

WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY25 Adjusted Base	FY26 Recommended	% Change Over FY25	FY27 Recommended	% Change Over FY26
GPR	0	145,000,000	0.0	0	-100.0
SEG-O	45,870,000	46,995,000	2.5	46,845,000	-0.3
TOTAL	45,870,000	191,995,000	318.6	46,845,000	-75.6

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY25 Adjusted Base	FY26 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY25	FY27 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY26
TOTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The corporation was created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 7. The corporation is headed by a secretary/chief executive officer who is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The corporation is governed by a 16-member board of directors. The Governor appoints six members with the advice and consent of the Senate. The speaker of the Assembly and the Senate majority leader each appoint four members, but neither may appoint more than two members of the Legislature, to the board. The minority leader of the Senate and Assembly each get to appoint one member. The secretaries of the Department of Administration and Department of Revenue also serve on the board as nonvoting members.

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

MISSION

To strategically invest in Wisconsin to enhance the economic well-being of people and their businesses and communities.

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

PROGRAMS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Note: Goals, objectives and activities have been modified.

Program 1: Promotion of Economic Development

Goal: Foster economic growth in Wisconsin by supporting business development, innovation and community revitalization through various programs and partnerships with local organizations, businesses and government entities.

Objective/Activity: Support the growth of existing businesses and attract new businesses to Wisconsin.

Objective/Activity: Revitalize communities to make them attractive places to live, work and do business.

Objective/Activity: Foster a culture of innovation and support start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Objective/Activity: Promote Wisconsin businesses in the global market and attract international investments.

Objective/Activity: Provide grants, loans, tax credits and other financial incentives to businesses.

Objective/Activity: Offer resources to help businesses grow and innovate.

Objective/Activity: Support projects that revitalize downtown areas, improve infrastructure and enhance quality of life.

Objective/Activity: Help Wisconsin businesses expand into international markets through trade missions, export training and market research.

Objective/Activity: Promote Wisconsin as a great place for business and provide assistance to companies looking to relocate or expand in the state.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2023 AND 2024 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2023	Actual 2023	Goal 2024	Actual 2024
1.	Businesses assisted.	3,870	6,050 ¹	3,741	4,805 ¹
1.	Communities assisted.	200	163	213	181
1.	Partner organizations assisted.	90	77	90	79
1.	Anticipated jobs impact.	7,325	11,573	7,325	13,408
1.	Coinvestment leverage.	8:1	8:1	8:1	13:1

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Includes a one-time impact of businesses assisted through COVID-19 programs.

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2025, 2026 AND 2027 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2025	Goal 2026	Goal 2027
1.	Businesses assisted.	3,741	4,387	4,894
1.	Communities assisted.	213	191	204
1.	Partner organizations assisted.	85 ¹	77	81
1.	Anticipated jobs impact.	7,325	15,075	10,953
1.	Coinvestment leverage.	8:1	9:1	10:1

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Goal was revised for 2025.

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Main Street Bounceback Grant Program
2. Green Innovation Fund
3. Forward Agriculture Grant Program
4. Accelerate Wisconsin
5. Advanced Manufacturing Grants
6. Rural Capacity Building
7. Tribal Enterprise Accelerator Program
8. Opportunity Attraction Fund
9. Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit and Business Development Credit Wage Minimums
10. Business Development Tax Credit Workforce Housing Modifications
11. Minimum Funding Level
12. Fund Balance Policy
13. Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit Limit
14. Main Street Program Technical Modifications
15. Historic Rehabilitation Credit Technical Modifications
16. Economic Development Surcharge Reestimate

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

**Table 1
Department Budget Summary by Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)**

	ACTUAL FY24	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST FY26	AGENCY REQUEST FY27	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY26	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY27
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$145,000.0	\$0.0
State Operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	145,000.0	0.0
SEGREGATED REVENUE (3)	\$47,260.0	\$45,870.0	\$45,870.0	\$45,870.0	\$46,995.0	\$46,845.0
State Operations	46,260.0	44,870.0	44,870.0	44,870.0	45,995.0	45,845.0
Local Assistance	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$47,260.0	\$45,870.0	\$45,870.0	\$45,870.0	\$191,995.0	\$46,845.0
State Operations	46,260.0	44,870.0	44,870.0	44,870.0	190,995.0	45,845.0
Local Assistance	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0

(3) Includes Segregated Revenue-Service, Segregated Revenue-Other and Segregated Revenue-Local

**Table 3
Department Budget Summary by Program (in thousands of dollars)**

	ACTUAL FY24	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST FY26	AGENCY REQUEST FY27	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY26	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY27
1. Promotion of economic development	\$47,260.0	\$45,870.0	\$45,870.0	\$45,870.0	\$191,995.0	\$46,845.0
TOTALS	\$47,260.0	\$45,870.0	\$45,870.0	\$45,870.0	\$191,995.0	\$46,845.0

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

1. Main Street Bounceback Grant Program

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	50,000,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	50,000,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding to restart funding for the Main Street Bounceback grant program to aid businesses in newly occupying or expanding into vacant commercial spaces. Eligible expenses under the program include leases, mortgages and business operational expenses related to opening a new location.

2. Green Innovation Fund

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	50,000,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	50,000,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding to increase support to the Green Innovation Fund, which will increase lending and investment activities in the renewable energy sector.

3. Forward Agriculture Grant Program

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	15,000,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	15,000,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding for the purpose of providing state matching funds related to federal funding applications in conjunction with WiSys' Forward Agriculture program to promote sustainable agriculture.

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4. Accelerate Wisconsin

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	10,000,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	10,000,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding to support a business accelerator program to be administered in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin System and aimed at developing research, including research from the University of Wisconsin System, into new start-up businesses.

5. Advanced Manufacturing Grants

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	5,000,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	5,000,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding to establish a grant program for matching grants to small and mid-sized manufacturing companies located in Wisconsin for investments in advanced manufacturing technologies. The Governor also recommends that the program may award total grants to an individual firm of no more than \$200,000 and that grants may match no more than one-third of the amount of investment by a manufacturer. The Governor further recommends specifying that recipient firms must commit to not reducing employment below the level when the grant is executed and that the corporation must seek repayment of funds by firms that fall below those employment levels within ten years of accepting the matching grants.

6. Rural Capacity Building

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	5,000,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	5,000,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding to fund the Thrive Rural Wisconsin project to increase the availability and accessibility of local project capital to spur economic development in rural Wisconsin.

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7. Tribal Enterprise Accelerator Program

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	5,000,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	5,000,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding to create a tribal enterprise accelerator program that would establish a statewide technical assistance and grant program for tribal nations to diversify their revenue strategies outside of the gaming and entertainment industries through community development investment grants and capacity building grants.

8. Opportunity Attraction Fund

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	5,000,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	5,000,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding to the opportunity attraction fund to bolster the state's resources for attracting opportunities and events to the state.

9. Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit and Business Development Credit Wage Minimums

The Governor recommends increasing the wage thresholds for the enterprise zone jobs tax credit and the business development tax credit to increase the \$30,000 minimum for tier II counties under the enterprise zone jobs tax credit to \$45,390 and to increase the 150 percent of the federal minimum wage threshold for tier I counties under the enterprise zone jobs tax credit and for all business development tax credit awards to \$34,220 beginning with awards made in 2026 to account for inflation since these programs' wage thresholds were first established. The Governor also recommends increasing the maximum wage threshold from \$100,000 to \$151,300 for awards first made in 2026. The Governor further recommends providing indexing adjustments for those thresholds in future years beginning with 2027.

10. Business Development Tax Credit Workforce Housing Modifications

The Governor recommends modifying the Business Development Tax Credit's incentive related to workforce housing to specify that the qualifying workforce housing does not need to be exclusively for the employer's workers in order to qualify as eligible for credit earnings. The Governor also recommends expanding the eligibility of this earnings category to include contributions to a workforce housing revolving loan fund.

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11. Minimum Funding Level

The Governor recommends increasing the corporation's total baseline block grant funding from \$41,550,700 to \$46,000,000 annually beginning in FY26 to account for increased cost pressures facing the corporation and greater available funding from the economic development surcharge. This change will provide greater stability in the corporation's expected funding levels.

12. Fund Balance Policy

The Governor recommends repealing the current law provision requiring that the corporation's unassigned fund balance be no greater than two months of annual operating expenses while retaining the current law provision requiring the corporation to adhere to the Government Finance Officers Association's best practices on fund balance policies.

13. Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit Limit

The Governor recommends creating a 30-zone limit on the Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit program and specifying that any zones that have their certification revoked or that expire may be reutilized by the corporation. The Governor also recommends repealing provisions allowing the corporation to designate any number of enterprise zones subject to the Joint Committee on Finance's passive review process.

14. Main Street Program Technical Modifications

The Governor recommends making technical modifications to the Main Street Program statutes to bring the statutory language into compliance with current federal statutes and practice.

15. Historic Rehabilitation Credit Technical Modifications

The Governor recommends modifying the historic rehabilitation tax credit program under Wisconsin law to eliminate the requirement that projects must have \$50,000 in qualifying expenditures to be approved as eligible and to specify that claims for the Wisconsin supplement to the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit do not have to be claimed at the same time as the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit.

16. Economic Development Surcharge Reestimate

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
SEG-O	0	0.00	0	0.00	1,125,000	0.00	975,000	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	1,125,000	0.00	975,000	0.00

The Governor recommends reestimating the economic development surcharge and GPR support for the corporation to better reflect collection patterns.

