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For immediate release
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2021 WISCONSIN FORWARD AWARD ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Madison, WI – Is your company, nonprofit, agency, hospital, or school system on an improvement journey – and ready for external review and feedback? Application materials are now available for the 2021 Wisconsin Forward Award (WFA) program. Applications for organizations at all levels are being accepted. Preliminary intent-to-apply forms to verify eligibility are due **July 10, 2021** with **final applications due August 31, 2021**.

Applications are also being accepted for the **Wisconsin Forward Award Board of Examiners** through **June 1, 2021**. The organization seeks candidates from all sectors of Wisconsin's economy, including business, healthcare, education, and manufacturing, not for profit, service, and government. Examiners review applications and provide feedback to Wisconsin organizations based on the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. The Wisconsin Forward program provides training and mentoring opportunities.

All application materials can be downloaded at www.wisquality.org. Interested organizations or individuals can also call Wisconsin Forward Award at (608) 663-5300 to request materials or further information.

Administered by the Wisconsin Center for Performance Excellence, the WFA application process is open to all Wisconsin business, manufacturing and service organizations, as well public and private education (PK -12 through higher ed), health care, non-profit and government entities. Organizations of any size are encouraged to apply. Based on the internally recognized Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, WFA recognizes organizations at four levels of performance quality, with the Forward Award of Excellence representing the highest level of achievement. Additional recognition includes the Mastery, Proficiency, and Commitment awards.

Founded 1997 by the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment, the Wisconsin Forward Award program was created to promote significant achievements in continuous improvement and performance excellence—business practices that ensure the economic vitality of Wisconsin organizations and the communities they serve.

PROMOTING AND RECOGNIZING WORLD-CLASS EXCELLENCE

The Wisconsin Forward Award is based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for Performance Excellence