

Fiscal Estimate - 2025 Session

☒ Original ☐ Updated ☐ Corrected ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number 25-2291/2	Introduction Number AB-0159
Description creating a rural creative economy development grant program	
Fiscal Effect State: <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; padding: 5px;"><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs</div></div> Local: <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; padding: 5px;"><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate</div><div style="width: 33%;">5.Types of Local Government Units Affected</div></div> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; padding: 5px;"><div style="width: 33%;">1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs</div><div style="width: 33%;">3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others</div><div style="width: 33%;">2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs</div><div style="width: 33%;">4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div></div>	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WEDC 4/9/2025

LRB Number	25-2291/2	Introduction Number	AB-0159	Estimate Type	Original
Description creating a rural creative economy development grant program					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB-0159/SB-0173 directs the WEDC to create and administer a rural creative economy development grant program for Wisconsin. The grant program would award grants up to \$50,000 to Wisconsin cities, villages, towns, counties, American Indian tribes and bands, economic development organizations, and nonprofit organizations to fund the following eligible activities:

1. To develop or implement a plan to increase tourism. The grant can cover costs within these plans related to:
 - a. Funding public arts programming, such as performances/exhibitions. This could cover costs such as production costs, artist stipends, and supplies.
 - b. Renovating or upgrading a community's public spaces, signage, facades. This also includes projects to repair/renovate vacant or underutilized buildings. This could include costs related to construction, artist stipends, and supplies.
 - c. Providing community-based arts education.
 - d. Supporting business accelerator programs and technical assistance for creative enterprises
2. To utilize marketing, branding, and promotion campaigns for local creative enterprises, public arts performances/exhibitions, or rural public spaces/venues.

This proposal obligates WEDC to implement the program with the definition of rural areas in its eligibility criteria as any Wisconsin city, town, or village in this state that has a population under 10,000, or an unurbanized area of the state as defined by the US Census Bureau, or a county with a population less than 55,000 people. The proposal also mandates that applicants must provide a match worth 100% of their award from nonstate sources, only 25% of which can be from in-kind contributions.

Additionally, the proposal requires the WEDC to submit a report on the effectiveness of the Rural Creative Economy Grants to the Joint Committee on Finance by May 1, 2027.

This proposal does not explicitly include an appropriation for the WEDC to fund this program. In the event that no appropriation is made, the cost of this program would not be able to be absorbed by the Corporation without reducing available resources for the Corporation's other programs and activities. In addition to needing funds to provide the grants as prescribed under the proposal, WEDC also estimates that it will require an appropriation of 5% of the amount appropriated for the grants to be used for the costs of administering the program.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications