



Tony Evers
Governor

David M. Casey
Secretary Designee of Revenue

September 29, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jennifer Bacon, (608) 266-2300
DORCommunications@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Department of Revenue to Launch Innovation Grant Program Second Application

Madison, WI – The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) will open the second application period for the Innovation Grant program, Oct. 1, 2026. This initiative, created under 2023 Wisconsin Act 12 and modified by 2025 Wisconsin Act 15, is designed to support local governments and tribal nations in transferring certain services and duties to another eligible entity. During the first round, DOR allocated \$72 million to support 35 service transfers with 81 community impacts.

Program Overview and Eligibility

The Innovation Grant provides funding to a county, municipality or tribal nation that enters into an agreement to transfer an allowable service or duty to another county, municipality, tribal nation, non-profit organization or private entity.

Allowable services and duties include a wide range of essential functions, such as:

- Public safety, law enforcement and emergency services
- Fire protection
- Courts and jails
- Public works and information technology
- Economic development and tourism
- Administration, including staffing and payroll
- Public health
- Housing, planning and zoning
- Parks and recreation
- Training and communications

Example of Consolidated Services

The City of West Allis serves as an example of a successful approved and funded model. Fire protection and emergency services were transferred from the cities of West Allis and Wauwatosa to the Milwaukee Metro Fire Rescue Corporation, resulting in lower costs, streamlined operations and improved service quality and efficiency. Additional project examples can be found [here](#).

Application and Grant Details

Innovation Grant application information and instructions are available on DOR's [Innovation Grants](#) webpage. There is nearly \$228 million available for the second round of the Innovation Grant program. Each county, municipality or tribal nation can receive up to \$10 million annually, distributed over a maximum of four annual payments.

Additional information can be found on DOR's [Innovation Grants](#) webpage. For any questions regarding the Innovation Grant program, contact the Wisconsin DOR at lgs@wisconsin.gov.

###

