

**Vol. 70, Issue 4**

Thursday, January 29, 2026

## DWD Programs Help Grow Wisconsin's Health Care Workforce

Funding is available now through the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Wisconsin Fast Forward program to help employers launch an apprenticeship or alternative employee training program. Wisconsin Fast Forward grants reimburse the costs of customized occupational training for unemployed, underemployed and incumbent workers. In a memo to partners this week, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) highlighted how health care employers can utilize DWD support and these grants to develop and expand apprenticeships or other employee training programs.

DHS notes, "Health care apprenticeship programs have grown rapidly in our state since the launch of the first program in 2018 and now include options for registered nurses, respiratory therapists, surgical technologists, ophthalmic assistants, caregivers, interventional cardiovascular technologists, medical assistants, pharmacy technicians, sterilization technicians and dental assistants."

Applications for this round of Fast Forward funding are due by 3 p.m. on February 18, 2026. Hospitals and health systems interested in starting or expanding training programs or apprenticeships can connect with DWD to learn more.

For questions about Fast Forward grants, or any other workforce issue, reach out to WHA Senior Vice President of Workforce and Clinical Practice Ann Zenk.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- POLITICO's Jonathan Martin to be Keynote Speaker at 2026 Advocacy Day
- Fourth Annual Health Care Quality Showcase in Conjunction with WHA's Advocacy Day
- WHA Expresses Support for Streamlined Special Enrollment Period for Medicare Advantage Provider Network Disruptions
- DWD Programs Help Grow Wisconsin's Health Care Workforce
- Physician Leadership Development Conference - Have You Registered?

### EDUCATION EVENTS

**Feb. 10, 2026**

Age-Friendly Webinar Series Featuring Advocate Health

**Feb. 25, 2026**

2026 Advocacy Day

**Mar. 13, 2026**

2026 Physician Leadership Development Conference