STATE OF WISCONSIN
DWD
Department of Workforce Development

Oct. 28, 2026

Commercial Driver Training Grant Program Announcement (GPA)

Award amount: $10,000 to $30,000

Applications must be emailed by 3 p.m. Central Time on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2026.
Email applications to:
DETCDLTrainingProviderProgram@dwd.wisconsin.gov

DET-20044-E-P (N. 10/2026)

The Office of Skills Development (OSD) at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD or Department) administers the grant program. OSD works to encourage the development of innovative solutions at the local and regional level that bring together employers, educators, workforce development entities, and economic development organizations to meet area workforce needs and increase the economic capacity of its residents.

DWD is now accepting applications for the Commercial Driver Training grants. This opportunity is open to organizations that satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Applicant or third-party training provider must be listed on the federal Training Provider Registry.
- The applicant must have one or more facilities located in Wisconsin and trainees must be Wisconsin residents.
- The training must meet federal Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) requirements..
- Application must be received by 3 p.m. Central Time on Dec. 09, 2026.
- Training must satisfy the requirements of 49 C.F.R, part 380, subparts F and G.

Legislative authority: Legislative authority for this grant is found at Wis. Stat. § 106.276.

Program Overview

Definitions: The following definitions are used throughout the Grant Program Announcement (GPA):

- **"Third-party"** means a commercial driver's license (CDL) training provider that provides the training and is listed
- on the federal Training Provider Registry.
- **"Applicant"** means an organization that applies for a grant from the Department for the development or implementation of a project.
- **"Contract"** means a legal document that sets forth the grant terms and conditions.
- **"Grantee"** means an organization awarded a grant by the Department.
- **"Grant"** means an award from the department to the grantee whereby the Department provides funds.
- **"Initial CDL"** means the training of an individual who does not have a commercial driver's license classification at the time of application.
- **"Trainee"** means a Wisconsin resident enrolled in a grantee's training program.
- **"State"** means state of Wisconsin.

Commercial driver training grant program announcement summary: The program provides grants to applicants to provide, or to pay for a third-party to provide, an individual who resides in this state training in the operation of commercial motor vehicles. The applicant or other third-party must be listed on the federal Training Provider Registry, as set forth in 49 C.F.R. part 380, subpart G. The applicant must have one or more facilities located in the state of Wisconsin.

Grant Program Highlights:

Total Grant Program	$250,000 is available for funding in fiscal year 2027.
Individual Awards	$10,000 to $30,000

Eligible Applicants	Organizations that provide, or pay for a third-party to provide, to an individual who resides in this state with the intent of obtaining an initial CDL classification.
Use of Grant Funds	Reimbursement of training costs for each individual trained may not exceed 50% of the costs of training the individual in the operation of commercial motor vehicles or $3,000, whichever is less.
Goals	Obtain an initial CDL, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(7m), to operate certain commercial motor vehicles to increase the number of Wisconsin residents across the state receiving CDL licenses.
Terms of Award	Grants will be awarded as cost reimbursement contracts with an anticipated contract start date of Feb. 10, 2027. All grant expenditures must be incurred by December 31, 2027.

Important Dates:

GPA	Oct. 28, 2026
Application Submission	Dec. 9, 2026 Email application package (application, required forms, and supporting documents) to: DETCDLTrainingProviderProgram@dwd.wisconsin.gov by 3 p.m.
Anticipated Projected Grant Awards Announcement	Jan. 27, 2027
Anticipated Contract Start Date	Feb. 10, 2027
Funding Disbursement	1. Awards are structured as cost-reimbursement grants, meaning that recipients are expected to incur expenses before receiving any DWD funds. 2. Grantee submits a reimbursement request to OSD via COMET with copy of trainee certificate of complete/license and proof of payment.
Contract End Date	Dec. 31, 2027

GPA and Application Process Questions and Answers: Any questions or clarifications related to this GPA may be submitted in writing via email to:

DETCDLTrainingProviderProgram@dwd.wisconsin.gov. OSD will respond to your inquiry promptly.

Responses will also be posted on the Division of Employment and Training webpage.**Additional Information**

Application Form and Instructions:

Access the application, evaluation rubric, and reporting template at: Division of Employment and Training webpage.
Applicants must describe the following in their grant applications:

(a) The purpose and need for the grant.
(b) The projected outcomes that the applicant is seeking to achieve as a result of receiving the grant.
(c) Any other information required in the GPA.

Project Period: The project period for this GPA is from the contract execution date through December 31, 2027.

Grant Amount: Not less than $10,000, nor more than $30,000 is available per grantee. Grant expenditures must be incurred between contract execution date up to and through Dec. 31, 2027. All eligible grant expenses will be reimbursed, per individual contract specifications, when expenses are:

- Included in the award application.
- Paid and documented by the grantee.
- Approved by OSD.

Disbursement of grant funding will be made on a rolling basis when the grantee complies with all conditions of the grant as stipulated in the contract. Reimbursements may be pro-rated or withheld based on the extent to which contract conditions are met.

Eligibility: For an application to be considered for funding, all of the following conditions must be met:

- Applicant or third-party training provider must be listed on the federal Training Provider Registry.
- The applicant must have one or more facilities located in Wisconsin and trainees must be Wisconsin residents.
- The training must meet federal Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) requirements.
- Application must be received by 3 p.m. Central Time on Dec. 09, 2026.
- Training must satisfy the requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 380, subparts F and G.

Due Diligence: All applicants are required to complete the Risk Assessment Form and Due Diligence checklist. If any of the statements below apply to an applicant, that applicant may be disqualified and will not be scored:

- Within the last 24 months, the applicant has been required to provide a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notice under 29 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq., or a notice under Wisconsin's Business Closing and Mass Layoff Law, Wis. Stat. § 109.07.

- Within the last 24 months, the applicant has been found to have violated the Unemployment Compensation laws, Wis. Stat. Ch. 108.
- Within the last 24 months, the applicant has been found to have violated the Worker's Compensation Act, Wis. Stat. Ch. 102.
- Applicant is on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's list of vendors who are not in compliance with Wis. Stat. § 77.66.
    - Note, an applicant may demonstrate that they have come into compliance since the last posting date of the list.
- Applicant's status is not registered as a Wisconsin business or otherwise not in good standing with Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions.
- Within the last 24 months, applicant has been found to have violated the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act, Wis. Stat. § 111.31 et seq., or employment regulations under Wis. Stat. Ch. 103.
- Applicant is listed as ineligible on the Department of Administration's Office of Contract Compliance Vendor Directory.
- Applicant is listed as a delinquent taxpayer with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

Organizations are strongly encouraged to verify that there are no unresolved issues in these areas prior to submitting the application or should provide a detailed explanation with the application.

Eligible Expenses: Reimbursement of training costs to each individual trained may not exceed 50% of the costs of training the individual in the operation of commercial motor vehicles, or $3,000, whichever is less. The Department may not award more than one grant with respect to a given individual who is trained in the operation of commercial motor vehicles that satisfies the requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 380, subparts F and G.

Supplement not Supplant: All funding under this grant must be used in furtherance of and pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 106.276. Violations of permissible expenses may result in suspension of current or future funds under this program, repayment of monies awarded under this grant, and possible civil and/or criminal penalties.

Grant Evaluation Rubric and Scoring: The Commercial Driver Training Grant is a competitive grant. The evaluation committee will evaluate grant applications for compliance with the grant eligibility requirements and specifications cited in this document. Grant proposals will be rated on a 100-point scale, based upon the following point values:

Selection Criteria	Points
Project Need	20
Training Program Design & Implementation	30
Training Capacity	30
Leverages Partnerships	20

Grants will be ranked by high score and awarded based on ranking and availability of budgeted funds. Grants that score below 50 points will not be eligible for funding. It is strongly recommended that applicants consult the Grant Evaluation Rubric and Scoresheet to address all scoring criteria when writing proposals. The Grant Evaluation Rubric and Scoresheet is available for download at the Division of Employment and Training webpage.

Contract: The Commercial Driver Training Grant applications that are funded under this GPA are required to execute a binding contract with DWD **before any expenses are incurred** for which reimbursement is expected.

Reimbursement:

- Awards are structured as cost-reimbursement grants, meaning that recipients are expected to incur expenses before receiving any DWD funds. DWD will provide access to an online invoicing system and reimbursement instructions.
- Upon submission of complete invoices with proper documentation and proof of payment, payments will be disbursed via Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions.
- In compliance with the Office of the State Comptroller rules and regulations, no grant recipient shall expend grant funds until a contract has been fully executed with DWD. Upon contract execution, recipients will be allowed to incur costs. Costs must be incurred between contract execution and up to and through December 31, 2027. No expenses incurred before contract execution date or after December 31, 2027 will be reimbursed by this program.
- Grantees will forfeit any remaining award funds unused after the contract expires.
- As a condition of funding, DWD will require that the grantee provide outcome reporting as determined by the individual grant contract, consisting of a final report submitted by the project end date.
- Invoices submitted after March 31, 2028 will not be reimbursed.

Grant Reporting Requirement: Grant recipients must meet the program reporting requirements, including submission of project updates to document reimbursement requests, and a final report.

Reservation Clauses:
The program reserves the right to:

- Make no award.
- Postpone or cancel this GPA upon notification to all applicants.
- Amend the GPA after its release with appropriate notice to all applicants.
- Request applicants to present supplemental information clarifying their application in writing for transparency. Applicants failing to respond to these requests during the time allotted may be eliminated from funding consideration.
- Give applicants the opportunity to resolve minor or clerical errors.
- Negotiate with selected applicants prior to contract awards.