

wisconsin economic development corporation wedc

wisconsin economic development corporation wedc plays a pivotal role in fostering economic growth and enhancing business opportunities in the state of Wisconsin. As the state's lead economic development agency, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is committed to supporting businesses, communities, and entrepreneurs by providing resources, funding, and strategic initiatives. This article explores the structure, programs, and impact of WEDC, highlighting how it drives job creation, innovation, and investment across Wisconsin. Understanding the functions and benefits of WEDC is essential for businesses looking to expand or relocate within the state. The following sections provide a comprehensive overview of WEDC's mission, services, key programs, and partnerships that contribute to Wisconsin's economic vitality.

- Overview of Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)
- Core Programs and Services Offered by WEDC
- WEDC's Role in Business Growth and Investment
- Community and Workforce Development Initiatives
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Impact and Success Stories

Overview of Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is a public-private organization established to promote sustainable economic growth throughout Wisconsin. It functions as the state's main economic development agency, tasked with creating an environment that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation. WEDC operates under the guidance of a board of directors and collaborates closely with government entities, private sector partners, and local communities to implement strategies that improve the business climate.

Mission and Vision

WEDC's mission is to foster a dynamic and inclusive economy by helping businesses start, grow, and succeed while enhancing the quality of life for Wisconsin residents. Its vision emphasizes a thriving state economy driven by innovation, diverse industries, and competitive workforce development. Through strategic investments and partnerships, WEDC aims to position Wisconsin as a leading state for business and economic opportunity.

Organizational Structure

The organization is structured to efficiently deliver services and programs that support economic development goals. WEDC includes specialized teams focused on business attraction, industry development, community assistance, and innovation. This structure enables it to address the unique needs of various sectors and regions across Wisconsin.

Core Programs and Services Offered by WEDC

WEDC provides an extensive array of programs and services designed to support businesses at every stage of development. These initiatives are tailored to stimulate investment, facilitate access to capital, and enhance workforce capabilities.

Financial Assistance Programs

One of the key offerings of WEDC includes financial incentives aimed at encouraging business expansion and job creation. These programs provide grants, loans, and tax credits to eligible companies across multiple industries.

- **Business Development Tax Credits:** Incentives for companies creating new jobs or making capital investments.
- **Community Development Investment Grants:** Funding to support local infrastructure and economic development projects.
- **Entrepreneurial Loan Programs:** Low-interest loans to assist startups and growing businesses.

Business Support Services

Beyond financial support, WEDC offers consulting, market research, and networking opportunities to help businesses navigate challenges and

capitalize on growth prospects. These services include guidance on export development, regulatory compliance, and innovation commercialization.

WEDC's Role in Business Growth and Investment

WEDC serves as a catalyst for business growth by attracting new companies to Wisconsin and supporting existing businesses to expand. Its comprehensive approach encompasses site selection assistance, workforce solutions, and facilitating access to capital markets.

Business Attraction and Retention

Through targeted marketing and outreach efforts, WEDC promotes Wisconsin's competitive advantages, including its skilled workforce, infrastructure, and strategic location. It works closely with local economic development organizations to retain key employers and attract new investments.

Innovation and Technology Advancement

WEDC actively supports innovation through initiatives that foster research and development, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship. Programs such as innovation grants and business incubators provide critical resources for technology-driven companies.

Community and Workforce Development Initiatives

Recognizing that a robust workforce and vibrant communities are essential to economic success, WEDC invests in programs that enhance skills development and local capacity building.

Workforce Training and Education

WEDC partners with educational institutions, industry associations, and employers to develop training programs that align with current market demands. These efforts aim to close skill gaps and prepare workers for high-demand occupations.

Community Development Support

WEDC assists municipalities and regional organizations in planning and executing development projects that improve quality of life and economic competitiveness. This includes revitalizing downtown areas, expanding infrastructure, and supporting affordable housing initiatives.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Collaboration is a cornerstone of WEDC's strategy. The organization works with a diverse range of partners to leverage resources and expertise for maximum economic impact.

Public-Private Partnerships

WEDC collaborates with government agencies, private companies, non-profits, and educational institutions to align efforts and foster innovation ecosystems. These partnerships help to create coordinated strategies that benefit multiple stakeholders.

Regional and Local Economic Development Agencies

By partnering with regional economic development organizations and local chambers of commerce, WEDC ensures that statewide initiatives are adapted to meet local needs and opportunities. This network enhances the reach and effectiveness of its programs.

Impact and Success Stories

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has demonstrated measurable success in driving economic growth, job creation, and innovation throughout the state. Several case studies highlight how WEDC's support has transformed businesses and communities.

Job Creation and Investment Growth

WEDC's programs have resulted in thousands of new jobs and significant capital investments in Wisconsin industries such as manufacturing, technology, agriculture, and healthcare. These outcomes contribute to a stronger and more resilient state economy.

Business Expansion and Startup Successes

Many startups and expanding businesses have benefited from WEDC's financial assistance and advisory services, enabling them to scale operations, enter new markets, and increase competitiveness. These success stories underscore the corporation's vital role in Wisconsin's economic landscape.

- WEDC helped a technology firm secure funding to double its workforce within two years.

- A manufacturing company utilized WEDC grants to upgrade equipment and increase production capacity.
- Entrepreneurs received mentorship and loans through WEDC programs, leading to successful product launches.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)?

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is the state's lead economic development agency, focused on supporting businesses, communities, and workforce development to promote economic growth in Wisconsin.

How does WEDC support small businesses in Wisconsin?

WEDC supports small businesses through various programs including grants, loans, tax credits, and business advisory services designed to help startups and existing businesses grow and create jobs.

What types of funding opportunities does WEDC offer?

WEDC offers a range of funding opportunities such as business development loans, grants for innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce training grants, and tax incentives for businesses investing in Wisconsin.

How can Wisconsin communities benefit from WEDC initiatives?

Communities in Wisconsin benefit from WEDC initiatives through community development grants, infrastructure support, workforce training programs, and strategic planning assistance to foster local economic growth and job creation.

What role does WEDC play in workforce development?

WEDC collaborates with educational institutions, employers, and workforce organizations to provide training programs, apprenticeships, and skill development initiatives to ensure a skilled workforce aligned with industry needs.

How can businesses apply for WEDC programs and

assistance?

Businesses can apply for WEDC programs and assistance by visiting the WEDC official website, where they can find information on eligibility, program details, and submit applications online or contact WEDC representatives for guidance.

Additional Resources

1. *The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation: A Catalyst for Growth*

This book provides an in-depth look at the role of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in fostering statewide economic growth. It explores WEDC's strategies, initiatives, and partnerships that have helped transform Wisconsin's business landscape. Readers will gain insights into how public-private collaboration can drive innovation and job creation.

2. *Building Wisconsin's Future: The Impact of WEDC on Local Economies*

Focusing on case studies across Wisconsin, this book illustrates how WEDC's programs have revitalized communities through investment and support for small businesses. It highlights success stories of entrepreneurs and sectors that have flourished with WEDC assistance. The book also discusses challenges faced and lessons learned in economic development.

3. *Innovation and Investment: WEDC's Role in Wisconsin's Tech Sector*

This title delves into WEDC's efforts to boost Wisconsin's technology industries, including biotech, manufacturing, and IT. It examines funding initiatives, incubator programs, and partnerships with universities that have fueled innovation. The book offers a comprehensive overview of how targeted economic policies can nurture high-tech ecosystems.

4. *Public Policy and Economic Growth: The Wisconsin Model*

Analyzing the policy framework behind WEDC, this book outlines how state government policies align with economic development goals. It discusses incentives, tax credits, and regulatory reforms designed to attract and retain businesses. The text serves as a resource for policymakers and economic developers interested in replicating Wisconsin's approach.

5. *Entrepreneurship in Wisconsin: WEDC's Support Systems*

This book focuses on the resources and programs WEDC provides to entrepreneurs starting and scaling businesses. Topics include access to capital, mentorship networks, and business development services. It offers practical guidance for aspiring business owners and highlights WEDC's role in fostering an entrepreneurial culture.

6. *Workforce Development and Economic Prosperity in Wisconsin*

Exploring the connection between workforce readiness and economic success, this book details WEDC's initiatives to enhance skills training and education. It covers collaborations with educational institutions and industry leaders to meet labor market demands. The book emphasizes the importance of human capital in sustaining economic development.

7. *Manufacturing Renaissance: WEDC's Strategy for Wisconsin's Industrial Sector*

This title examines how WEDC supports the manufacturing industry through innovation, modernization, and export promotion. It discusses programs aimed at increasing competitiveness and adapting to global market changes. The book provides insight into revitalizing traditional industries in a changing economy.

8. *Sustainable Economic Development: Wisconsin's Green Growth Initiatives*

Highlighting WEDC's commitment to sustainability, this book explores efforts to promote clean energy, environmental technologies, and sustainable business practices. It analyzes how green initiatives contribute to long-term economic resilience. The book serves as a guide for integrating sustainability into development strategies.

9. *Regional Collaboration and Economic Development in Wisconsin*

This book investigates how WEDC facilitates cooperation among counties, cities, and regions to maximize economic potential. It presents examples of regional planning, resource sharing, and joint marketing efforts. Readers will learn about the benefits and complexities of collaborative economic development approaches.

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China-based electronics firm, was promising to bring TV manufacturing back to the United States with a \$10 billion investment and 13,000 well-paying jobs. They actually were making America great again, they crowed. Two years later, the project was in shambles. Ten thousand construction workers were supposed to have been building what Trump had promised would be “the eighth wonder of the world.” Instead, land had been seized, homes had been destroyed, and hundreds of millions of municipal dollars had been committed for just a few hundred jobs—nowhere near enough for Foxconn to earn the incentives Walker had shoveled at them. In *Foxconned*, journalist Lawrence Tabak details the full story of this utter collapse, which was disturbingly inevitable. As Tabak shows, everything about Foxconn was a disaster. But worse, he reveals how the economic incentive infrastructure across the country is broken, leading to waste, cronyism, and the steady transfer of tax revenue to corporations. Tabak details every kind of financial chicanery, from eminent domain abuse to good old-fashioned looting—all to benefit a coterie of consultants, politicians, and contractors. With compassion and care, he also reports the distressing stories of the many individuals whose lives were upended by Foxconn.

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and the relationship between knowledge-based industries and entrepreneurship policies.

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significant prognostication regarding what internationalization in higher education would look like in its aftermath. Within the field of international education, many stated the need to reimagine internationalization in and of higher education in the face of severe budget cuts, restrictions on travel, and increased government protectionism in the face of growing nationalistic populism globally to name a few challenges. Absent from many of those discussions, however, were the voices of many leader-practitioners who have had to think flexibly about internationalization in higher education in order to sustain and grow programs throughout the last 20 years despite numerous exogenous factors, e.g., earlier economic recessions and viral outbreaks, along with endogenous factors like internal leadership transitions and institutional reorganizations. *Wisconsin in the World* explores how internationalization at the University of Wisconsin–Madison (UW) has been a decades-long, ongoing endeavor. Against that backdrop, the various chapters also provide a snapshot of how people across the UW campus were reflecting on their work amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and on the implications of the pandemic regarding the future of campus internationalization. The book is organized into four overarching sections—internationalization of the curriculum (general and language); experiential learning (co-curricular engagement and education away); establishing linkages (institutional and outreach); and administration. To highlight the expansive way campus units have been engaging in internationalization, a wide-ranging set of chapter case studies have been included. Although not exhaustive, this volume does provide a robust cross-sectional view into internationalization at UW. For international education scholars and practitioners then, a number of the chapters also highlight areas that may warrant further engagement and exploration moving forward. Finally, by examining how internationalization at UW has been informed by the Wisconsin Idea, this book explores how institutional internationalization strategies can align with and be tailored to institutional values for long-term sustainability. In addition to the 34 chapters focusing on different units and programs at UW, *Wisconsin in the World* also includes a number of contributions from colleagues at other institutions. Each section has a lead-in chapter which provides an overview of the scholarship in that particular area and/or a concluding chapter from a scholar-practitioner situating the UW “cases” in relation to their own work. The intention of structuring the book this way was to facilitate a dialogue among UW colleagues, across institutions, and with the scholarship in the field. The target audience for *Wisconsin in the World* includes practitioners or scholar practitioners in the field of international education (study abroad, education away, internships, partnerships, program development), as well as faculty and students in global higher education or comparative and international education graduate programs. Additionally, this volume may be of general interest for any higher education administrator who may not have a background in international education but may become responsible for programs and support within a school or college context (e.g., a dean or department chair).

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and throughout the state, as do the Effigy Mounds—burial mounds—in the form of animals or birds of the Woodland Indians. The Handy Wisconsin Answer Book takes an in-depth look at the state's variety, along with its fascinating history, people, myths, culture, and trivia. Covering its industries, politicians, arts, media, culture, and, of course, sports dynasties and legends, it brings the state's past and present to life. Learn about the earliest people in the Great Lakes area, the Paleo-Indian People, French explorers, traders, the Paul Bunyan "myth," today's numerous ethnic festivals, including Brat(wurst) Days, Polka Days, Cheese Days, and the Wisconsin Highland Games. Uncover surprising fun facts like Brett Favre's first forward pass for the Packers was caught by ... Brett Favre! From log-rolling, the state capital in Madison and its politics, famous breweries, major manufacturers Kohler Company, Johnson Controls, John Deere, Caterpillar Inc. and Harley-Davidson motorcycles to the Milwaukee Art Museum, Willem Dafoe, Georgia O'Keeffe, the infamous Jeffrey Dahmer, Al Jarreau, and other notable people and places, The Handy Wisconsin Answer Book answers to nearly 1,400 questions the Badger State's unique and interesting history, people, and places, including: Why is Wisconsin called "Wisconsin"? How much snow falls in Wisconsin? What is the Wisconsin state dance? Which Native American tribes called Wisconsin home? Was there a Civil War POW camp in Wisconsin? How did log rolling become a sport? Why was the Oleomargarine Act supported by nearly every farmer in the Dairy State? What was the Day the Music Died? How many acres of State Forests does Wisconsin have? Was Paul Bunyan a real person? Where is the Pabst Mansion located? What is the most popular attraction in the state? How many beer festivals are there in Wisconsin? Where is Roundy's headquartered? Which waterway is most important to Wisconsin? Which political party held sway in Wisconsin when the state was formed? What caused so much controversy in the redistricting of 2010? What is unique about Wisconsin's capitol building? Where did the Green Bay Packers get their name? How much did each winning player make for playing in Superbowl I? How much milk does it take to make one pound of butter? How many towns in Wisconsin claim to be the UFO Capital of the World? The Handy Wisconsin Answer Book answers these and more intriguing questions about people, places, events, government, and places of interest! It's an informative and fun look at the Badger State, people, history, and culture.

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