

# Dept. of Workforce Development awarded \$806,379 to expand apprenticeship opportunities

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MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) was recently awarded \$806,379 to expand [Wisconsin Apprenticeship](#). Wisconsin was one of 45 states to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Labor's \$65 million investment in apprenticeship programs.

“Wisconsin was first in the nation to offer a registered apprenticeship program in 1911, and the program continues to be a proven workforce solution that benefits both employers and apprentices,” DWD Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek said. “This grant will bolster the program’s historic growth and help expand pathways to careers with family-sustaining wages.”

DWD’s award is part of the U.S. Department of Labor’s [Apprenticeship Expansion grants](#). The funding will increase the DWD’s ability to strategically expand Wisconsin’s Registered Apprenticeship and Certified Pre-Apprenticeship programs and enhance the state’s connection to the national apprenticeship system.

Registered Apprenticeship is an earn-while-you-learn model connecting apprentices with high-skill/high-wage employment with sponsors. Participating employers benefit from a more loyal and skilled workforce, a return on investment, and a competitive advantage. Similarly, the earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship model gives job seekers access to hands-on training, mentorship, and a career. In 2022, registered apprenticeship achieved [record-breaking participation](#) with more than 15,900 apprentices.

Certified Pre-apprenticeship helps participants gain necessary skills and education

before starting a Registered Apprenticeship. The Wisconsin Apprenticeship Advisory Council approves all certified pre-apprenticeship programs to ensure that the program meets the needs of employers using Registered Apprenticeship to train employees.

The \$806,379 in federal grant funds will allow Wisconsin Apprenticeship to:

- Conduct outreach to increase awareness of apprenticeship opportunities.
- Create new opportunities for emerging-sector employers to participate in apprenticeship.
- Increase apprenticeship partnerships with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.
- Improve systems through technology updates.
- Enhance sponsors' ability to track their apprentices' progress using technology.
- Boost the connection between Certified Pre-Apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Learn more about [Wisconsin Apprenticeship](#).