

Job Training in the New Economy

Job Center Video Conference Infrastructure Proposal



Background:

As a state association, the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association is focused on getting Wisconsin citizens back to work. The association works with several vulnerable populations including the disabled, veterans, low income, and, of course, the unemployed and underemployed.

Every job center across the state is doing more with less. In May of 2008 the Department of Workforce Development, who is also facing dwindling federal resources, announced that the Job center System would be consolidated to only 22 locations statewide.

Video Conferencing is on the cutting edge of high tech job training, allowing a trainer in one city to simultaneously assist dozens of job seekers in multiple locations throughout the state. Imagine a Lean Manufacturing skills workshop being taught in Milwaukee and broadcast to Janesville, Wausau, Phillips, Tomah, and Green Bay. Currently, that training course would likely only occur in one or two Job Centers, duplicating tripling staffing costs and resulting in fewer job seekers accessing the training. Simply put, purchase of this technology will cut down on overall costs for each and every job center. This savings can then be reinvested in more job training programs for other workers.

Request:

This proposal covers funding for the purchase and installation of the necessary equipment within the existing Wisconsin Job Center network to complement the existing video conferencing system in four Job Centers (Madison, Jefferson, Sauk, and Marquette). A synergistic system with a standard and integrated platform will provide the ability for job seekers and businesses to participate in collaborative meetings, career guidance workshops, and workforce readiness courses. Video Conferencing has a variety of potential uses, including collaborative meetings, workshops, distance learning delivery over IP, remote advising, as well as providing travel reduction and increased participation and productivity by reducing travel time. participation and productivity by reducing travel time.

Eau Claire	Kenosha	Pewaukee	Tomah
Fennimore	La Crosse	Phillips	Wausau
Fond du Lac	Marinette	Racine	West Bend
Green Bay	Menasha	Rice Lake	Wisconsin Rapids
Janesville	Milwaukee (2 locations)	Superior	

We Need Your Help:

The Wisconsin Workforce Development Association requests \$710,000 in one-time financial support from the state to establish a statewide video conferencing system that will be fully integrated into each of our job centers. in total, this 5-year plan is projected to cost approximately \$660,000 in monthly service costs, which will be paid by the Workforce Development Boards.

Furthermore, the entire statewide system will save a projected \$500,000 a year. After funding operating costs for the technology, the state would have freed up \$368,000 each year for 5 years the Job Centers would invest in more job training. Thus, a \$710,000 state investment today, Job Centers will be able to invest \$1,840,000 in job training for the next 5 years.

How Do You Save \$1.84 Million to Reinvest in Training?

Total Project Costs over 5 Years:

$\$710,000 + \$660,000$ (5 yrs of service cost of \$132,000) = \$1,370,000

Net Savings: \$500,000/ year - \$132,000/ year (service fees) = \$368,000

Total Net Savings Over 5 Years:

$\$368,000/ \text{year} \times 5 \text{ years} = \$1,840,000$

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training opportunities