

Welcome to the latest installment of the Badger Bounceback Update!

We are excited to share updated information on grant and aid programs announced by Governor Tony Evers, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). These critical one-time investments provide a lifeline to Wisconsin communities and businesses to ensure a strong pandemic recovery.

Read on to view the latest grant program announcements, application information and more. Check out direct program links to get additional details on specific programs.

Grant Programs Accepting Applications:

Movie Theaters and Venues - Applications Now Open!

Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) is currently accepting applications for over \$33 million in grants designed to [assist movie theaters, event venues, and the live event small businesses](#) that support them, which were all impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The [Event Venue](#) and [Live Event Small Business grant](#) programs will provide funding of up to \$200,000 per eligible organization, for a total of \$10 million and \$12 million respectively, while the [Movie Theater grant](#) will provide funding up to \$15,000 per screen, for a total of \$11.25 million. **Applications are open until October 15.**

The funds are part of the governor's previously announced more than \$150 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for Wisconsin's tourism and entertainment industries.

- Additional information about the Event Venue Grant Program is available here: <https://doa.wi.gov/pages/EventVenueAssistance.aspx>
- Additional information about the Live Event Small Business Grant Program is available here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LiveEventSmallBusinessAssistanceGrants.aspx>
- Additional information about the Movie Theater Grant Program is available here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/movietheaterassistancegrants.aspx>

Summer Camps and Minor League Sports Teams – Applications Now Open!

DOA is currently accepting applications for [\\$10.8 million in grants](#) designed to assist overnight, for-profit summer camps serving school-aged children and persons with disabilities, and Minor League sports team organizations that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The [Minor League Sports Teams Grant program](#) will provide funding of up to \$200,000 per eligible organization, for a total of \$2.8 million, while the [Summer Camp Grant program](#) will provide funding up to

\$50,000 per eligible organization, for a total of \$8 million. The funds are part of the governor's previously announced more than \$150 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for Wisconsin's tourism and entertainment industries.

Applications are open through October 15.

Entities that received a Beyond the Classroom grant under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, youth sports teams, recreational teams, and sports teams affiliated with higher education institutions are ineligible.

- Additional information about the Summer Camp Grant Program is available here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/SummerCampAssistanceGrants.aspx>
- Additional information about the Minor League Sports Teams Grant Program is available here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/MinorLeagueSportsTeamsAssistanceGrants.aspx>

Workforce Innovation Grant Program - Applications Are Open

The Workforce Innovation Grant Program offers grants from \$250,000 up to \$10 million to regional economic development partners to design and implement innovative plans to tackle their communities' most pressing workforce challenges.

The grants will be available to nonprofit or governmental entities to meet local workforce needs, such as childcare, transportation issues, upskilling and re-skilling workers, or career counseling and coaching services, and may be used to support initiatives like training, planning, marketing, or developing pilot programs that can be applied in other communities. Grant funds cannot be used to replace existing public resources.

The grants will be funded with federal ARPA funding and administered through an inter-agency effort that includes the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), and the Department of Administration (DOA). **Applications are open through October 25, 2021.**

Grant applications, frequently asked questions, and program guidelines are available here: <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/workforce-innovation-grant/>

Destination Marketing Organization Grants – Applications Closing Soon

The [Destination Marketing Organization \(DMO\) Grant Program](#) will provide financial support for organizations that promote and develop tourism activities in Wisconsin. A total of \$15 million is available, up to \$1,000,000 per eligible organization, based on expenses incurred between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2022. Grant funds are available as part of the American Rescue Plan Act and will be distributed by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA). **Applications for the program are open now through September 29, 2021.**

Additional information about the DMO Grant Program is available here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/DestinationMarketingOrganizationsGrantProgram.aspx>

Main Street Bounce Back Grants - Applications Are Open

The Main Street Bounceback Grants program provides \$10,000 to new or existing businesses and non-profit organizations moving into vacant properties in Wisconsin's downtowns and commercial corridors. The program is open to new or existing businesses opening a new location or expanding operations in a vacant commercial space as of January 1, 2021. Grant funds are available as part of the American Recovery Plan Act and will be distributed by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) [regional partners](#). Businesses must apply through the partner organization for the region in which they are located. **Applications are open through June 30, 2022.**

Additional information about the Main Street Bounce Back Grants is available here: <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/mainstreet-bounceback-grants/>

Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program - Help Is Still Available

The Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERA) provides up to 15 months of assistance with current or overdue bills to help households that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic avoid eviction. More than 13,000 Wisconsinites have already received help with rent and utilities statewide. Despite the [recent eviction ban extension due to rising COVID-19 cases](#), help is still available for eligible households through WISCAP agencies and Energy Services. The program is funded by the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program and administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration.



Additional information about the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program is available here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/WERA.aspx>

Recent Announcements and Awards

Wisconsin Help for Homeowners

The Wisconsin Help for Homeowners (WHH) program is currently under development, [aiming to provide \\$92.7 million in grants](#) to owner-occupied households who have experienced a COVID-19 related financial hardship, based on income level. Eligible types of expenses under this program may include: mortgage and interest payments, real estate taxes, condominium and association fees. Vacation homes, rentals, cabins, and second homes are ineligible for assistance through WHH. Once approved by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, WHH will be funded through the federal homeowner assistance fund program established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.



The public input period has ended, and program plan will soon be submitted for approval from the U.S. Treasury. For more information, visit: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/Homeowner-Assistance.aspx> or homeownerhelp.wisconsin.gov.

Wisconsin Tomorrow Lodging Grants

Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) [awarded more than \\$70 million](#) of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to members of Wisconsin's lodging industry. Grants of up to \$2 million were released on August 6, 2021 to 888 lodging businesses around the state, to help them offset some of the losses they incurred during the pandemic. The DOR will continue releasing lodging grants to additional lodging businesses in the coming days.



Additional information about the Wisconsin Tomorrow Lodging Grant program is available here: <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/TaxPro/2021/WITomorrowLodgingRecoveryGrant.aspx>

Neighborhood Investment Fund

Governor Evers announced \$200 million for the [Neighborhood Investment Fund Grant Program](#), on August 24. Local and tribal governments will be eligible to apply for Neighborhood Investment Fund Grants to help their communities to deliver innovative public services, including new or improved facilities. Governments could pursue new projects like workforce and entrepreneur innovation centers, affordable housing initiatives, transit and childcare solutions, or public space development, with a particular emphasis on increasing services for underserved individuals and populations. The program is funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act and will be administered by the Department of Administration (DOA). Additional program and application information coming soon.

Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Grant Program

The [Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment Grants](#) will provide \$50 million in funding to local and tribal governments or non-profit healthcare organizations to invest in capital projects

that specifically support increasing access to healthcare for low income, uninsured, and underserved communities and the ability to respond to future pandemics response needs. Projects could include new or upgraded facility space that enables additional capacity for care within a community. The program is funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act and will be administered by the Department of Administration (DOA). Additional program and application information coming soon.

Coming Soon

Stay tuned on these upcoming grant opportunities and announcements:

- **Broadband Access Grant Award Recipients**
- **Equitable Recovery Grant Program launch**
- **Tourism Capital Grant Program launch**
- **Tourism Investment Project Grant launch**

We look forward to sharing additional updates on upcoming grant rollouts and announcements, to help Wisconsinites bounce back.