



ANNUAL **REPORT**

2026



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends—

When I look back on the 2025–2026 year, I am again reminded that the work of Workforce Connections is ultimately about people. The numbers in this report are important, but behind every number is a person or family working toward greater stability, employment, education, or a new opportunity.

This year, our staff continued to show up every day for the people and communities we serve. We helped individuals find employment, supported education and training, provided resources when families needed them most, and continued building relationships throughout Western Wisconsin. But sometimes the most important thing we provide is harder to measure. Our people are the cheerleaders and champions in the corner, encouraging someone to keep going, reminding them of what they are capable of, and helping them see possibilities they may not yet see for themselves. That is at the heart of what we do.

None of this work happens alone. I am grateful for our staff, our Board of Directors, our community partners, and the many organizations that trust us to carry out this work. Most importantly, I am grateful to the individuals and families who allow us to be part of their journey.

As we look ahead, there is much more work to do and tremendous opportunity before us. I am proud of where we have been, and very excited about where we are going.

Warm regards,
Teresa Pierce
Executive Director

PARTICIPANTS

940

Participants Served

Child Support Liaison

361

Referrals

181

Enrollments

123

Reported
Employments

284

Jobs Obtained

90

Degrees/Certificates
Obtained

Foster Grandparent Program

184

Students
Served

4K

Volunteer
Hours

12

Schools
Represented

ACTIVITY AND IMPACT

9

Counties Served

Dollars Distributed

\$188k

Emergency
Assistance

\$72k

Family Stabilization
Payments

\$20k

Job Access
Loans

991

Vouchers Processed

6,902

Gift Cards Distributed

Community Involvement

193

Work Sites
Added

88

Events
Attended

90+

Partners
Agencies

OUR TALENTED STAFF



Gina
Brown



Faith
Oliver



Jessica
Hanson-Nemec



Gidget
Gade



Kristen
Bell



Kelly
Becker



Kim
Jones



Kayla
Geisdorf



Kenzie
McCoy



Megan
Walters



Patricia
Sobyte



Rebecca
Severinski

722

Hours of
Training

\$6,577

Invested in
Staff Development



Shannon
Franek



Sarah
Wick



Teresa
Daun



Teresa
Pierce



Wanda
Palmer



Tanya
Vaughn Johnson



Abby
Briggs



Andrea
Brownlee



Amy
Larson



Chelsey
Yeskie

OUR KNOWLEDGEABLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Lyn
Pletta**



**Ted
Everson**



**Deb
Scoville**



**Heather
Gerken**



**Doug
Billings**



**Mary
Rohrer**



**Tou
Yang**



**Mark
Wemette**



**Carolyn
Colleen**



**Matt
Bainter**

OUR PURPOSE

“

My Case Worker has been a blessing. She never gives up on me.

”

“

I felt fairly broken when I first met with my case worker. She worked with me and got me to believe in myself. She opened opportunities for me that would not have been possible. Always encouraging me along the way to not give up. Her professionalism is inspirational as well. I'm extraordinarily grateful for my case workers efforts. She has always met me halfway.

”

“

There were many resources that I didn't know about and they helped me get a job I really like in the end.

”

“

I loved how helpful and knowledgeable [my case worker] was about different options and opportunities for growth. Also, she was kind and friendly and made me feel comfortable meeting with her.

”

Mission

Connect people,
work, and training.

Vision

Inspire individuals to
strengthen their purpose,
passion, and potential.

Values

Connected	Accountable
Committed	Compassionate
Integrity	Excellence

GRANTS & FINANCIALS

Grants awarded this year:



Wisconsin Works: awarded to continue performing W2 services in the Western Region AND expand into Northwest



TJX Foundation: to provide additional resources to our Education Navigator program, helping youth stay in school



La Crosse Area Community Foundation: to fund Driver's Education and Behind the Wheel courses for La Crosse County



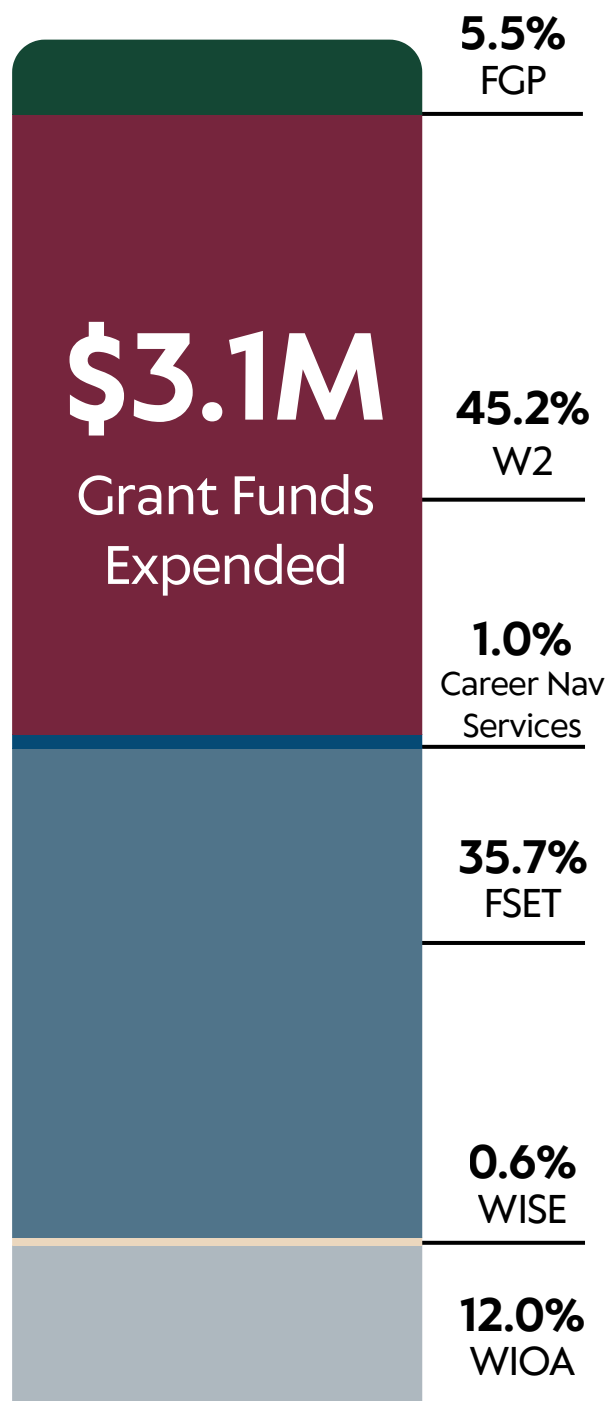
Ross: gift cards distributed to participants ages 3-24 to help cover the cost of school or work clothing.



BRF Area Foundation: providing Jackson County residents with vehicle repairs and tires to ensure they maintain employment.



Foster Grandparent Program: awarded to continue connecting local schools with senior citizens to tutor students



Assets

\$1,220,649

Cash	\$493,251
Grants/Other Receivable	\$363,962
W2 Fee for Service Receivable	\$117,995
Prepaid Expenses	\$52,316
ROU Assets - Lease, Equipment & Vehicle	\$193,125

Liabilities

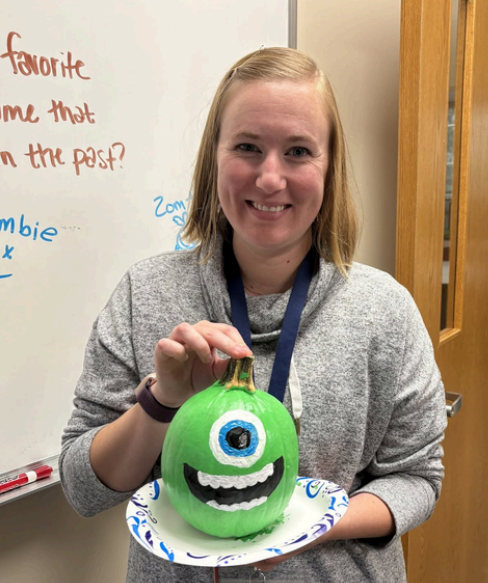
\$432,180

Accounts Payable	\$47,610
Accrued Payroll	\$154,582
ROU Liabilities	\$197,790
Unearned Grant Revenue	\$32,198

Net Assets

\$788,469

Without Donor Restriction	\$681,388
With Donor Restriction	\$107,081



LOOKING AHEAD

Next year brings a great deal of positive change to the organization that will ensure we are stronger for years to come. Not only are these programs opportunities in themselves, they open doors to additional funding opportunities for the organization, both in service areas, such as youth and corrections programs, as well as new locations to the North. We are excited to build and provide more to the communities we serve!

Oct
'26

WIOA Programs

Workforce Connections is expanding its role in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs in Western Wisconsin. In addition to continuing our Adult and Dislocated Worker services, WCI will now provide the Youth Program (E3), Rapid Response, Business Services, and One-Stop Operator services. This expansion allows us to provide more consistent and coordinated workforce services throughout the region. To support these additional responsibilities, we are adding Career Planner positions and a new management position to provide oversight and leadership across WIOA.

Oct
'26

Windows to Work

Workforce Connections will begin providing Windows to Work reentry services in Western Wisconsin. The program assists individuals preparing to return to their communities after incarceration. Support begins prior to release and continues in the community, with individualized guidance to help participants address barriers, achieve employment and stability goals, and successfully transition back into the workforce. To provide these services, WCI will add two full-time staff to our team.

Jan
'27

W2 NW Transition

The new year brings significant expansion for the organization as we begin providing Wisconsin Works services throughout Northwest Wisconsin. With an additional 20+ staff, 5+ new office spaces, and 16 new counties, WCI will more than double in size with this program alone. As we prepare for the transition, we are focused on building relationships, learning about the communities we will serve, and putting the people and resources in place to be ready day one.



**The possibilities
ahead are as
meaningful as
the progress
behind us.**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS!

