



Fab Labs Grant Program

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) will soon begin accepting applications for a new round of Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Labs) Grants. This document outlines the program goals and criteria for fiscal year 2022 so your district can determine whether you wish to apply and begin to plan your application. We anticipate we will begin accepting applications sometime in the month of October. Applications will be due Jan. 7, 2022.

For FY22, there will be a moratorium on applicants that have already received three Fab Labs Grants in previous years, with two exceptions: applicants from the City of Milwaukee (who are still eligible to apply) and applicants that are seeking a one-time grant to establish a fab lab for use by K-8 students (in which case the applicant is eligible even if they have already received three rounds of grant funding).

Districts that have received funding in one or two previous application cycles are still eligible to apply, along with new applicants that have not yet received any funding through the program.

As in previous years, eligible applicants include Wisconsin public school districts as well as CESAs. In addition, a lead public school district may apply on behalf of a consortium of two or more public school districts. "Public School District" means the territorial unit for school administration as defined by Wis. Stat. §115.01(3) or a tribal school as defined by Wis. Stat. §115.001(15m).

As part of the FY22 budget, \$500,000 has been budgeted for the program. A public school district applicant can seek up to \$25,000 in total grant funds. A consortium of two or more districts can seek up to \$50,000.



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For this year's funding cycle, applicants are being asked to match 50% of the amount of grant funds requested. For example, if your district is requesting a grant of \$25,000, the district must provide a match of at least \$12,500.

As in previous years, awardees must use funds to purchase equipment used for instructional and educational purposes by elementary, middle, junior high, or high school students in one or more fabrication laboratories.

Visit WEDC's [Fab Labs Grant Program](#) page to learn more about the program, including definitions and eligibility criteria, and find information on the application process.



The Fab Labs Grant Program was established by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55. In FY16 thru FY21, WEDC awarded approximately \$3,450,111 to a total of 95 public school districts (with a total of 147 grants issued, since some districts received more than one). Since FY17, the program has been operating under WEDC program guidelines. A fab lab is defined in the program guidelines as a "high technology workshop equipped with computer controlled additive and subtractive manufacturing components, such as 3-dimensional printers, laser engravers, computer numerical control routers, and/or plasma cutters. A fully functioning fab lab has active engagement with the business community, is accessible to multiple departments within a school or schools, provides community access, and is integrated with the network of Wisconsin-based fab labs."



WEDC has developed a fab lab resource webpage that provides districts with information on how to set up and equip a fab lab, how to implement best practices to ensure a successful fab lab and more. Content for the page was provided by UW-Stout and Fox Valley Technical College. For more information on Wisconsin's fab labs, including resources for teachers, visit wedc.org/fablabs or [UW-Stout and Fox Valley Technical College](#) offer a virtual assessment at no cost for parties considering what their next steps might be.

For additional information please contact:

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