

FABRICATION LABORATORIES GRANT PROGRAM

EQUIPPING STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

The **Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Labs) Grant Program** is designed to support hands-on science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) education by assisting Wisconsin public school districts with purchases of equipment used for instructional and educational purposes in fab labs. This learning environment enables students to learn the skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century global economy.

By helping to fund labs that school districts might not otherwise be able to afford, this program allows more K-12 students to receive direct experience with STEAM skills—and ultimately leads to more graduates entering the workforce equipped with these skills. This program demonstrates that Wisconsin understands how important STEAM skills are to the business community as well as new companies seeking to locate here. Fab labs also serve a broader economic development purpose by acting as a resource for entrepreneurs, inventors, and businesses from their local areas—thus sparking innovation in their surrounding communities.

How it works

WEDC will provide grants of up to \$25,000 to eligible Wisconsin public school districts, or up to \$50,000 to consortiums of two or more public school districts, for the creation and/or expansion of fabrication laboratories within the school district(s). The minimum grant amount available is \$10,000. The funds may be used to purchase equipment used for instructional and educational purposes by elementary, middle, junior high, or high school students.

Applicants must supply matching funds equal to at least 50% of the grant amount provided by WEDC. Prior purchases of equipment may not be counted for grant reimbursement or the match amount. Applicants may only be awarded one grant per fiscal year, with a lifetime limit of three grants (with exemptions to this limit for Milwaukee Public Schools, for the expansion of a fab lab to allow use by K-8 students, and for the expansion or addition of a fab lab to include artificial intelligence or related skills training).

Eligibility requirements

Fab Labs Grants will be awarded through a non-competitive process on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications evaluated based on readiness and long-range planning, curriculum, business and community partnerships, financial need, and previous awards.

APPLYING FOR A FAB LABS GRANT

For more information about the Fab Labs Program and to apply, please visit wedc.org/fablabs.

This page contains application details, the full program guidelines and answers to frequently asked questions. It also contains a link to a resource page with additional details about setting up a fab lab and equipping it for student success.

For program details and questions, please contact:

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