

FORWARD WISCONSIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY15 Adjusted Base	FY16 Recommended	% Change Over FY15	FY17 Recommended	% Change Over FY16
GPR	0	0	0.0	80,374,700	0.0
SEG-O	0	0	0.0	22,776,000	0.0
TOTAL	0	0	0.0	103,150,700	0.0

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY15 Adjusted Base	FY16 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY15	FY17 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY16
TOTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The authority is governed by a 12-member board of directors appointed by the Governor. Board members serve staggered four-year terms. The board chooses a chairman from among its members. The authority is headed by a chief executive officer who is appointed by the Governor, approved by the board of directors and confirmed with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor appoints the chief operating officer of the authority, subject to approval by the board of directors.

The authority is the lead economic development organization in the state. The authority is responsible for developing and implementing economic programs to provide business support, expertise and financial assistance to companies that are investing and creating jobs in the state; supporting new business start-ups and business expansion and growth; and developing and implementing any other programs related to economic development in Wisconsin.

The authority also serves Wisconsin residents and communities by working with key partners to provide creative financing resources and information to stimulate and preserve affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income residents.

FORWARD WISCONSIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Creation of Forward Wisconsin Development Authority
2. Regional Revolving Loan Fund Grant
3. Veterans Entrepreneur Development Grant

Forward Wisconsin Development Authority

1. Creation of Forward Wisconsin Development Authority

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY16		FY17		FY16		FY17	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	24,874,700	0.00
SEG-O	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	22,776,000	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	47,650,700	0.00

The Governor recommends creating the Forward Wisconsin Development Authority by combining the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority to provide greater coordination on economic development within a single authority and to continue existing services and products for affordable housing. The Governor also recommends providing funding to the authority for operations and implementing economic development programs. The merger will be completed by January 1, 2016. The Governor further recommends creating a 12-member board to oversee the authority. The board will be appointed by the Governor consisting of members of the public from the private sector. Board members will serve in staggered four-year terms. The chairman of the board will be elected by the board members. The Governor will appoint a chief executive officer of the authority subject to approval by the board and confirmation by the Senate. The Governor will also nominate a chief operating officer for the authority subject to approval by the board. In addition, the Governor recommends adopting various reforms including: (a) limiting public records requirements related to the In Force Network and the authority's economic development partners; (b) eliminating current duplicative reporting requirements for position openings and on investment strategy to the State of Wisconsin Investment Board; (c) requiring the merged authority to submit annual audited financial statements and requiring the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct a biennial audit of the authority; and (d) raising the threshold for audited schedules of expenditures to awards over \$500,000 while requiring recipients with awards less than \$500,000 to submit an attestation regarding their expenditures.

Forward Wisconsin Development Authority

2. Regional Revolving Loan Fund Grant

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY16		FY17		FY16		FY17	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	55,000,000	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	55,000,000	0.00

The Governor recommends providing \$55,000,000 GPR to fund the development of a regional revolving loan fund program in the authority. The Governor also recommends that the authority shall establish the program using these funds and any such funds that the authority reallocates internally from existing loan programs at the board's discretion. The board will have discretion in establishing policies related to the program, except that: (a) funds will be allocated to multicounty regions with the allocations made in proportion to the statewide population in these regions; (b) regional organizations used for the execution of the regional revolving loan fund program must have strong private sector involvement as determined by the board; (c) the authority must approve the structure, regional investment strategy and administrative guidelines of the regional loan funds; and (d) the loan funds must report activity to the authority's board in a manner and frequency to be determined by the board. The Governor further recommends specifying that the amount of this grant will not be part of the authority's base funding in the following biennium.

3. Veterans Entrepreneur Development Grant

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY16		FY17		FY16		FY17	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	500,000	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	500,000	0.00

The Governor recommends directing the authority to provide a grant to the Global Entrepreneurship Collective, Inc., organization to increase the amount of seed funding, mentoring and training provided to veterans who are starting businesses.

