Economic Development

July 2026

ENVISION
GREATER FOND DU LAC

Make My Move

Fond du Lac County's most urgent long-term challenge is workforce sustainability. This is not a unique challenge, most of the country is experiencing challenges in maintaining a workforce pipeline.

Today, about one in five Fond du Lac County residents is age 65 or older. Long-term projections show that without intentional action, our county could begin seeing population decline around 2040. That matters because population is directly tied to our workforce, our schools, our housing market, our small businesses, and our local tax base.

Our employers want to stay here, grow here, and create opportunities here. But to do that, they need confidence that Fond du Lac County will have enough working-age adults to support that growth. If we want to keep our businesses strong and support future investment, we need to attract and retain working-age people and families.

Make My Move is one tool to help address that challenge.

The State of Wisconsin created a $5 million talent recruitment grant program through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Envision Greater Fond du Lac applied for this competitive grant and received funding to partner with Make My Move, a national talent attraction platform, to recruit 32 households from outside Wisconsin over the next two years. The application process must begin ***before*** moving to Wisconsin.

This is not a blank check. Applicants must meet clear requirements before they are eligible for incentives. Each household must have at least one individual with household income of $55,000 or more, complete an application, pass a criminal background check, and go through ongoing check-ins and verification.

The goal is simple: attract people who want to work, contribute, raise families, support local businesses, and become part of Fond du Lac County.

This program does not replace our commitment to the people who already live here. It strengthens it. A growing workforce helps protect local jobs, support employers, expand the tax base, and keep Fond du Lac County competitive for the future.

FAST FIVE

(All items underlined are hyperlinked)

1. Developing a Talent Pipeline
2. Entry Level Employment Catalog
3. Labor Shortage Article
4. Wisconsin data center supply chain interactive map
5. *Entrepreneurial Clients Served YTD 2026:*

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Upcoming Ignite Events

Please join us for an amazing networking and troubleshooting opportunity that allows local small business owners to come together to connect, share ideas, and support one another. Rather than competing, entrepreneurs will embrace collaboration.

Click here to view and register for all of our events!

Women Mean Business

August 3 - 31 (Every Monday in August)
at Wonder Cafe in Fond du Lac.
Women Mean Business is a five-week, Monday evening series designed for women in the ideation stage of a business idea, as well as established business owners preparing to launch a new product.

Adapting with AI: A Conversation
Thursday, August 13 (5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
at The Passenger Lounge in Fond du Lac.

Join us for a panel discussion between experienced AI users and consultants for an honest, wide-ranging conversation about navigating AI in today's landscape. This is not the surface level scope that you can find reading articles online. This forum will have candid insights, some opposing views, and ideas that will challenge or surprise you.

Projects In the Pipeline

- **Exciting RFI from a growing group of technology-driven companies looking to build a campus in our region. Fond du Lac County is being considered.**
- **34,000 s.f. warehouse in the city available for lease within the next week.**

Summer Series for Interns and Co-ops Recap

The 2026 Summer Series for Interns and Co-ops wrapped up this July. 127 interns were registered representing 10 local area businesses. Participants enjoyed learning about the amenities of the county through a wide range of activities. From attending a Dock Spiders game to attending a breakfast with Young Professionals of Fond du Lac (YPF) to actively cleaning up Lakeside Park, these interns made connections with each other as well as with the community. One intern wrote about the program, "With weekly events connecting us with other interns our age while showing us different places in the area, I now have more things to look forward to each week and have made a lot of new friends and connections from different companies because of it." It is clear this program makes a positive impact!