

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR:

# PROGRAM EVALUATION – TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

# ISSUED BY: WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ON: NOVEMBER 18, 2025

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ed Roeger at <a href="mailto:Edward.Roeger@wedc.org">Edward.Roeger@wedc.org</a> by December 5,2025 at 4 p.m. CT.

## PROPOSAL MUST BE SUBMITTED BY: **DECEMBER 12, 2025, 4 P.M. CT**

TO:

Shelly Braun
At Shelly.Braun@wedc.org

**LOOK FORWARD** 

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to obtain proposals for a comprehensive evaluation of WEDC's Technology Development Loan (TDL) program to assess its past effectiveness, understand its impact on Wisconsin's early-stage business ecosystem, and identify opportunities to strengthen the program's design for greater future economic benefit. Interested proposers need to prepare and submit a proposal for the following:

#### I. SCOPE

WEDC is seeking an in-depth program evaluation and analysis of its Technology Development Loan (TDL) program in order to:

- Understand the effectiveness TDL investments have had:
- Assess the benefit that the program provides to the early-stage business ecosystem; and
- Inform the design of the program going forward to provide the highest economic benefit to the State of Wisconsin.

Greater detail regarding the program can be found in Appendix A.

The evaluation should be considerate of all awards (loans) contracted across fiscal years 2016 through 2022 (107 awards, of which approximately 38% are still in repayment) and include both an assessment of project outcomes and impacts, as well as a diagnostic and comparative analysis of the program's current structure. WEDC is not seeking a rudimentary summary of its awarding activities or an analysis that is purely rear facing; rather, WEDC seeks to identify where the program has been most impactful and what potential changes could increase its effectiveness going forward.

WEDC seeks a comprehensive evaluation of the TDL program. Proposers should describe their approach to addressing the following areas as part of their evaluation.

#### 1. EVALUATION OF THE EXISTING PORTFOLIO:

- a. Which business measures most strongly indicate success for the awards in the program, and are there data points that are not currently collected that would contribute towards a more complete picture of project outcomes?
- b. From the application and awarding data and the submitted project performance reports, what types of businesses benefit the most from the program?
- c. How do the trends in recipient types correspond to the business segment that the program is intending to reach?
- d. Do Wisconsin early-stage companies that received a TDL award grow faster, raise more funding, and/or stay in business longer than Wisconsin peers in similar business stages who have not participated in the program?

#### 2. PROGRAM BENCHMARKING:

a. Provide a comparison of the TDL program to other states' technology development or technology transfer incentive programs, both loan and grant types, and also indicate which other states may have a similar technology startup business landscape.

b. How does the TDL program fit into Wisconsin's capital markets for earlystage technology businesses, i.e., what is the economic need that the program fulfills and what are the other alternative funding sources for the businesses that the program seeks to support?

#### 3. PROGRAM STRUCTURE ANALYSIS:

- a. What aspects of the loan program fit particularly well or poorly for the recipient businesses?
- b. Do amendments for loan term adjustments in the TDL program lead to success outcomes in a way that is on par with what is seen in the wider venture debt products market, and how does the level of post-contracting terms rework compare (for the program's recipient types) to what is seen outside of the program?
- c. What are the benefits and drawbacks of this program being structured as a loan assistance type (versus as a grant)?
- d. Based on the program's target impact and the business types that the program seeks to support, what would be the suggested risk tolerance and expected return on investment (in terms of the direct return from lending) for the program?
- e. What aspects of the TDL program do not seem to fit the Wisconsin and/or national economy of 2025?

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. WEDC is seeking recommendations, both in terms of program data collection and structure, based on the above evaluation, analysis, and benchmarking, in addition to designing a model incentive program with clear evaluation criteria that will provide a high economic impact to the State of Wisconsin. WEDC requests a recommendation as to best practice on timing & frequency of future internal and 3rd party evaluations.

An expectation of this evaluation is that a review of pertinent internal and external research and analysis will be performed, and the evaluation will proceed in line with generally accepted best practices.

At a minimum, the contracted evaluator will provide progress reporting to our steering committee through bi-weekly meetings.

Expected Timeline				
RFP Issued	11/18/2025			
Deadline to Submit Questions	12/5/2025			
Final Answers to Submitted Questions Posted	12/8/2025			
Proposals Due	12/12/2025			
Committee Review of Proposals	12/18/2025			
Approval of Award	12/19/2025			
Contracting	12/19/2025 - 1/9/2026			
Project work	1/9/2026 - 4/23/2026			
Draft report due to WEDC	4/24/2026			
Final evaluation report due to WEDC*	5/15/2026			

<sup>\*</sup> Vendor shall present the final evaluation report to WEDC Leadership in-person

#### II. WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is a public body corporate and politic governed by Chapter 238 of the Wisconsin Statutes. WEDC was created under 2011 Wisconsin Act 7 and 2011 Wisconsin Act 32 to replace the economic and community development operations of the former Wisconsin Department of Commerce and to serve as the State of Wisconsin's lead economic development organization. WEDC is governed by a Board of Directors. WEDC's Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Governor.

WEDC provides financial and technical assistance to communities, businesses, and organizations in Wisconsin for the purpose of supporting an economy for all. WEDC provides grants, loans, tax credits, and other financial and technical assistance to its customers.

WEDC's mission is to strategically invest in Wisconsin to enhance the economic well-being of people and their businesses and communities. With a vision of: An Economy for All, where every Wisconsinite has the opportunity to thrive.

#### **III. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### 1. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

a. Vendor's ability and approach to provide the services outlined in Section I, the scope of work.

#### 2. ORGANIZATIONAL AND STAFF CAPABILITIES

- a. Provide a brief description of the proposer's history and organization. The proposer must describe its organization in terms of the size, structure, areas of practice, and office location.
- b. Describe the proposer's experience performing related services.

c. Attach (or provide a link) to examples of three relevant engagements held by the proposer which identify similar experiences.

- d. Provide a list of all staff members who will be involved in carrying out the tasks covered by this RFP, describing each in terms of their involvement in specific tasks and qualifications.
- e. Provide a resume for each staff person proposed to provide the services under this RFP; each resume must include the qualifications, background, and experience of the staff person.
- f. Provide a list of any subcontractors (individual or organizational) that the proposer intends to use when providing services under this RFP (Note: the proposer is not required to use subcontractor(s). However, no subcontractor may be used without WEDC's prior written approval.

#### 3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/APPROACH TO THE PROJECT

- a. Describe, in detail, the proposer's technical approach to the project as outlined in section I "Scope" of this RFP.
- b. Describe, in general, the types and level of detail of data the proposer anticipates requiring to conduct the evaluation and to support the proposed analytical approach the types and level of detail of data the proposer anticipates requiring to conduct the evaluation and to support the proposed analytical approach
- c. Describe the proposer's capability with regard to working with confidential business data: receiving, analyzing, and anonymizing reporting.
- d. Provide a timeline for conducting the work under this RFP. While the end date is flexible, WEDC would like the final evaluation to be due by May 15, 2026, with a draft due to WEDC by April 24, 2026.
- e. Indicate in your proposal if the work under this RFP will be performed remotely, in person, or hybrid.

#### 4. DOCUMENTS

- a. Provide a copy of the proposer's W-9.
- b. Provide a copy of the proposer's standard contract documents.
- c. Provide a completed form of Supplier Demographic Attestation

#### IV. COST PROPOSAL

Proposers should provide a fixed cost proposal for the services to be provided under this RFP, including anticipated out of pocket costs. The cost proposal should include the estimated number of hours and the billing rate for each level of team member assigned to the engagement. The cost proposal shall be a "not to exceed" total cost for the services provided under this RFP which should include any travel costs, if any.

#### V. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following terms and conditions apply to this RFP and any resulting contract awarded. Proposers are expected to comply with them as written, and they are generally non-negotiable.

#### 1. CONFIDENTIALITY

Proposer acknowledges that all information, data, records, and documents disclosed by WEDC to proposer, or which come to proposer's attention during the course of its response to this RFP or performance under any resulting contract constitute valuable and proprietary assets of WEDC (Confidential Information). The proposer agrees not to disclose the Confidential Information, either directly or indirectly, to any person, entity or affiliate unless required to do so by legal process of law without prior authorization by WEDC. If required to disclose Confidential Information by legal process, Proposer shall provide WEDC with prompt notice so WEDC may seek an appropriate protective order. Except as required to respond to this RFP or during the course of its performance under the terms of any resulting Agreement, proposer shall not use any Confidential Information for its own purposes.

#### 2. CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Proposers' response to this RFP must include, in writing, disclosure of any potential conflict of interests that may arise from proposer's performing services for WEDC. Any resulting contract will require that if a vendor fails to disclose a potential conflict of interest, and if WEDC determines such failure to disclose involves a material conflict of interest, the vendor's contract may be declared to be void by WEDC and any amounts paid under the contract may be recovered by WEDC. Vendors shall advise WEDC of any changes in potential conflicts of interest. This language may change with the new procurement policy.

#### 3. NONDISCRIMINATION

Pursuant to Wisconsin law, any contract resulting from this RFP will include the following language regarding nondiscrimination:

In connection with the performance of work under this contract, Licensor agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, religion, color, handicap, sex, physical condition, developmental disability as defined in § 51.01(5), sexual orientation or national origin. This provision shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Except with respect to sexual orientation, Licensor further agrees to take affirmative action to ensure equal employment opportunities. The licensor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available for employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the recipient officer setting forth the provisions of the nondiscrimination clause.

#### 4. PUBLIC RECORDS

Responses to this RFP, any communication with WEDC, and any resulting contract and work product are subject to the public records laws of the State of Wisconsin, § 19.31 et seq. Proposers shall mark documents "confidential" where

appropriate for financial and other sensitive materials that should be, to the extent possible, be kept in confidence. WEDC will notify the proposer if it receives a public records request for materials marked confidential.

#### 5. INSURANCE

If awarded the contract, the proposer shall maintain insurance coverage sufficient to protect WEDC from claims arising from its operations under the contract, including, as applicable: Workers' Compensation, Comprehensive General Liability, including Contractual Liability, and Automobile Liability insurance (for any vehicles used in performance of the contract). WEDC may require proof of coverage prior to contract execution.

#### VI. RFP PROCESS

#### 1. REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

WEDC will provide reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, for individuals with disabilities upon request.

#### 2. COMMUNICATION WITH WEDC & SUBMITTING QUESTIONS All communication regarding this RFP shall be directed to WEDC's Strategic Performance Director, Ed Roeger at <u>Edward.Roeger@wedc.org.</u> Information regarding this RFP obtained from other sources is unofficial and nonbinding. Communication with other sources may be cause for rejection of a proposal. All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to WEDC's Strategic Performance Director, Ed Roeger, by December 5, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. CT.

#### 3. INCURRING COSTS

WEDC is not Liable for any cost incurred by a vendor for responding to this RFP.

#### 4. NEWS RELEASES

News releases pertaining to the RFP or to the acceptance, rejection or evaluation of proposals shall not be made without the prior written approval of WEDC.

#### 5. SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Proposers shall submit an electronic, PDF, version of their Proposal to WEDC's Senior Vice President of Strategic Investment and Evaluation, Shelly Braun at <a href="mailto:Shelly.Braun@wedc.org">Shelly.Braun@wedc.org</a>, no later than **December 12**, **2025**, at **4:00 p.m. CT. Hard copies will not be accepted.** The proposal is to be submitted on time. Proposal responses should follow the sequence and outline presented in this RFP.

#### **VII. EVALUATION OF RFP**

#### 1. PROPOSAL REVIEW, VERIFICATION, AND ACCEPTANCE

WEDC shall review the proposal to verify that it meets all specified requirements in the RFP. If it does not comply with instructions contained in the RFP may be rejected by WEDC. WEDC reserves the right to waive a particular specification if no proposer meets that specification. WEDC may request reports on the proposer's financial stability. WEDC may reject the proposal if the proposer is determined to have inadequate financial means to provide the required service. WEDC retains the right to accept or reject any I proposal, or accept or reject any part of a proposal, determined

to be in the best interest of WEDC. WEDC shall be the sole judge as to compliance with the instructions contained in this RFP. Proposal shall be firm for acceptance for sixty (60) days from date of proposal opening unless otherwise noted. A proposer may not modify its proposal after submission except to correct minor omissions or miscalculations as directed in writing by WEDC.

#### 2. PROPOSAL SCORING & EVALUATION CRITERIA

Mandatory requirements described in Section III (Proposal Requirements) must be met for a proposal to be considered for award under this RFP. WEDC may request a meeting with some qualified Vendors before the final selection. Proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the following criteria:

- a. <u>Consideration for the scope and objective</u> the extent to which the proposal demonstrates comprehension of the TDL program, the evaluation objectives, and the intended outcomes.
- b. <u>Technical approach and methodology</u> the clarity, feasibility, and appropriateness of the proposed approach to data organization, analysis, benchmarking, and evaluation, including any innovative approaches or demonstrated familiarity with similar programs.
- c. <u>Experience and qualifications</u> relevant experience of the firm and assigned personnel in economic development program evaluation and early-stage business ecosystems.
- d. <u>Deliverables and work plan</u> quality and clarity around proposed deliverables, timelines, and ability to meet reporting expectations.
- e. <u>Cost and Value</u> reasonableness and transparency of the proposed cost relative to the scope of work.

It is WEDC's intent to have its Supplier Diversity Program reflect its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, therefore, proposals from Diverse Businesses will receive a Five Percent (5%) preference during the proposal scoring process. WEDC strongly encourages Diverse Businesses to apply/submit proposals. (See Supplier Demographic Attestation attached)

In addition, WEDC values maximizing opportunities in Wisconsin for businesses, therefore a Five Percent (5%) bid preference will be given to proposers that are located in Wisconsin (Ten Percent (10%) cumulative if the proposer is diverse and located in Wisconsin).

#### 3. RIGHT TO REJECT PROPOSAL AND NEGOTIATE WITH PROPOSER WEDC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. WEDC may enter into negotiations with the vendor regarding the terms of the contract and the cost proposal before determining the highest scoring proposer. WEDC shall not, under any circumstances, reveal a proposer's cost proposal to any other proposer prior to contracting services.

#### 4. AWARD DECISION

WEDC will make the award to the proposer deemed to provide the services described in this RFP at the best value to WEDC, taking into consideration the proposer's experience, expertise, and cost proposals.

#### 5. NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

The proposer to this RFP will be notified in writing of WEDC's intent to award the contract as a result of this RFP.

### APPENDIX A: TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT LOAN CURRENT PROGRAM GUIDELINE

	Program Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2026							
Lead Division: Entrepreneurship and Innovation								
	New	■ Revised	7/1/2025					
	Grant	Loan	□Tax Credit	□Technical Assistance				

#### Introduction

**Background Information:** The Technology Development Loan (TDL) and Technology Development Fund (TDF) programs were created in 1987 by the state legislature as a part of the Wisconsin Development Fund. The focus of these programs was to help companies complete research and development projects and commercialize the products or services that resulted from these efforts with a goal of improving technology transfer rates. In the years that followed, the state agencies modified terms and repayment methods to better suit the needs of early-stage technology companies but were never able to invest significant amounts of money through the programs. In 2005, the legislature created the Technology Venture Fund (TVF) loan program and invested \$5 million to increase the number of resources available for the program under Wis. Stat. 560.275. When WEDC was formed in 2011, it combined the TDL, TDF, and TVF programs into the Technology Development Loan program.

The program was designed to offer investments in companies from pre-revenue research and development stage through growth stage. To make sure that funding was helping the most promising technology companies, a matching investment requirement was added, and terms were modified from the previous iterations of the program to better fit a venture debt investment profile. Significant term changes included: higher interest rates, built in payment deferral and interest only periods, and eventually warrants to convert some of the investment into an equity stake when these companies were successful.

**Program's Purpose:** The program provides direct financial assistance through fixed interest, below market rate loans to start-up and emerging growth companies in Wisconsin that are developing and commercializing innovative products and services at critical stages in their development. The TDL program is a venture debt program that provides financing to early-stage, high growth potential companies that have or are in the process of raising private equity capital. It serves as a complement—not a replacement—to equity financing. TDL funding helps companies by improving capital availability and enhances their ability to meet milestones, get to market, grow and succeed. Proceeds will be used to extend runway between equity rounds, fund business operations and/or capital expenditures (e.g., equipment, infrastructure), finance customer acquisitions or product development, and reduce dilution for existing shareholders. Funding levels are dependent on the stage of growth, capital need, financial leverage, economic potential for high growth, risk evaluation, and other factors deemed by WEDC to impact the funding request under consideration.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

**Eligible Applicants:** TDL applicants must meet the following criteria:

• Be a start-up and/or emerging growth business.

• Demonstrate that at least 50% of the match funding will come from Private Investment.

- Demonstrate that the applicant business does not have close or fundamental ties to related businesses through technology licensing agreements, servicing agreements, operating agreements, individual ownership or other factors where corporate structure adds risks or uncertainty.
- Demonstrate that the applicant business does not have substantial ties to other states through location of founding partners, underlying technologies, related businesses, or similar factors.
  - Meet the criteria for one of the following three stages:
  - o Product/Process Development:
    - Business is an early-stage company or spinout with fewer than 25 employees.
    - Business is engaging in research and development, proof of concept, and prototype development activities.
    - Business demonstrates financial need and potential for business growth.
    - Product/Process Development phase funding is limited to \$250,000 per business.
  - Product/Service Commercial Launch:
    - Business is raising funds for initial launch of a developed product into the primary market after proof of concept and development testing
    - Product / Service Commercial Launch phase is limited to \$500,000 per business. However, a lower limit may be imposed for moving into test markets if the technology or industry requires incremental steps to commercialization.
  - Growth/Expansion Stage:
    - Business is in growth mode with recurring sales of fully developed product into the intended market.
    - Business demonstrates strong and growing market traction and have a clear path to sustainability.
    - Business is seeking capital for increasing production and approaching profitability.
    - Growth / Expansion Stage phase is limited to \$750,000 per business.

#### **Eligible Use of Funds:**

Costs are only eligible after WEDC approval. WEDC will make loans to eligible businesses on the following terms:

- Use: Working capital or equipment financing.
- Fee: An origination fee of 2% of the award amount.
- Interest rate: 6% fixed interest rate.

Amortized Repayment: The loan shall have an original term of up to 7 years with a deferral of principal and interest payments of up to 36 months, an option for an additional 12 months of interest payments, followed by equal monthly payments of principal interest. The deferral period will be based on the company's expected time to market and regulatory barriers. For loans with more than 12 months of principal and interest payment deferral WEDC may require an annual renewal of the deferment period.

#### Collateral:

- Security interest in all or specific business assets.
- In cases where WEDC feels it necessary, it may additionally require assignment of a

life insurance policy(ies) for key founders/managers in an amount up to the maximum value of the loan.

- WEDC may require corporate guarantees from related entities, holding companies, or subsidiaries.
- WEDC will consider the circumstances of each loan and will limit its risk to the greatest extent possible.

Conversion to Equity: WEDC frequently includes the option to convert a portion of its loan amount to equity in the Borrower company. WEDC's ability to convert to equity shall not exceed the term of the note unless there is an initial public offering, and conversion will be tied to an anticipated liquidity or other event. WEDC will include safeguards for its interest to include:

- WEDC will not convert to equity if it would result in an ownership interest of 20% or more.
- WEDC will have discretion to abstain or waive voting rights, and will not have/exercise any indicia of control.
- WEDC will not be required to purchase securities or convert to equity.
- WEDC will not accept any liabilities as a holder of warrant rights or an equity position.
- WEDC will require a company to repurchase any equity held by WEDC if the company relocates out of Wisconsin within five years, in accordance with Wis. Stat. §238.12.

**Matching:** Applicants must provide matching funds at a rate of 4:1 investment to TDL loan proceeds, of which, at least 50% of the investment funding will come from Private Investments. This requirement shall be met prior to the disbursement of TDL funds. WEDC may, in certain circumstances, elect to count founder funding as a portion of eligible match if the funding under consideration is part the initial company capitalization or seed round.

#### **Available Incentives**

**FY26:** \$5,000,000Total Funds consisting of: \$5,000,000 U.S. Department of Treasury State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Funds.

Federal SSBCI funding has specific requirements for business eligibility, private funding participation, reporting requirements, and other factors. All applicants and projects must meet all of the applicable SSBCI Capital Program requirements including but not limited to additional reporting, private financing, business eligibility, and other requirements as determined by U.S. Treasury

**Award sizes:** The minimum TDL loan amount is \$100,000. The maximum TDL loan amount per business is dependent on the stage of the business:

- Product / Process Development: The maximum TDL loan amount is \$250,000.
- Product / Service Commercial Launch: The maximum TDL loan amount is \$500,000.
- Growth / Expansion Stage: The maximum TDL loan amount is \$750,000.

**Awards per applicant:** Applicants may receive one TDL per fiscal year. Applicants may receive a maximum of three TDLs over their lifetime.

#### **Activities and Expected Outcomes**

Assist 19 businesses and achieve a leverage of 19:1 of other investment.

**Impact:** The Technology Development Loan program offers an important investment resource for early-stage companies in Wisconsin. By providing fixed-interest loans at rates below the market average, the program helps these companies grow and scale effectively. This approach minimizes equity dilution, potentially making these companies more attractive

to investors. As a result, the TDL program is expected to increase revenues, contribute to increased venture capital activity in Wisconsin, and create jobs within the state.

**Metrics:** As an entrepreneurial development program where performance reporting metrics for TDL are focused on measuring startup growth and expansion. TDL program metrics include the following list, and each project will include one or more of these metrics in its reporting requirements depending on the project's specified use of funds.

- Average Hourly Wage
- Commercialized Product Sales
- Job Creation
- Job Retention
- Leverage Total

#### **Application Guideline**

**Timeline:** The TDL program has a continuous application process.

**Review Considerations:** In addition to the factors outlined above WEDC may take the following into account when considering a TDL award:

- Timeline The company's development and commercialization timeline
- Funding The company's ability to identify and secure sufficient capital
- Technology The company's ownership or control of the technology and past research and development activity to prove the feasibility of the product, process, or service.
- Market & Growth The company has a well-defined market with targeted customer segments that has a high growth trajectory.
- Team The company has demonstrated expertise through their team including advisors and board members that directly relates to their product, service and/or industry.
- Cash Flow The company's repayment capacity and timeline.
- Ownership Ownership for the founder(s) remains above 50% combined after the close of match funding.
- Need and Business Impact The company's need for funding and the impact that funding is likely to have on future success.
- Benchmarks The company's ability to meet benchmarks established in prior funding reviews.

**How to apply:** An interested applicant should contact a WEDC Account Manager to determine if their project is right for the program. Upon review of the project, and alignment with eligibility criteria, an applicant will be invited to submit their application through Network Wisconsin.

**Award Process:** The completed application will be assigned to a WEDC underwriter and go through the award review process.

**Performance Reporting:** Recipients must annually submit a performance report documenting investment activities, job creation, job retention, average wages, company financials, eligibility checklist, and any other contract deliverable. WEDC annually selects awards on a sample basis for an audit. All backup to the performance report and financial records are required to be maintained by the Recipient for a period of at least 3 years after the last performance report is due. WEDC may impose additional reporting requirements to evaluate project performance and to ensure compliance with contract deliverables.

#### **Helpful Information**

#### **Definitions:**

"Private Investment" – debt, convertible debt, Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE), or equity investments from non-governmental independent third-party investors such as accredited individuals (angels), angel groups or networks, venture capital funds, or companies.

#### **Revision History**

#### **Program Inception** – Fiscal Year 2012

- 07/1/2017: Eliminated obsolete restrictions for past costs, Eliminated obsolete reference to federal SSBCI funding source.
- 07/01/2018: Added option for revenue-based loan repayments, Clarified criteria for execution of convertible notes.
- 07/01/2019: Added clarifying language and evaluation criteria; clarified performance reporting requirements.
- 07/01/2020: Clarified conditions warranting applicant guarantees.
- 7/1/2021: Further clarified convertible note/warrant coverage conditions.
- 7/1/2022: Accommodates SSBCI funding.
- $\bullet$  7/1/2024: Added clarifying language for matching funds. Removed reference to revenue-based payments
- 7/1/2025: Updated language in the program purpose to reflect focus on high growth potential companies. Clarified language around SSBCI requirements as program is only funded with Federal SSBCI funds for FY26.

#### **APPENDIX B: VENDOR ATTESTATION**

Please complete the following questions to assist the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation more accurately track its procurement spending with diverse businesses.

#### THE VENDOR IDENTIFIED ABOVE IS A:

Yes	No		Notes/Comments:
		<ul> <li>Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE)</li> <li>Sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or joint venture</li> <li>Belong to an ethnic minority group: Native American, Black, Hispanic, Asian Indian, Asian Pacific, Aleut, Eskimo, Middle Eastern, North African, or Native Hawaiian</li> <li>Be at least 51% owned, controlled, and actively managed by minority group members for at least the last one (1) year or the full term of the businesses's existence</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE)</li> <li>Sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or joint venture</li> <li>Be at least 51% owned, controlled, and actively managed by women group members for at least the last one (1) year or the full term of the businesses' s existence</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (DBV)</li> <li>Sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or joint venture</li> <li>At least 51% owned, controlled, and actively managed by disabled veteran group members for at least the last one (1) year or the full term of the businesses's existence</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Veteran-owned business (VB)</li> <li>At least 51% of the business must be directly and unconditionally owned by one or more veteran(s) or service-disabled veteran(s)</li> <li>At least 51% owned, controlled, and actively managed by one or more veterans for at least the last one (1) year or the full term of the businesses' s existence</li> </ul>	

	<ul> <li>LGBT-Owned Enterprise (LGBTE)</li> <li>Sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or joint venture</li> <li>At least 51% owned, controlled, and actively managed by one or more person(s) who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender for at least the last one (1) year or the full term of the businesses' s existence</li> </ul>						
	Disability-Owned Enterprise (DE)						
	<ul> <li>Sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or joint venture</li> <li>At least 51% owned, controlled, and actively managed by one or more person(s) with a disability for at least the last one (1) year or the full term of the businesses' s existence. A person with a disability is defined as a person with a physical and/or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.</li> </ul>						
Unable to identify Vendor's demographics due to organization status specified here (e.g., non-profit, government entity, etc.):							
	Please check here if you are choosing not to provide demographic information.						
I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, AND THAT I AM AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THIS ATTESTATION ON BEHALF OF THE VENDOR.							
Signa	ture: Date:						
Name:							
Positi	an:						