

# Oral Health Grant Guidelines

## Purpose

The Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) is providing up to \$20,000,000 in funding in the 2023-25 fiscal biennium, from the JCF supplemental appropriation, for technical college programs to expand the state's oral health care workforce. These guidelines outline the process and procedures by which colleges can apply for these funds. The grant period for this grant is from the date of approval of the grant applications by the JCF through June 30, 2025.

## Funds Available

- Subject to approval by the JCF, up to \$20,000,000 will be available for these purposes.
- Each district is limited to one application totaling a maximum award as specified for each district below:
  - Northcentral Technical College: up to \$2,000,000
  - Blackhawk Technical College, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Fox Valley Technical College, Madison College, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Waukesha County Technical College: up to \$1,430,000
  - Gateway Technical College, Lakeshore Technical College, Mid-State Technical College, Moraine Park Technical College, Nicolet College, Northwood Technical College, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Western Technical College: up to \$1,000,000

## Special Conditions of Funding

- WTCS's awarding of these funds is subject to the JCF approval.
- WTCS will use college requests to create and submit a plan to JCF for approval. The plan will include how each college will use the funds and what the impacts will be, including a description of new and expanded programs, projected enrollment increase, projected graduate increase and an estimate of how many additional citizens will be served by the additional graduates.
- Any parts of the requested funds are subject to revision and approval by the JCF.

## Additional Limitations

- Each college must provide 20 percent matching funding.
- If a college uses grant funds to pay newly hired instructors a hiring bonus, the college must provide no less than 50 percent matching funding for instructor hiring bonuses.
- Applications must be submitted no later than 3/15/2024.
- Funds must be **encumbered** no later than 6/30/2025.
- Colleges can request up to 5% for administrative costs.
- Reporting requirement: Not later than January 1, 2026, college must submit a final report to WTCS including the amount of funding the district board received, a detailed description of all expenditures for which the funding was used, and the impact of the funding on the district board's oral health care programs, including any demonstrated waitlist reductions or increase in new credentials.

## Eligible Uses and Expenditures

- Establishing new or expanding existing oral health offerings.
- North Central Technical College is eligible to use funds to establish a dental therapy program if dental therapy becomes an authorized dental practice.
- Capital expenditures, such as expenditures for equipment or facility improvements or expansion.
- Expenditures for instructional supplies, teaching materials and resources, consumables, or clinic fees.
- Hiring bonuses of up to \$5,000 per oral health care instructors if certain requirements are satisfied. \*
- Expenditures for purposes consistent with the bill in order to create a new program or expand an existing program will be considered if college can demonstrate the specific need for the funds to expand or establish their oral health program.

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## \*Hiring Bonus Requirements

Funding provided by the board to a district board under this section may be used to pay newly hired instructors a hiring bonus not exceeding \$5,000 per instructor if all of the following apply:

- The instructor is hired into a position that is at least a 0.5 full-time equivalent position.
- The instructor's work responsibilities require the instructor to devote an amount of time at least equal to a 0.5 full-time equivalent position teaching courses in an oral health care program.
- The district board provides matching funding for the bonus in an amount equal to or greater than the amount of the funds provided under this subsection.
- The instructor agrees in writing to continue employment with the district board for at least 3 years in a position that satisfies the requirements.
- The district board commits to pay the retention bonus under sub. (4), from funds other than the grant awarded under this section, if the conditions in sub. (4) are satisfied.
- The instructor was not employed by the district board, or by any other district board, at any time in the 75-day period immediately preceding the effective date of this subdivision.
- The agreement under par. (a) 4. shall specify that, except as provided in subs. 2. to 4., if the instructor discontinues employment with the district board less than 3 years after the instructor's first day of employment, the instructor is required to repay the hiring bonus as follows:
  - All of the bonus if the term of employment was less than one year.

- Two-thirds of the bonus if the term of employment was at least one year but less than 2 years.
  - One-third of the bonus if the term of employment was at least 2 years but less than 3 years.
- If the instructor discontinues employment with the district board to begin employment with a different district board, in a position that is at least a 0.5 full-time equivalent position, as an instructor in an oral health care program, the repayment requirement under subd. 1. does not apply and the 3-year period under par. (a) 4. continues in effect from the instructor's first day of employment with the district board that paid the hiring bonus.
- If a district board pays an instructor a hiring bonus under par. (a) and the instructor is terminated for cause less than 3 years after the instructor's first day of employment, the instructor is required to repay all of the bonus.
- If a district board pays an instructor a hiring bonus under par. (a) and the instructor is terminated for a reason other than cause, including as a result of budgetary constraints or program changes, the instructor is not required to repay the bonus.
- An instructor who is simultaneously employed by 2 district boards may not receive more than one bonus under this subsection.
- The district board shall pay to an instructor who receives a hiring bonus under sub. (3) a retention bonus in the amount of \$5,000 if, 5 years after the date the bonus under sub. (3) was paid, the instructor remains employed by the district board in a position that meets the requirements under sub. (3) (a) 1. and 2.