speed humps, curb extensions, pedestrian refuge islands, restriping of streets, traffic circles, pedestrian signalization, and restriping of streets.

Funding will also support expanded court operations, pretrial improvements, and vocational programming in Milwaukee County. The County was faced with several challenges, stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, including higher-than-standard case volumes, as the pandemic has lengthened the time to case disposition, longer in-custody lengths of stay for individuals in custody,

and reduced in-house programming and connections to employers for people who are incarcerated amid jail staffing shortages.

As such, criminal legal system partners in Milwaukee County sought additional resources to ensure system-involved persons are provided with expedient case resolutions and linked with valuable programming to support community reentry. From a system standpoint, this project is also aimed to alleviate stress on the criminal legal system wrought by large case volumes, growing incarcerated populations, and staffing shortages.

To address these issues, Milwaukee County laid out a three-prong project supported through this initiative:

- Expanded and Extended Court Operations \$8,419,662 Award (April 1, 2022, through October 31, 2026, Performance Period): Milwaukee County increased the number of courtrooms. More courtrooms necessitated additional staffing from the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, and Clerk of Court to cover expanded courthouse operations as well as necessary physical improvements for courtroom safety. Milwaukee County also launched a Night Court to increase access to the courthouse beyond its daytime business hours. Increased staffing for the Sheriff's Office and Clerk of Circuit Court was necessary to support this work. In December 2024, the award amount for this program was increased by \$2.3 million to fund courtroom security hardening measures and additional bailiffs.
- Pretrial Improvements \$520,644 Award (June 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, Performance Period): Milwaukee County expanded its Pretrial Services GPS program through a professional services contract to include second- and third-shift pretrial GPS monitoring coverage. The county also created a Mental Health Treatment Court Coordinator position to lead the planning and formalization of a mental health treatment court. In addition, the County contracted with the Medical College of Wisconsin's psychiatry program to create a fellowship opportunity to support this treatment court.

Use of Evidence

The City of Milwaukee's DPW will use evidence-based countermeasures to address reckless driving. These countermeasures, also known as Traffic Safety Improvements, are commonplace and approved by the USDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). DPW will collect traffic speed, traffic volume, and crash data, both before and after project implementation, for all users of the street to measure project success.

Performance Report

The City of Milwaukee's Prevent Reckless Driving Through Design Initiative continued into 2025. From July through December 31, 2024:

- For the Safe Routes to Schools project, 12 raised crosswalks were constructed, and eight additional crosswalks were designed in the second half of 2024 and are ready for 2025 construction.
- For Safe Routes to Parks, community and stakeholder engagement continued and designs
 progressed to 90% completion. Aldermanic coordination also commenced, as did
 coordination with the City's Green Stormwater Infrastructure team to identify locations to
 incorporate GI into the projects.

Milwaukee County's Pretrial Improvements project as well as Employment and Vocational Preparedness programs ended on December 31, 2024.

Pretrial Improvement Project Outcomes are as follows by program:

GPS Monitoring Program:

- A workgroup was convened to develop policies and protocols for after-hours GPS monitoring. An after-hours protocol was developed to respond to GPS violations such as strap tampers, battery alerts and no contact order monitoring. Additional resources were needed to address the GPS waitlist and the jail population in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic. Contracts for the additional service provisions were drafted in June of 2022 and hiring began in July of 2022. By July of 2022 all individuals in the GPS supervision program were placed on after-hours monitoring. By August of 2022, the contracts for the additional GPS services were executed. By August of 2023, there were no individuals on the GPS waitlist and no new additions following that. There has been no waitlist to-date since August of 2023.
- During the performance period, there were 660 individuals served by the GPS Program. The
 appearance rate for individuals during the performance period was 89.6% while the safety
 rate was 84%. The overall success rate was 72%, meaning that of the individuals on GPS
 whose cases reached adjudication during the performance period, those individuals made all
 court appearances and were not re-arrested and charged with a new crime while their cases
 were pending.

Mental Health Coordinator:

- In June of 2022, Milwaukee County created a position for the Mental Health Treatment Court Coordinator. In October of 2022 the Mental Health Treatment Court Coordinator was hired. The Mental Health Treatment Court has successfully transitioned to the Mental Health Docket as of October 2024. The program now has policies and procedures as well as a participant handbook. The program also has a website.
- The program established a partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin to allow their
 psychiatry residents to rotate through Mental Health Treatment Court for six weeks at a time.
 This allowed the residents to be able to provide psychiatric assessments for appropriateness
 for the mental health treatment court as well as provide input from a medical standpoint for
 participants in staffing.
- Residents have completed one-on-one psychoeducation sessions with the participants.
- There have been three graduations from the mental health treatment court. The current census is 13 and there are three pending entries. There were 20 individuals served during this time period. The program was able to acquire basic need items and is able to provide

participants with basic need items such as hygiene and toiletry and bus tickets. All participants are connected to Behavioral Health Services for long term case management services to ensure participants continue to appropriately manage their mental health after leaving the mental health treatment court.

In total, these two Pretrial Improvement projects served the following:

Total number of individuals or organizations served during the Performance Period from qualified census tracts* and/or disproportionately affected communities – 680 individuals

- 1 job was created
- 1 job was retained

Employment and Vocational Preparedness Program Outcomes:

Class completions:

- OSHA 30 (Occupational Safety) 23 completions
- Welding 33 completions
- Blueprint math 6 completions
- Job Readiness Training (JRT) 71 completions
- Makin It Work Cognitive Based Instruction 16 completions

Total number of individuals or organizations served during the Performance Period from qualified census tracts* and/or disproportionately affected communities – 75 individuals

Community Integration Center - Welding Center:

Through this project, the Community Reintegration Center (CRC) was able to reestablish a welding center as was previously held in 2008. The CRC had the operational and mechanical infrastructure for the welding lab, which made the process manageable to implement. Employ Milwaukee was able to successfully collaborate with the CRC and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) to provide pre-release welding training for the CRC.

Upon training completion, individuals received a Gas Metal Arc Welding digital badge from MATC that contained six college credits that could be used towards the Welding Technical Diploma (thirty credits) pathway at MATC during post release. Employ Milwaukee has replicated this model within various grant solicitation proposals to show the potential impact for pre-to-post release opportunities.

Back to School Supplemental Aid

50500 ARPASCHLAIDS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$74,999,270.00

https://dpi.wi.gov/arp/per-pupil

Project Overview

This program distributed flexible funding to school districts and independent charter schools on a per pupil basis. The funding helped ensure that schools across the state had additional resources to recover from the pandemic's impact on learning.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

This program supported Wisconsin school districts and independent charters in ensuring resources were available as educators worked to address pandemic-related learning disruptions. This program is complete, with no new activity in the past performance period.

Social Development Commission Response

50500 ARPASDCRSPNS

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$2,350,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program provides funding for the purposes of conducting forensic accounting, using a third party audit firm, of the operations, finances, and other issues that led to the closing of the Social Development Commission (SDC) with a focus on programs funded via state agencies; and directly remediating issues caused by the closure of SDC, including those that could negatively affect the availability of services via state-administered programs.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The project remains ongoing.

Town of Silver Cliff Public Safety Building Investment

50500 ARPASILVRCLF

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$500,000.00**

https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/Pages/AgencyResources/CDBG-PF.aspx

Project Overview

The Town of Silver Cliff Fire Department Building was damaged beyond repair by a confirmed EF2 tornado on June 15, 2022. The building housed both the Fire and EMS services for the Township. Prior to receiving these funds, the community had been unable to locate a suitable facility to replace the damaged structure. The tornado forced the town to house their fire apparatus and equipment in what was previously a town public works structure. The structure is insufficiently sized to accommodate all of the town's equipment. Further, the structure was slated to be razed as it had exceeded its usable life.

Subsequent to the tornado, fire department response times increased due to the insufficiency of the temporary fire station. Longer response times increases the risk and degree of property damage as well as adds to the potential for loss of life. The temporary fire station facility does not meet the needs of the equipment or department as the size of the building does not allow for the equipment to be stored in an accessible fashion. The long-term effects of continuing to use the temporary fire facility situation will also eventually affect the Town's fire department/community ISO rating. Insurance rates are largely related to an ISO rating. Silver Cliff's previous ISO rating was suitable and comparable with surrounding towns in the area. The increased rating will affect the basis for which property insurance is calculated. The increase in coverage rates will create additional financial burden on the communities LMI and non-LMI residents. The disorganization of operating from insufficient quarters, with limited volunteers, provides an increased potential for responding to a call without the appropriate equipment, thereby increasing the risk of not managing the medical or fire emergency event successfully.

Use of Evidence

The problem directly affects 529 persons (2020 Decennial Census) living in the township. In addition, Silver Cliff hosts numerous tourists, seasonal inhabitants, and recreationists that will benefit from the project. The effects of the current problem are also far reaching. The limitations placed on the department by the lack of a satisfactory fire station also affect the department's operational ability to consistently be responsive to the Mutual Alarm Box Alert System (MABAS) operations. The LMI % of the area served by the Silver Cliff FD, the Town of Silver Cliff, is 51.55% based on HUD LMISD information. The current LMI data has identified 250 of the town's 485 inhabitants as LMI residents.

Performance Report

Support by the Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities Program, along with utilizing this funding, has financially allowed the town to construct a replacement EMS/Fire Department facility, making use of the existing fire department parcel, in order to sustain the town's emergency services for the next 30 to 40 years. The new facility, which opened in June 2025, alleviates the issues caused by the temporary use of the old PW building, and has maintained the current acceptable ISO fire protection rating. It also ensures timely emergency response times, provides adequate storage space of departmental and inter-departmentally used equipment, and a sense of pride, to assist in the recruitment and retention of volunteer fire fighters and EMS.

Secretary of State Improvements

50500 ARPASOSSUPP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$1,598,200.00

https://sos.wi.gov/index.html

https://sos-services.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This project provides resources to improve accessibility and modernize service delivery through the identification, analysis and coordination of process improvement initiatives and the implementation of a customer transaction management system, e-services, and a records portal for the Office of the Secretary of State.

The project was initially scoped for phases 1 and 2, enabling the Office to take electronic payments, securely providing customers with digital authentication and apostille forms which can also be submitted electronically, an apostille progress tracking system, digital scheduling, open records, press, and public records request forms integrated with MyWisconsinID for security and ease of use, searchable digital access to oaths, pardons, and deeds held by the Office per statutory requirement, and greater functionality such as lookup, dashboard metrics, and assigned items for attention via the Office's new online portal - http://sos-services.wi.gov. These upgrades provide greater transparency, accessibility, and modernization of the services the Office provides for Wisconsin stakeholders. Both phases were completed in the fall of 2024, and the ability for the Office to accept electronic payments as opposed to cash or check as before was announced to the public via press release in early January.

Phases 3, 4, and 5 have been added since July 1, 2024, with phase 3 of the project to delineate digital document storage having been completed in April of 2025. The full online functionality described above as part of phases 1-3 was announced to the public via press release in June of 2025. Phase 4 of the project, initiated in February of 2025, will provide an entirely online workflow process for the submission of apostilles and authentications, integrated into the existing framework of phases 1-3, with the anticipated completion date to be determined. Lastly, phase 5 creating an online workflow for county clerks to submit seals and signatures digitally on behalf of their appointed Wisconsin county to the Secretary of State's Office per statutory requirement has been drafted and is under review prior to approval and formal addition to the project.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The Office of the Secretary of State launched their online electronic services portal to provide digital access to their records databases and forms, including apostille and authentication forms and requests. They also began accepting electronic payments via debit card, credit card, Apple Pay, and PayPal, greatly reducing the burden on customers seeking apostille and authentication services, especially for individuals coming in-person for counter services, who would otherwise be required to pay in cash or with check. Since the ability for the Office to accept electronic forms of payment was introduced in January 2025, 589 electronic payments have been processed. In addition, 47 online orders for services rendered by the Office have been created and completed fully electronically since the new online portal was launched in April 2025, with the rate of fully online services increasing as public awareness of that functionality becomes more common.

The modernization efforts undergone through the project's contracted vendor create efficiencies for both stakeholders and Office staff. The time necessary for staff to perform data entry and certificate creation for apostille services has decreased by nearly half due to the standardized workflow created by the project. The same efficiencies mean that processing time for stakeholders' requesting apostille services is reduced and less errors are made overall. The Office has historically received a significant number of apostille and authentication requests which had to be rejected due to error, but the standardized forms and workflow ensure that customers complete paperwork properly prior to submitting to the Office, further saving Office staff and stakeholders requesting services valuable time and increasing transparency into services the Office is statutorily tasked with providing. These efficiencies will extend to other sectors of public administration with phase 5 of the project, allowing counties to upload their seals and signatures digitally to the Office per statutory requirement, which has previously been done via physical copies and mail.

Safe Shelter and Homelessness Grants

50500 ARPASSHG

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$11,221,313.96

https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/Pages/AgencyResources/sssg.aspx; https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ys/rhy/map

Project Overview

The Safe Shelter and Homelessness Grants (SSHG) were awarded to emergency shelter and motel voucher programs to ensure support and services for individuals and households experiencing homelessness during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 winter seasons. Over the course of two performance periods, the Department of Administration (DOA) dedicated funding to address the increased demand for non-congregated emergency shelter initiated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The goal of the additional funds was to provide additional shelter services to vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness during the harsh winter months of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. The project was structured to achieve this goal efficiently by issuing additional funding for shelter services, utilizing existing program contracts, processes, and trusted partners. These additional funds helped Wisconsin's most vulnerable populations receive shelter or motel services with the goals of stabilizing their individual circumstances and providing them with shelter during the period of greatest need.

To be eligible for SSHG funding, agencies must have been awarded a State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG) from the previous performance period. The SSHG funding was focused on providing shelter, supportive services, as well as combating higher operational costs due to the increased demand for non-congregated emergency shelter due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Operational costs include, but are not limited to, staff salaries, utility costs, meal costs, etc.

Additional funding was directed to Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs at the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to support the unprecedented need and rising costs being faced by unaccompanied youth and families experiencing housing insecurity. Target areas included increasing staff capacity, drop-in/warming center expenses, strengthening McKinney-Vento and Runaway Homeless Youth program partnerships, addressing shelter needs north of Dane County.

Projects could be multi-year or one-time costs, and grantees needed to provide support for their proposed intervention. The intended outcome of this approach was to allow flexibility to meet diverse needs (e.g., a drop-in center in Superior and increased need for staff in Milwaukee) rather than having a "one-size-fits-all" solution. Key partners included state-funded RRHY programs, which offer coverage in 14 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Primary delivery mechanisms varied by program and region.. In 2024, state-funded Runaway Homeless Youth programs sheltered 336 unduplicated youth.

Use of Evidence

In 2019-2020, DCF staff engaged in a comprehensive analysis of effective services for youth identified as homeless or runaway, with an emphasis on effective rural programming. This analysis included a review of the literature pertaining to RHY service delivery (including aftercare), consent, and use of informal supports (including respite), a review of service delivery methods in other states, and listening sessions throughout the state with youth, family, like kin, and other informal supports.

As a result of this analysis, DCF determined that there was enough demand and evidence of efficacy to expand Positive connections, Academic support, Training and employment, Housing, and Social-emotional supports (PATHS) efforts to ensure service provision in both northern and southern Wisconsin. PATHS is a comprehensive housing-first program model serving youth transitioning from foster care who are at imminent risk of homelessness or are currently homeless.

Priority is given to the highest need, the most vulnerable young adults with the most risk factors and fewest protective factors. Enrollees are provided comprehensive, targeted wraparound services that include a youth-driven assessment, an individualized plan, and intensive and holistic case management. Funding for early housing intervention programs for young adults, such as PATHS and RHY programs have demonstrated a long-term cost benefit.

SSHG grantees are required to maintain an accurate record of clients served within the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The following information is collected from each client: household demographics, income, supportive services received, and the number of shelter nights provided. During the current reporting period, agencies served 2,031 individuals. These funds enabled agencies to significantly increase the number of people served, during the months of greatest need.

Performance Report

In 2024, 1,099 new and unduplicated youth were served through state funded RHY programs. Of those 1,099 youth, 336 new and unduplicated youth were provided formal shelter through a state funded RHY program. Service provision is targeted to meet the needs of individual youth. Included within Wisconsin's RHY service array are crisis intervention, family mediation, shelter care, referrals to community partners, counseling, basic need supplies, and aftercare services.

Service provision to RHY recipients was targeted to meet the needs of individual youth. Included within Wisconsin's RHY service array are crisis intervention, family mediation, shelter care, referrals to community partners, counseling, basic need supplies, and aftercare services. While the youth/young adult population is housing insecure, minors are unable to enter legal contracts, making eviction prevention only relevant to minors who are experiencing family homelessness. In those cases, the RHY provider would refer the parent/guardian to a Continuum of Care (CoC) partner.

The project achieved its goal of providing critically needed shelter or motel services since program inception. A total of 13,634 individuals were served in either congregate or non-congregate shelters. In addition, approximately 70,000 shelter nights were provided using SLFRF through this program.

State of Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention

50500 ARPASTATEOVP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$10,675,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Office of Violence Prevention (Office) was established by the Governor under Executive Order 254 on December 16, 2024. The grant amount was awarded to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) to establish the Office of Violence Prevention, which will conduct outreach and policy related work on violence prevention, and for associated salary, fringe, and supplies and services for the Office and for administering a \$10 million statewide violence prevention program to support, replicate, and expand effective, evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by violence. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis according to criteria established by DOA and administered as outlined in programmatic documents it establishes.

Use of Evidence

The hiring of the Executive Director for the Office to administer the program is underway, and initial stages of the development of grant program materials have begun.

Performance Report

As noted above, the hiring of the office's executive director is underway, and grant program materials are under development.

Summer Camp Grants

50500 ARPASUMCAMP

Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

Funding Amount: \$1,997,717.79

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/SummerCampAssistanceGrants.aspx

Project Overview

The program, administered by the Department of Administration, provided up to \$50,000 or the amount of the decrease in the applicant's federal taxable income (for-profit camps) or total net receipts (non-profit camps) between tax years 2019 and 2020, whichever is less, to overnight summer camps serving school-aged children and persons with disabilities that faced reduced enrollments and closures during the pandemic.

Use of Evidence

Grant applicants were required to demonstrate a financial loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report

Grants were provided to 37 organizations. This program is complete with no new activity in the latest performance period.

Targeted Community Projects

50500 ARPATCP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$36,630,000.00

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

This program supports five community projects with a transformative local, regional, or statewide impact.

Bronzeville Center for the Arts:

The Bronzeville Center for the Arts received a \$5 million grant, elevating the history and culture of African Americans as a Wisconsin cultural tourism destination. The project consists of the design, planning, demolition, and site preparation activities necessary to develop the 3.4-acre Site into the Bronzeville Center for the Arts (the "Center"), an approximately 50,000-square-foot facility consisting of a museum, black box theatre, plaza, and green space that will turn this now vacant corner into a cultural asset and tourist destination to serve as a welcome and important part of the renaissance of the Bronzeville Arts and Cultural District, drawing from and providing benefit to artists, students, and residents all over Wisconsin.

City of Janesville:

The Janesville Sports and Convention Center will receive \$15 million for the construction of a new facility that is expected to become a regional venue for athletic events to Southcentral Wisconsin, generating an estimated \$13 million in new economic impact. The project involves demolishing a building that has been vacant since 2019 and building an ice arena, a multi-purpose arena with adjustable floor space for sports or conventions, and flex space to host trade shows and other athletic competitions.

Milwaukee Development Corp:

With a contribution of \$9.3 million for the Milwaukee Iron District, construction of a new soccer stadium will transform a long-vacant property into a thriving destination, attracting visitors to a new 8,000-person capacity soccer stadium and related sports facility that includes a professional-level field turf to accommodate numerous soccer, lacrosse, and cultural events, skills and performance training facilities, a medical treatment facility, meeting and classroom space, vending and retail for local food, beverage and artists, and optimized accessibility for all guests.

National Railroad Museum:

An investment of \$7 million for the Green Bay National Railroad Museum expansion will help meet a growing need to provide better accessibility and immersive programming. The project will expand the Museum's Lenfestey Center by approximately 25,000 square feet, most of which will house exhibits, and educational and community space.

Peninsula Players:

Governor Evers committed to preserving America's oldest professional resident summer theater in an idyllic setting along the shores of Green Bay. This program invests \$330,000 in Peninsula Players Theatre in Door County to provide safe and modern dormitory facilities for the theatre company. The need for modern dormitory facilities has been critical for the last 20 years as fundraising priorities centered on theater rebuild. Some of the facilities dated to the 1920s.

Use of Evidence

Selected projects were thoroughly reviewed and selected as part of the State's biennial capital budgeting process, including review of anticipated community impacts, project feasibility, and financial need.

Performance Report

Bronzeville Center for the Arts:

Construction of the planning office and gallery for the Bronzeville Center for the Arts, Gallery 507, began on March 1, 2023, and is now completed. The facility was constructed predominantly by Milwaukee based minority-owned businesses. The state of art two-story facility features a green roof, custom gallery lighting, and an improvement to the built environment in the Bronzeville commercial corridor. Outcomes have included job retention and job creation in the building construction subcontractor community, as well as blight elimination. Another outcome is that community members perceive the neighborhood more positively.

City of Janesville:

Construction for this project is ongoing and is scheduled to be completed in the second half of 2025.

Milwaukee Development Corporation:

This project is in the initial stages.

National Railroad Museum:

Construction for this project is ongoing and is scheduled to be completed in the second half of 2025.

Peninsula Players Theatre:

Prior to the upgrade, the interns and staff supporting the Peninsula Players Theatre (Theatre) were housed in antiquated structures, some of which dated back to when Camp Wildwood inhabited the property in the 1920s. Some of the buildings were donated to the Theater and moved onto the property to accommodate the company in its earliest years. Theatre housing consisted of fourteen

bedrooms, which could accommodate a maximum of twenty-five individuals. These structures were not equipped with standard conveniences such as running water, indoor plumbing, or climate control. A mobile outdoor shower trailer acted as the main bathroom facility for the interns and staff.

Beginning on September 9, 2022, construction commenced to provide new dormitories to address the existing housing shortcomings and to include modern amenities, such as a laundry room, private bathrooms, and a shared kitchen. Renovations were completed on May 12, 2023, increasing the capacity of the Theatre dormitories to thirty-two individuals, which ultimately will fulfill the Theater's current critical need and will allow for future growth.

Tourism Capital Grants

50500 ARPATRSMCAP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$22,132,730.38

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/TourismCapitalGrantProgram.aspx

Project Overview

Wisconsin's tourism industry was one of the hardest hit throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Investments in tourism infrastructure were intended to ensure the industry's continued economic recovery. A total of \$22 million was awarded to 26 tourism-related nonprofit organizations and local and Tribal governments through the Tourism Capital grant program to restore economic activity in Wisconsin through eligible infrastructure projects, such as convention centers, travel infrastructure, and public or nonprofit attractions.

The program created two primary categories of projects to fund: those above \$300,000 (up to \$3.5 million) and those below \$300,000. While not specifically tied to the size or geography of municipalities, these two categories allowed for the funding of some smaller communities that might not otherwise have been competitive against larger grant applications and projects from larger municipalities. This helped increase the geographic diversity of municipalities receiving grants that met their communities' needs.

The goal of the program is to help promote, maintain, or bolster Wisconsin tourism while emphasizing pandemic recovery and sustainability.

Examples of awarded projects include:

- \$3.5 million for an improved South Shore Cruise Terminal to accommodate increased maritime travel and tourism in the City of Milwaukee
- \$3.5 million for a gathering point for visitors and residents in Wisconsin Dells
- \$2.5 million for an office and visitor center near the Titletown district in Green Bay
- \$3.2 million to complete significant upgrades to the New Holland Pavilions to meet the demands of livestock events year-round at the Alliant Energy Center in Dane County
- \$250,000 to create a 15,000-square-foot parking area, refurbish a 22,000 square foot parking area, and extend 220 linear feet of sidewalk from the parking area to the Paine Art Center and Gardens entrance, including landscape, lighting, and signage improvements in Oshkosh

Use of Evidence

Project performance will inform future policy and program recommendations.

Performance Report

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) awarded funds to 26 tourism-related nonprofit organizations and local and Tribal governments. As grantees complete their projects, they will report on the number of individuals served during the performance period, amount of tourism dollars created by the grant, and whether funds led to the retention or creation of jobs.

Approximately 20 projects have been closed. The closeout report data show that more than 290,000 individuals have been served during the program's performance period, nineteen jobs were created, and \$13.0 million in tourism spending has occurred due to this program. The following are examples of completed projects:

- Experience Greater Green Bay Corporation received a \$2.5 million Tourism Capital Grant to construct a 12,500 square foot, two-story office and visitor center space near the Titletown District in Green Bay, creating a stand-alone, informational and interactive environment to better engage and make a positive impact on visitors. In the year after its opening, from September 2023 to September 2024, the new visitor center space hosted 5,700 visitors, generated over \$1.2 million in revenue for local businesses, increased hotel occupancy rates by approximately 12%, and through the ongoing operations of the center created five jobs for local residents. The new center supported Green Bay and its over 250,000 visitors for the 2025 NFL draft, which was projected to have invested over \$20 and \$94 million into the local and state economy, respectively.
- Milwaukee County received a \$3.5 million Tourism Capital Grant to renovate its Humboldt Penguin Exhibit, allowing the zoo to add interactive features to the already popular attraction while providing a state-of-the-art habitat. The project broke ground in March 2024 and hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on December 11, 2024.
- American Players Theater in Spring Green received a \$971,400 grant to American Players
 Theatre to make major upgrades to their parking lot. Upgrades included installing LED
 lighting, expanding the lot to accommodate 75 additional spaces, improving drainage and
 storm water runoff, paving the portion of the lot that accommodates accessible parking, and
 adding an accessible picnic area. The project was completed in December 2023.
- The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation in Hayward received a \$762,800 grant to build 3.5 miles of paved trails, an outdoor community fitness park, mountain bike trail, a biathlon venue, and an observation tower. The project was completed December 2024, and the Foundation reports these features are drawing tourists to the ski area and the community.
- The Wisconsin Dells Visitor and Convention Bureau received a \$3.5 million grant to build Elm Street Plaza (ESP) which opened on May 19, 2023. The Elm Street Plaza was transformed into a 35,000 square foot free outdoor gathering and entertainment space in the center of downtown Wisconsin Dells, with a community stage, concessions, public restrooms, water features, Wisconsin Dells themed-mural wings wall, and a six-foot tall granite fountain. The project was completed November 2022.
- Driftless Development Inc. received a \$119,200 grant to host the 350th Historic Celebration
 of Marquette and Jolliet's 1673 expedition in Prairie du Chien. The even featured a historical
 reenactment, a historic art exhibit, axe throwing, wood carving, carriage rides, a food court,
 an art fair, live music, carnival performances, and more. The event was held June 16-18,
 2023, and it drew approximately 25,000 visitors.

• The Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh received a \$288,200 grant to expand and

Violence Prevention Initiative

50500 ARPAVPI

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: **\$26,435,224.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Violence Prevention program supports the Medical College of Wisconsin Comprehensive Injury Center's (MCW-CIC) Violence Prevention Project and the City of Milwaukee's Office of Community Wellness and Safety (OCWS) [formerly known as Office of Violence Prevention]. The initiatives respond to the uptick in violence and trauma during the pandemic by using public health-based solutions. The funds support statewide research and community-based solutions that address the root causes of violence. Several programs were included in this grant.

City of Milwaukee-Office of Community Wellness and Safety (\$8.4 million award)

This Office takes a public health approach to violence prevention by addressing the significant increases in crime and decreases in markers of community well-being. Targeted violence prevention efforts include crisis response coordination, family violence and suicide prevention intervention, youth violence prevention intervention, launch of the Violence Prevention Partnership, neighborhood-based implementation of the Blueprint for Peace through the Promise Zones, OCWS internal capacity support, including adding staff, and expansion of community violence intervention teams. The project includes competitive re-granting to community-based organizations, as well as significant coordination with community organizations and residents.

Targeted locations and populations are within the Promise Zones. Key partners include City of Milwaukee departments, community organizations, culturally led and responsive organizations, youth organizations, grassroots organizations, and the community. The intended outcome is to increase resources and services in Promise Zone areas and the City of Milwaukee and to decrease violence.

City of Milwaukee - Earn and Learn Summer Youth Employment Programs (\$635,200 award)

Camp RISE is a free summer enrichment and career exploration program that aims to provide Milwaukee youth with the tools to become leaders in their community.

Camp RISE includes an evidence-based youth leadership curriculum to empower participants to help them make positive decisions and contribute to a better society. The 7-week camp (June 20 – July 28) programming included field trips, career exploration, beautifying Milwaukee through community projects, building teamwork skills, and mentorship. Camp RISE is an Earn and Learn initiative, developed in partnership with Voices of the Elders, Milwaukee Public Schools, and the City of Milwaukee.

The EARN & LEARN Summer Youth Employment Program (EARN & LEARN) started in 2007 and is designed to provide meaningful work experiences and career exposure to young adults aged 14-24 years old, residing in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee. The program is 7 weeks (June 20 – August 4).

The program provides structured, well-organized work-based learning experiences, role models that encourage youth to continue in or return to school, career assessment, awareness, and exploration as part of the learning experience and opportunities that may lead to unsubsidized employment for youth making the transition from school.

Medical College of Wisconsin – Wisconsin Violence Prevention Priorities Program (\$17 million total award)

Through this award, the Comprehensive Injury Center (CIC) at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) will provide technical and research assistance and support to community organizations, health departments, and non-profits around the state engaging in violence prevention work. The funds will be used to hire staff to provide this support for entities across the state of Wisconsin.

This effort will be advanced through the following core activities:

- Facilitate the development and administration of a statewide community safety and violence prevention fund in partnership with the Governor's staff and other designated administrative and community leaders. This will include management of the planning process for developing geographic, program, and selection criteria for statewide violence prevention grant program; administering the request for proposals and facilitating review and selection process for statewide violence prevention fund; managing administration of the statewide grants including contract execution, compliance, and evaluation; and administering the statewide violence prevention grants to communities selected to implement projects in accordance with the intended purpose and priorities of the funds.
- Assist in the development of a statewide data dashboard for tracking rates of injury and violence throughout the state
- Provide training and technical assistance to counties and municipalities pursuing comprehensive approaches to injury and violence prevention including suicide
- Provide research and evaluation support to track, assess, and disseminate promising practices for injury and violence prevention
- Developing and staffing a statewide Office of Violence Prevention
- Sustainability of Milwaukee's Violence Response Health and Safety Team's (VR-PHAST) effort to address gun violence as a public crisis

Use of Evidence

The City of Milwaukee's OCWS programs will provide evidence-based practices and evaluation measures. As the implementation continues, internal evaluation measures will be reported to indicate specific evidence-based methods that include the collective impact model and place-based strategies.

MCW-CIC's vision for healthier and safer communities by reducing intentional and unintentional injuries is strongly rooted in education, research, and community. Evidence-based practices, including from research the center funds, inform its focus on tangible and cross-cutting solutions to address crime and violence.

Performance Report

The City of Milwaukee Office of Community Wellness and Safety (OCWS) continued its work to build a strong infrastructure of the Milwaukee Crisis Response Network, providing emergency relocation services, de-escalation and mediation services from trained critical response specialists, clinical support services, and general referral support for other needs.

Program staff for both Camp RISE and Earn and Learn conducted the 2024 Earn and Learn summer youth employment program, providing leadership development and enrichment activities to participants, overseeing worksites, and training worksite supervisors.

In 2024, ten projects funded through the Medical College of Wisconsin's Wisconsin Community Safety Fund reached full implementation with staff and training. These projects across the state address safety priorities including suicide, domestic violence, community violence, youth engagement, and sexual assault.

Grantee Profiles:

• The Alma Center (\$775,600 award):

The Alma Center based in Milwaukee will design a statewide online and telephone intervention and prevention program called Breaking the Cycle to engage people at risk of, or who have a history of, causing harm to their intimate partner and/or family.

• The City of Green Bay (\$643,900 award):

The City of Green Bay will create an Office of Violence Prevention to increase community safety using stakeholder collaboration, resource coordination, community engagement, and community violence intervention strategies to address increased gun violence.

The City of Kenosha (\$419,300):

The City of Kenosha will establish the Key Emerging Leaders Academy to engage youth at highest risk for experiencing or engaging in community violence by increasing access to experiences that develop talents, life skills, and mentor relationships historically absent in six central neighborhoods.

The City of Racine (\$855,000 award):

The City of Racine will establish a citywide Office of Violence Prevention, engage local stakeholders, and develop a gun violence intervention plan with a focus on youth and developed based on community input and trends.

• Gundersen Health System (\$333,300 award):

Gundersen Health System will expand its Crime Victim Services (CVS) unit to address increasingly complex needs related to sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence since the pandemic; add CVS advocates; invest in partnerships; and increase capacity for culturally responsive and equitable care in a six-county service area.

• Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin (\$520,500 award):

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin will increase coordination to expand prevention, education, and outreach strategies to specific priority-populations to increase community safety and prevent sexual assault, gender-based violence, and child abuse.

• The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (\$538,300 award):

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians will expand services that prevent and respond to sexual assault using culturally specific approaches such as "Inga-dabinawe'aag" and "Inga-dabinawe'aag" and cultural settings to youth, adults, and Tribal community.

• Southeast Asian Healing Center (\$500,000 award):

Southeast Asian Healing Center (SEAHC), based in Madison, will address increased suicide risk and gender-based violence due to the pandemic using culturally specific strategies in Southeast Asian communities including education, prevention, and therapy with the goal of increasing overall community wellbeing.

• The University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics (\$1 million):

The University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics will expand their hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program; formalize a partnership with community partner, Focused Interruption; and conduct a gun violence analysis to identify strategies to address prevention, reduction, and response to gun violence.

Veterans Rental Assistance Program

50500 ARPAVRAP

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000.00

https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/Pages/AgencyResources/vrap.aspx

Project Overview

The Veterans Rental Assistance Program (VRAP), administered by the Department of Administration addresses the need for safe, sanitary housing for eligible veterans, made more acute by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program was intended to address housing insecurity and homelessness among Wisconsin veterans and provide housing assistance statewide. VRAP provided rental assistance for veterans whose income is up to 80 percent of the county median income and were unable to obtain housing. VRAP seeks to connect eligible households with stable, secure housing and economic stability.

Use of Evidence

This program was created following the work of the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity to develop comprehensive, long-term recommendations to help address challenges facing Wisconsin's more than 300,000 veterans. It was also a recommendation from the Interagency Council on Homelessness' "Welcoming Wisconsin Home" report. The project was structured to achieve this goal efficiently by utilizing the existing Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program structures, processes, and trusted partners.

Performance Report

The rental assistance payments have served 1,615 veterans and their families to help them remain in their housing.

Wisconsin Eye

50500 ARPAWISEYE

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$250,000.00**

https://wiseye.org/

Project Overview

This program invested in Wisconsin Eye, the state's nonprofit public affairs network, which provides streaming content of sessions of the State Legislature and its committees, as well as other state government-related content. This funding helped ensure that events related to Wisconsin's government and policymakers were available to the public.

Use of Evidence

Public health recommendations during the pandemic indicated that indoor mass gatherings of individuals should be limited, therefore increasing the importance of making public meetings accessible via streaming.

Performance Report

Funds helped to ensure video access to public meetings during the pandemic.

Workforce Innovation Grants

50500 ARPAWRKFCINV

Expenditure Category: **6.1-Provision of Government Services**

Funding Amount: \$126,723,713.45

https://wedc.org/workforce-innovation-grant-recipients/

Project Overview

The Workforce Innovation Grant (WIG) Program issued 27 unique awards with the goal of helping the regions of Wisconsin solve their most pressing workforce challenges by financially supporting collaborative, sustainable, and innovative pandemic-recovery plans developed by regional organizations.

This partnership between the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), provided grants of up to \$10 million each to encourage the development of leading-edge, long-term solutions that enable businesses to more easily find workers and empower those workers to more successfully prepare for and connect to the family-supporting careers in their regions.

WEDC continues to help DWD oversee the guidance of the individual WIG awards by hosting a regular monthly check-in with each awardee to keep a pulse on key programmatic milestones and events that highlight each program's success and provide the awardees an opportunity to get technical assistance for programmatic questions.

For the key milestone events, materials and information are gathered and shared with DWD and WEDC leadership to support participation and representation on behalf of the state to recognize the program's accomplishments using the state investments.

Additionally, WEDC's WIG Project Manager has also been working with WEDC's Marketing, Communications, and Leadership teams to develop a series of 8 reports covering the key workforce challenge areas that WIG awards are addressing:

- Rural Teacher Pipeline
- Workforce Transportation
- Career Pathways Training
- Health Services Workforce Pipeline
- Barriers to Entry
- Entrepreneurship
- Childcare
- Workforce Housing

Each of the reports will include a description of the broader workforce challenge, followed by an overview of the programs working to address it in their region, including key impacts, lessons learned, and best practice recommendations for other communities that may be interested in replicating the activities. Each report is also coordinated through DWD leadership and will be released on a regular schedule as co-branded reports throughout the summer and fall of 2025.

The WIG Project Manager also continues to coordinate with DWD's data team and WIG team on the development of Impact Surveys for each award, with the goal of gathering key details on the individual outcomes to calculate an estimated economic impact for the individual WIG awards and for WIG overall. WEDC's Strategic Performance team has also been consulted for input on the surveys and impact-modeling resources.

Lastly, WEDC's WIG Project manager continues to update a WIG Tracking Deck with information on each awardee, including a description of the challenge and solution, a dashboard tracking progress toward key programmatic deliverables, success stories (including individual and programmatic successes), and program replication efforts and opportunities, as well as the financial sustainability plans for each award beyond the WIG performance period.

Through the Workforce Innovation Grant, 11,806 workers have enrolled in sectoral job training programs, 7,720 workers have completed sectoral job training programs, and 598 people participated in summer youth employment programs.

Use of Evidence

WIG applicants were required to include data and evidence-based practices in developing their project proposals. Training provided to participants using grant funds aligns with high-demand and high-growth industries and occupations.

IDWD-DET has engaged a Research Analyst who is collecting and analyzing evaluation data related to these projects. The evaluation design process began December 2024 and launched to grantees in June 2025. Results from the evaluation are expected by Fall 2025 and this information will be used to help identify long-term, sustainable programs that can enhance Wisconsin's workforce development infrastructure.

Each grantee is required to report programmatic data, including training and employment outcomes when, applicable, to DWD-DET on a semi-annual basis. Each of the WIG awards was originally scored on its use of evidence in the development of its project plan.

Performance Report

The WIG program comprises 27 unique projects that will be evaluated independently against their approved project proposals as well as the measurable outcomes and deliverables identified in their individual grant agreements. This work is ongoing.

WISCOM Independent Verification and Validation

50500 ARPAWSCMIVV

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$4,000,000.00**

https://esupplier.wi.gov/psp/esupplier/SUPPLIER/ERP/c/WI SS SELF SERVICE.WI SS BIDDER PAGE.?&Pag e=WI SS BIDDER PAGE&Action=U&WI SS EVENT NBR=13693

Project Overview

The projected outcome of this project is that the contracted vendor will provide Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) services for the Statewide Public Safety Interoperable Communication System that is being implemented by L3Harris for the Department of Military Affairs. The IV&V vendor will follow a systematic review process and report all findings to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA).

Use of Evidence

Funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

The State Bureau of Procurement in DOA issued a Request for Services on this project. The selected vendor will move to a second phase which involves development of a statement of work, project timeline and budget that will be incorporated into the final negotiated contract.

YWCA Green Bay Grant

50500 ARPAYWCAGB

Expenditure Category: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Funding Amount: **\$200,000.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Early Childhood leads its program with a curriculum developed to be a bridge between home and school life, affirming student history and culture and centering voices and learning style in all classroom experiences.

This funding will be used to pilot a childcare program and then will expand to additional classrooms in the next year. This classroom will begin as a single classroom housed within YWCA's state licensed childcare center in 2025, expand to two to three classrooms in 2026, and then will potentially launch into a separate childcare center in 2027. This program will be led and staffed by childcare teachers who are mentored in teaching strategies and center operations by seasoned YWCA childcare staff. This program will include setting up a physical space for the classrooms, transitioning YWCA's food program to tailored menu operations, offsetting the higher staffing and training costs for the classrooms due to mentorship, and providing subsidies and support for new family tuition.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable

Performance Report

The intentional planning for the classroom began in October 2024. A project plan was developed with the support of partners from Community Services Agency (COMSA), Family and Childcare Resources of NEW (FCRNEW), and Brown County United Way.

The timeline is as follows through March 2025:

January 2025: a bilingual teacher joined the team; an early childhood mentor position was created to support workforce training; work began to start equipping the new classroom; and a meeting was held with seven women to discuss project goals and generate interest in working in early childhood at YWCA.

February 2025: Details were finalized of the 'Skills & Strategies' course to be offered in partnership with FCRNEW at YWCA the course will be translated; search for tailored menu and translation services begun.

March 2025: The 'Skills & Strategies' course began at YWCA and 20 sessions were completed by early April; teachers began hands-on prep work in the new classroom; and community outreach began.

State Public Defender Initiative

55000 ARPASPDI

Expenditure Category: 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Funding Amount: **\$14,048,200.00**

https://badgerbounceback.wi.gov/

Project Overview

While the court system in general did not close during the pandemic, cases proceeded more slowly which has created a backlog of unresolved cases. In October 2021, the State Public Defender (SPD) compared the first 52 weeks of the pandemic with the 52 weeks prior and found that it opened 19,000 fewer cases statewide. While all 19,000 may not be filed, the expectation was that a significant number of them would be. Wisconsin has seen a court backlog because of pandemic disruptions and, as of April 1, 2023, the Wisconsin Court system estimated there are still 13,542 felony cases and 3,339 misdemeanor cases that are considered backlogged. Of these 16,881 cases, SPD estimates that approximately 13,171 would financially qualify for a public defender. These investments in the criminal legal system have allowed it to start addressing these backlogs. For example, while the number of backlogged cases is declining in Milwaukee County, in January 2023, the Chief Judge estimated that it would take at least until the end of 2024 to make significant gains on the backlog. Resources provide both direct client representation and additional support to attorneys to ensure that more of their time can be spent representing clients. Ensuring that clients have an attorney as quickly as possible protects their constitutional rights and benefits counties, courts, and others in the criminal justice system by allowing cases to proceed with representation.

Use of Evidence

In determining the most efficient distribution of resources, SPD utilized several data points including the number of backlogged cases in counties statewide, the distribution of current SPD staff statewide, the workload of current staff, the number of current vacancies, the capacity to add staff in certain regions, and the impact additional resources would have.

Performance Report

This funding was used to hire up to 65 project positions and numerous LTEs. Below are the approximate number of hours worked by each FTE project position type this fiscal year:

Assistant State Public Defender Attorney: 15,500 hours

Client Services Specialist: 9,600 hours

Legal Secretary: 10,900 hours

Paralegal: 36,800 hours

Public Defender Investigator: 15,200 hours

- Information Technology Specialist: 1,500
- Human Resource Specialists: 1,800
- 134 LTE positions in all classifications with approximately 45,300 hours of assistance to FTE staff

The attorney positions provide direct client representation focused on reducing the number of outstanding cases pending because of the pandemic.

The client services specialist, legal secretary, paralegal, and investigator, information technology specialist, and human resource specialist positions provide support to staff attorneys, both through this initiative and state funding. These positions have had the most significant impact on mitigating the backlog by allowing attorneys to focus on direct client representation and providing more expeditious appointment and resolution of cases by having a more comprehensive public defense team.

Hotel and Lodging Grants

56600 ARPALODGING

Expenditure Category: 2.35-Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

Funding Amount: \$72,275,742.55

https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/TaxPro/2021/WITomorrowLodgingRecoveryGrant.aspx

Project Overview

This program provided direct payments to lodging establishments in Wisconsin during the pandemic in response to the economic impact the pandemic had on the industry. Eligible potential grantees were pre-selected by the Department of Revenue (DOR) using NAICS codes. Potential grantees were sent invitations to the program in July 2021, with responses due by August 2021. Payments were sent out between August 12, 2021, and October 5, 2021. The grants were awarded based on a percentage of decreased sales between 2019 and 2020. All lodging establishments were included in the program. The maximum grant allowed was \$2 million.

Use of Evidence

Grant applicants were required to demonstrate a financial loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report

The Wisconsin Tomorrow Lodging Grant program timely awarded 968 grants, beginning in 2021. The Department built on its experience awarding grants, and used tax records to pre-select grantees.

Wisconsin Small Business Grants

56600 ARPAWSBG

Expenditure Category: 2.29-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Funding Amount: \$88,435,191.63

https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/TaxPro/2021/WisconsinTomorrowSmallBusinessRecoveryGrant.aspx

Project Overview

Wisconsin Tomorrow Small Business Grants provided \$5,000 to each business that applied and met the grant requirements. Requirements included having existing revenue of at least \$10,000 in yearly sales, up to \$7 million in yearly sales. Applications went out in May of 2021 and were due in June 2021. The purpose of the grants was to assist small businesses with persevering through the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Payments were made between June 29, 2021, through September 29, 2021. The intended outcome was to give businesses a direct payment grant as soon as possible to assist them with the increased costs of safely serving customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence

Grant applicants were required to demonstrate a financial loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report

These grant awards were made promptly and timely, beginning in 2020. This project is complete, with no new activity during this performance period.

Across federal funding sources, this program provided grants to a total of 60,623 small businesses in all 72 counties.