



Wisconsin Workforce Development Association

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2009 - 2011 Biennial Budget

Background:

Workforce development priorities that have been identified for the 2009 - 2011 biennium include: 1) statutory recognition of the state's eleven workforce development areas as the entities responsible for the administration and implementation of workforce development programs; 2) expanding access to worker advancement training for businesses experiencing employment growth and expansion; 3) increasing the capacity of the local workforce system to provide critical intake services for unemployed and dislocated workers.

Workforce Priorities:

Wisconsin's economy cannot improve or thrive without a trained and skilled workforce. In the last 22 years Wisconsin has seen a 56% decrease in federal workforce dollars while the state's investment has remained stagnant and the unemployment rate is expected to rise to 8%. A continued lack of state investment in Wisconsin's workers may diminish the quality of the workforce by limiting access to training and skill-development programs for low-income and unemployed workers.

The State of Wisconsin is facing a record budget deficit. However, the Governor and Legislature must acknowledge the investment in Wisconsin's workers is crucial in the current economic climate

Priorities	Suggested Funding Action	Investment Needed
1) Statutory recognition of the eleven Workforce Development Areas	None Required	Statutory Language
2) Worker Training for Businesses Experiencing Growth and Expansion	Invest \$2.5 million from the Department of Commerce Wisconsin Development Fund- Customized Labor Training Grants into the eleven Workforce Development Boards	\$2.5 million
3) Increasing the Capacity of the Local Workforce System to Provide Critical Services to Unemployed and Job-Less	Invest \$11 million by realigning resources available through Department of Commerce, Department of Workforce Development, Department of Corrections, and the Wisconsin Technical College System to create a Workforce Development Fund available to local Workforce Areas.	\$11 million