



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 3, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 326 in its entirety.

This bill would require the Department of Revenue to establish and maintain a local grant writing and compliance assistance program to help small communities pursue state and federal funding.

I support Wisconsin's local government partners, and I am proud that, as governor, my administration and I have worked diligently to be partners in, rather than obstacles to, the good work local elected officials and communities do every day across our state. An important responsibility for my administration has been administering billions of dollars in brand-new grant programs my administration created, which were funded through federal investments I directed.

Because of my administration's single-handed efforts, we have helped ensure kids, families, farmers, veterans, child care providers, small businesses, hospitals, hotels, and so many others could survive the worst economic crisis in a decade during the worst public health crisis in a century. Importantly, a key part of our work was, in fact, helping support local partners navigate applications across dozens of innovative, first-of-their-kind programs that we created from scratch, ensuring grant writers could learn about, understand, and apply to receive millions of dollars in funding to benefit and improve the lives of Wisconsinites across our state.

The fact is, my administration was able to support so many local partners and communities because we had the staff and resources that we needed in order to do so. Additionally, in administering the many grant programs that were stood up during the pandemic, we repeatedly heard from local communities about the importance of local capacity to seek out and successfully apply for grants.

Unfortunately, this bill fails to recognize and acknowledge this basic but essential key to our success and provides no funding or resources to help accomplish the bill's important goal of supporting local communities and partners across our state. For this reason, I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature creating a new program without providing the resources necessary to successfully implement said program.

In addition to the billions in federal funding my administration has administered, I have also proposed a local grant source program in my recent budgets that lawmakers have repeatedly rejected. While I was encouraged to finally see legislative support for a concept similar to what I have previously proposed, unfortunately, the department's requests for additional staffing and resources to administer this program were ignored, and lawmakers chose not to approve any new resources for the department in the final bill.



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If we want communities throughout Wisconsin to benefit from a program that can help them draw down state and federal investments, it must be adequately staffed and resourced to ensure the agency responsible can actually do that important work.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tony Evers'.

Tony Evers  
Governor