



# WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

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# WORKFORCE ADVANCEMENT TRAINING GRANTS

## WEBSITE

[mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/grants-data-reporting/grants/state-grants/](https://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/grants-data-reporting/grants/state-grants/)

## INCEPTION

2005 Act 25

Authorizing Statute 38.41

Administrative Rule TCS 17

## PROGRAM GOAL

Wisconsin statute authorizes the Wisconsin Technical College System 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.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) Grants are made to technical college districts as directed by statute, and the colleges submit applications in partnership with an employer or a consortium 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 industries 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.

## 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, 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.

## INCENTIVES AND AVAILABLE FUNDING

In FY24, the program was funded at a level of GPR \$4.85 million. \$500,000 was set aside for grants serving small businesses. The remaining \$4.35 million was available for grants serving businesses of any size.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Percent of business partners who thought the employee skill gains produced by the training met or exceeded their expectations: 98.5%

Percent of the businesses that sought to improve the work environment through training felt that their expectations were met or exceeded: 99.1%

Percent of business partners who said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the technical college's services: 97.6%

Percent of business partners who said they probably or definitely would recommend the college's services to others: 98.8%\*

Percent of business partners who said they probably or definitely would use the college's services again: 98.2%

*\*Measures reflect customer satisfaction information for 2023-24 WAT grant projects as information for 2024-25 is not yet available.*

**PROGRAM ACTIVITY**

In FY24, WAT grants funded 47 projects and served 8,871 individuals.

**RECOMMENDED CHANGES**

None