



July 3, 2024

The Honorable Howard Marklein
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol, 316 East
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Mark Born
Assembly Chair, Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol, 308 East
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

WEDC 13.10 REQUEST FOR REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HUB GRANT FUNDS

Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Born:

Under s. 13.10, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation ("WEDC") requests the transfer of \$7,500,000 General Program Revenue ("GPR") funds in fiscal year ("FY") 2024-2025 from the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental GPR appropriation under s. 20.865 (4)(a), Wis. Stats., General purpose revenue funds general program supplementation, to the WEDC appropriation under s. 20.192(1)(ar). These funds will serve to effectuate the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub grant authorized by 2023 Wisconsin Act 96.

Background

On February 23, 2024, 2023 Wisconsin Act 96 (the "Act") became law, directing WEDC to make a grant of \$7,500,000 to BioForward, Inc., in its capacity as the lead consortium member of the consortium formed for purposes of Wisconsin's federal designation as a regional technology and innovation hub.

The Act provides that the grant moneys shall be expended on:

1. The establishment in this state of a clinical work flow and supply chain support center for image-guided therapies and theranostics.
2. The construction of expanded shared lab space at Forward BIOLABS, Inc., the construction of new Forward BIOLABS, Inc., lab space, and the development of lab-related programming and support for the expansion of Forward BIOLABS, Inc.
3. The development of a program that provides support for manufacturing and supply chain companies in this state to develop apprenticeship programs and the development of incentives for employers in this state to engage apprentices in high-demand industry sectors.

The Act further provides that no moneys may be released unless the consortium is awarded a federal grant under 15 USC 3722a(f). Such federal grant in the estimated amount of \$49,000,000 was announced on July 2, 2024.

LOOK FORWARD 

Request

WEDC requests the transfer of \$7,500,000 GPR to the appropriation under s. 20.192(1)(ar) to contract with BioForward, Inc., in its capacity as the lead consortium member, for the grant funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Kate Constalie, WEDC Legislative Liaison, may be contacted at 608-210-6779, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa L. Hughes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa L. Hughes
Secretary & CEO

Cc: Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Brian Pahnke, State Budget Director, Division of Executive Budget and Finance
Joe Malkasian, Clerk, Joint Committee on Finance