



Strategic Investment Fund Program

Program Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2025			
Lead Division: Policy and Program Development			
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Revised		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Loan	<input type="checkbox"/> Tax Credit	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance

Introduction

Background Information: The Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) program was created in 2023 as part of WEDC strategic planning efforts. This concept leverages WEDC's flexibility – compared with that of other state agencies – to create a systematic way to target innovative practices in economic development with an emphasis on the pillars developed in the [Wisconsin Tomorrow](#) reports.

The SIF program takes a proactive approach in addressing economic development issues, recognizing that timely and strategic intervention is crucial for fostering sustainable growth and resilience. By identifying emerging trends, leveraging innovative solutions, and engaging diverse stakeholders, the SIF program aims to create a dynamic and inclusive economic environment through supporting projects and initiatives that strategically advance WEDC's mission and vision. The program will contribute to projects that help build a Wisconsin economy that does one or more of the following:

- Fuels financial stability.
- Educates everyone.
- Supports healthy living.
- Reinforces community infrastructure.
- Respects the environment.

Program's Purpose: The goal of the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) program is to assist organizations carrying out activities that support WEDC's:

Vision: An Economy for All, where every Wisconsinite has the opportunity to thrive.

Mission: To strategically invest in Wisconsin to enhance the economic well-being of people and their businesses and communities.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Projects: SIF is available for projects that further WEDC's Vision and Mission and are otherwise not funded through existing programs offered by WEDC.

Eligible Use of Funds: SIF funding must be used for projects that advance WEDC's Mission and Vision and the five pillars of an Economy for All referenced under program "Background Information".

Matching: Depending on the project funded by SIF, WEDC may require matching funds.



Available Incentives

FY25: \$3,000,000

Award Sizes: Up to \$3,000,000

Awards per Applicant: Up to one award per applicant per fiscal year.

Activities and Expected Outcomes

Assist three organizations.

Impact: Ability to proactively respond to emerging economic opportunities and challenges to foster innovation and support economic growth

Metrics: Each project will have its own specific metrics including but not limited to the following:

- Leverage – Total.
- Pass-through Businesses Assisted (technical).
- Pass-through Businesses Assisted (financial).
- Pass-through Leverage Total.
- Pass-through Job Creation.
- Pass-through Job Retention.

Application Guideline

Timeline: The SIF program has a continuous application process.

Review Considerations: WEDC may take the following into account when evaluating projects:

- Alignment with WEDC Mission and Vision.
- Geographic focus.
- Innovative approach.

How to Apply: SIF project must have an executive sponsor within WEDC and be approved by the CEO and CFO in concept prior to submittal of an application and have metrics for evaluating project success.

Upon approval of the project concept, the applicant will be invited to submit their application through Network Wisconsin.

Award Process: The completed application will be assigned to a WEDC underwriter and go through the award review process. All SIF projects will be reviewed and approved by the



WEDC Awards Administration Committee. Projects of \$1 million or more will also be reviewed and approved by WEDC's Board.

Performance Reporting: Recipients must submit a periodic performance report documenting project and contract deliverables.

WEDC annually selects awards on a sample basis for an audit. All backup to the performance report and financial records must be maintained by the Recipient for at least three (3) years after the last performance report is due.

WEDC may impose additional reporting requirements to evaluate project performance and to ensure compliance with contract deliverables.

Revision History

Program Inception – Fiscal Year 2024

- 7/1/2024: