



Grants Available to Help Wisconsin Manufacturers

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The Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC), headquartered on the University of Wisconsin-Stout campus in Menomonie, WI, has received grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to help small and mid-sized manufacturers. The NWMOC is a member of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), a national network that comprises 59 MEP centers in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$6,500 and can be used to pay as much as 50 percent of project costs for services provided by NWMOC project managers. The remaining project costs will be paid by the manufacturing company.

NWMOC Director Larry Blackledge said “With this assistance we will be able to help manufacturers prepare themselves for growth and profitability in the coming economic recovery.”

For small to mid-sized manufacturers (fewer than 500 employees) who are interested in undertaking a lean manufacturing transformation, up to \$5,000 per company is available. This funding is intended to help manufacturers improve performance in all areas of business.

Grants up to \$6,500 per company are available for small to mid-sized manufacturers to implement Eureka! Winning Ways®, a nationally recognized and proven system that accelerates growth and generates ideas for new products and services. Grants are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Project completion deadline is December 31, 2010. Interested manufacturers should call 1.866.880.2262 or 715.232.2397.

The NWMOC provides services to small and mid-sized manufacturers in 33 counties in northern and western Wisconsin to help them compete in a global economy. Last year, through third-party independent surveying, NWMOC’s clients reported over \$60 million in impacts, 201 jobs created, and 178 jobs retained as a result of NWMOC services. Clients gave the NWMOC a 4.58 customer satisfaction rating on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest possible rating.

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