

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) PROGRAM NARRATIVES

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Program

WORKFORCE ADVANCEMENT TRAINING (WAT) GRANTS

Inception

2005 Act 25
Authorizing Statute 38.41
Administrative Rule TCS 17

Expected outcomes

Percent of business partners who thought the employee skill gains produced by the training met or exceeded their expectations: expected 90%, actual 97%

Percent of businesses that sought to improve the work environment through training and felt that their expectations were met or exceeded: expected 90%, actual 100%

Percent of business partners who said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the technical college's services: expected 90%, actual 96%

Percent of business partners who said they probably or definitely would recommend the college's services to others: expected 90%, actual 98%

Percent of business partners who said they probably or definitely would use the college's services again: expected 90%, actual 98%

These measures reflect customer satisfaction information for 2020-21 WAT grant projects, as information for 2021-22 is not yet available.

Program goal

Wisconsin statute authorizes the WTCS Office to make grant awards to technical colleges for worker skills training. Grants in this category are awarded to promote increased investment in the development of incumbent workers, improve Wisconsin businesses' productivity and competitiveness, augment the state's economic base and expand technical college training services to businesses and industry. Grants are awarded to upgrade the skills and productivity of employees of established businesses operating in Wisconsin, with the additional objective of supporting regional workforce and economic development efforts.

Incentives and Available Funding

In FY22, the program was funded at a level of GPR \$3.97 million in general purpose revenue. \$500,000 was set aside for grants serving small businesses. The remaining \$3.47 million was available for grants serving businesses of any size.

Program description

WAT Grants are made to technical college districts as directed by statute, and the colleges submit applications in partnership with employers or consortia of employers. WAT Grants promote increased investment in the development of incumbent workers, improve Wisconsin businesses' productivity and competitiveness, augment the state's economic base, support career pathways and expand technical college training services to businesses and industry throughout the state. Training under these grants must focus on occupational skills but can include a combination of occupational, academic and employability topics or courses.

Program

WORKFORCE ADVANCEMENT TRAINING (WAT) GRANTS (CONTINUED)

Program activity

In FY22, the WAT Grants funded 44 projects and served 8,473 individuals.

Measures reflect customer satisfaction information for 2020-21 WAT Grant projects, as information for 2021-22 is not yet available.

Eligibility requirements

WAT Grants are focused on improving occupational skills, and a wide range of training is feasible under this umbrella. In addition to specific job-related skills such as welding, electrical maintenance and customer relations, WAT Grants have covered more general topics such as quality improvement, Lean adoption, supervision and management, teamwork, problem solving, computing, manufacturing core skills, small business development and occupational health and safety. Basic skills or English language learning instruction that supports the occupational skill training may also be provided under the grants.

Recommended changes

None