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## **Governor Evers' Investment in Apprenticeships and Workforce Programs Will Result in Long-term Solutions for Tech Employers**

MILWAUKEE, WI –

Proposed workforce programs announced by Governor Evers on Wednesday will fund initiatives, such as registered apprenticeships and worker retraining, to help develop skills needed by businesses to secure enduring economic prosperity and create upward mobility for workers to better, higher quality and more family sustaining jobs.

“The Milwaukee Tech Hub Coalition have determined through our current registered tech apprenticeship program that collaboration between industry, non-profits, workforce development boards, and state/local government leads directly to more tech-ready workers that employers are desperate for these days. Our data indicates that investment in reskilling initiatives, such as registered tech apprenticeships, increases both capacity and diversity,” commented Kathy Heinrich, CEO of The Milwaukee Tech Hub Coalition. “We applaud Gov. Tony Evers’ investment of \$130 million toward workforce development programs,” said Heinrich.

Targeted talent development is a powerful engine for the economic recovery. Skill gaps in tech, including areas like software development, data, analytics, cloud, security, and engineering, will constrain the economic recovery of the region.

The funds, which come from the state's American Rescue Plan Act allocation, will be spread across three programs that will help regions find solutions to workforce challenges and help unemployed or underemployed workers find job opportunities. The largest block of funding will provide grants to at least 10 local and regional entities with about \$10 million each to help meet needs including apprenticeships, training, pilot programs and transportation. Evers said that funding would go out sometime in the fall to give regions time to develop proposals.

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### **About Milwaukee Tech Hub Coalition**

The MKE Tech Hub Coalition is a non-profit organization working to inclusively double tech talent in the Milwaukee region. We serve as a unifying voice for Milwaukee’s tech community, working with others to grow a vibrant, inclusive ecosystem where tech and innovation create enduring regional prosperity and life changing jobs. Formed in late 2019, ninety member organizations now collaborate to grow tech jobs matched with the right supply of skilled talent through K-20, reskilling, and attraction/retention initiatives. Underlying all of these initiatives is an intentional focus on increasing the diversity of our tech talent. To learn more about the MKE Tech Hub Coalition, visit [mketech.org](http://mketech.org).