

# **Building Racine County by Building Careers**

**Fast Forward Grants to Support  
Racine's Workforce**

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Community Forum  
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Village of Mount Pleasant Civic Campus

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# Building Racine County



- ➡ Racine has historically had one of the **highest unemployment rates** in Wisconsin
- ➡ City of **Racine Water Utility** to contract for expansion
- ➡ Utilities expansion will **require additional skilled workers** for infrastructure construction projects
- ➡ With **\$160 million** INFRA Grant awarded, WisDOT contractors will need skilled construction workers

# Building Racine County



City of Racine approved an unprecedented **\$500,000 investment** in workforce development to prepare residents for jobs

Stipulation: **match** money, **double** trainees

City-county-state partnership, will fund **\$1.5 million** in workforce development



# Introducing Racine Works



## Funding

Source	Amount
City of Racine	\$500,000
DWD Fast Forward	\$400,000
UMOS Transitional Jobs	\$500,000
Gateway Tech College Fdn	\$100,000
Total	\$1,500,000

## Goal

**Recruit, train, and place 185 underemployed residents for construction careers!**

## Partners

- City of Racine
- Racine County
- First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship Program
- WRTP/Big Step
- Racine County Economic Development Corp
- UMOS
- Gateway Technical College

# Wisconsin Fast Forward



- Wisconsin Fast Forward program was signed into law in **March 2013** with the near-unanimous support of the State Legislature
- Wisconsin Fast Forward helps businesses address the need for skilled workers or the “**skills gap**”
- The program created **worker training grants** to prepare workers for jobs available today and in the years to come

# Wisconsin Fast Forward



- ➡ Grants support **employer-led worker** training with demonstrated **high demand** for both incumbent and new workers
- ➡ Grants are open for application **year-round** with evaluations and awards done at the end of each quarter
- ➡ Grants can range from **\$5,000 to \$400,000** and require a **dollar-for-dollar match**

# Wisconsin Fast Forward



- Is a **reimbursable** grant program
- Encourages targeted workforce **collaborations**
- Over **20,000 employees** have gained additional skills with the support of the Wisconsin Fast Forward program

# Benefits: Wisconsin Fast Forward



## ▶ Trainees

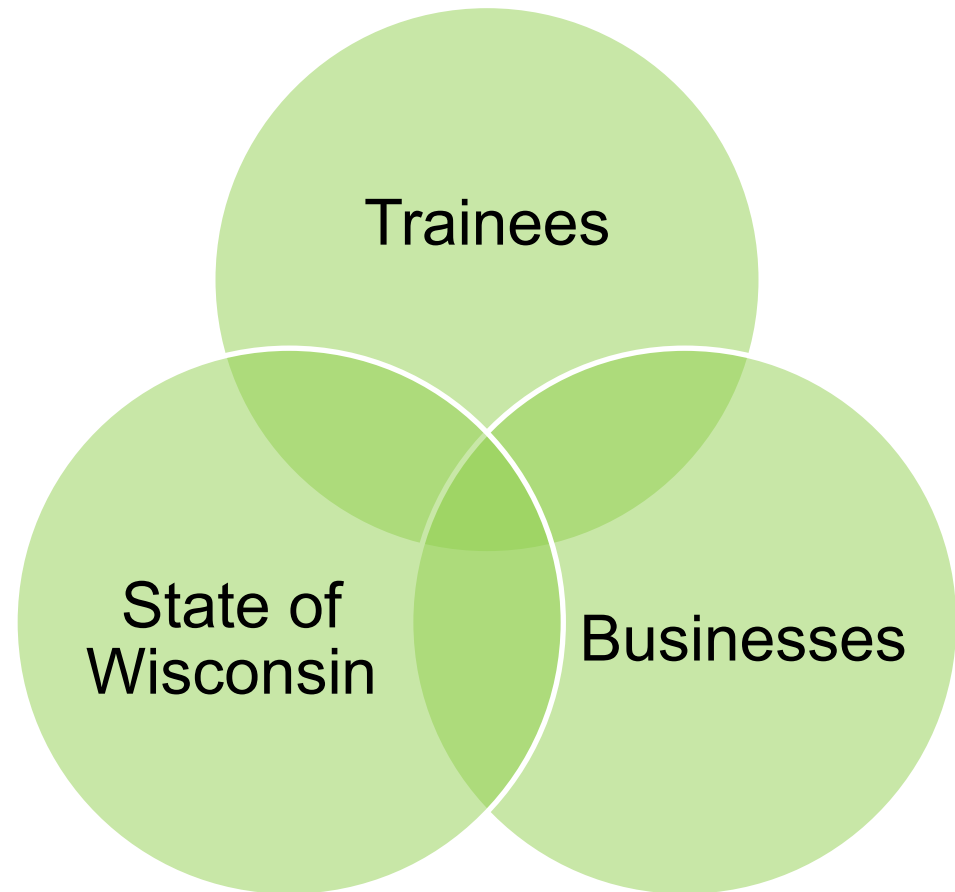
- ▶ Transferrable Skills
- ▶ Employment/Wage Increase
- ▶ Career Development

## ▶ Wisconsin Businesses

- ▶ Skilled Workforce
- ▶ More Competitive

## ▶ State of Wisconsin

- ▶ Return on Investment (ROI) to taxpayers
- ▶ Reimbursable Grant Program





# Questions?

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