



**Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
Program Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2023**

Program Name: Capacity Building Grant

Program Inception: WEDC FY13

Lead Division: Business and Community Development

New

Revised

Aid

Pass-thru Aid

Technical Assistance

Program Goal:

The goal of the Capacity Building Program is to support local and regional economic development efforts in the state of Wisconsin.

Program Description:

The program provides funds to assist local, regional, and state-wide nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to further the goals of WEDC in its efforts to foster an advanced economic development network within the state of Wisconsin.

Eligibility Requirements:

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Planning initiatives or assessments of the economic competitiveness of the area (e.g. workforce, infrastructure, sustainability, export capacity)
- Initiatives that will assist or enhance an organization's ability to develop or deliver economic development programming that helps to identify or address issues or challenges of an area or the state
- Implementation of pilot programs or economic development best practices
- Marketing by regional economic development organizations. Regional economic development organizations may receive grants not to exceed \$100,000 or the amount of matching funds the organization obtains from sources other than WEDC or the state, whichever is less, to fund marketing activities.¹

Capacity Building funding may not be used for past costs, nor may past costs incurred prior to application be considered for matching funds, if applicable.

WEDC may take the following into account when evaluating Capacity Building applications:

- The likelihood the proposed effort will result in long-term benefits to the organization, its

¹ Wis. Stat. §238.135.



members, the region or state, or its clients

- The degree to which the organization can influence state or regional economic conditions (e.g. number of localities served, geography, membership size)
- The extent to which the problem has been approached through regional collaboration with other economic development groups and other local jurisdictions
- The extent to which the project will provide an impact to economically distressed communities or rural areas of Wisconsin
- The financial need demonstrated by the applicant
- The extent to which the proposed effort can be replicated throughout Wisconsin

WEDC may require matching funds depending on the project's attributes.

Incentives and Available Funding (FY23): \$750,000

The amount of funding per project will generally be up to \$50,000. Projects that demonstrate significant regional or statewide impact may receive additional funding.

Activities and Expected Outcomes:

Assist up to ten organizations

Performance Reporting:

Recipients will be required to periodically submit a performance report documenting specific project activities, as well as any other contract deliverables.

WEDC annually selects awards on a sample basis for an audit. All backup documentation to the performance report is required to be maintained for the life of the award.

WEDC may impose additional reporting requirements to evaluate project performance and to ensure compliance with contract deliverables.

Application and Awards Process:

The Capacity Building program has a continuous application process. Applicants for a Capacity Building Grant should complete an application through an Account Manager. The completed application will be assigned to an underwriter and go through the award review process.

For more information on application review, internal process, and award distribution, please refer to WEDC's award administration policies and procedures.

Revision History:

Effective Date	Description of Change
7/1/2017	Eliminated pilot status for Entrepreneurship Support track
7/1/2019	Clarified performance reporting requirements; standardized application and awards process
7/1/2020	Expanded eligibility and funding for COVID-19 recovery initiatives
7/1/2021	Transferred Entrepreneurship Support track to the ETA program; eliminated temporary CARES Act provisions

PROGRAM REVIEW:

This document has been reviewed by the following parties (Check all that apply):

- Chief Operating Officer
- Chief Legal Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Other _____

Senior VP Strategic Investment and Policy: _____
enter a date.

Date Click or tap to

Division Vice President: _____

Date Click or tap to enter a date.

AUTHORIZED APPROVAL:

CEO or Designee: _____

Date Click or tap to enter a date.