

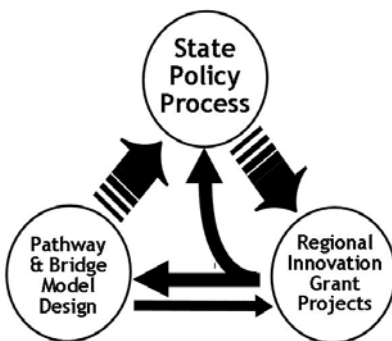
What is RISE?

Empowering workers to find job security and advancement opportunities remains a pressing challenge in Wisconsin. Our future economic success depends on a highly skilled workforce, yet even as key industries like manufacturing and health care face shortages of skilled labor, career-building educational opportunities continue to elude low-skilled adults.

Now, with funding from the Joyce Foundation's "Shifting Gears" program, Wisconsin is embarking on a major initiative to link education and job training with employer needs in critical industry sectors. The Regional Industry Skills Education (RISE) project will use \$1 million in Shifting Gears funds to leverage other resources toward state level policy change and regional program innovation. The goal: stronger state and regional support for "career pathways" (see reverse) providing workers with stepping stones to skills and credentials that Wisconsin's driver industries and regional employers demand.



A process of state policy and program innovation...



The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin Technical College System will lead a statewide effort, building on local Wisconsin models and drawing on national expertise, to make career pathways a more central part of the state's education and job training systems.

Wisconsin's technical colleges and workforce development boards, as well as other partners, will play important roles in pathway design and implementation. The business community will be engaged at both the state and regional levels to connect the development of career pathways with the skill needs of major industry sectors and to ensure the resulting pathway structures enjoy strong industry credibility and support.

...to build new structures of regional opportunity

RISE will generate an intensifying cycle of innovation over the next two years, consisting of three central elements:

- Development and refinement of prototype career pathway models and industry-driven pathway training curricula.
- State-level program realignment and policy change to support career pathways throughout Wisconsin.
- Grants to GROW regions to implement career pathways throughout the state.

Various stakeholders will benefit from the state and regional policy, program, and system innovations initiated under RISE:

- Workers will gain skills and opportunities through a more accessible and navigable job training and career advancement system.
- Employers will secure a reliable pipeline of workers whose skills are geared to industry needs.
- Workforce training and education programs will engage with industry more effectively, and better target limited resources.

