

PRESS RELEASE

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DSPS Communications

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Wisconsin Safety and Professional Services Celebrates Successes of 2024

Agency continued efforts to modernize its work and improve efficiency and safety

Madison – Wisconsin’s safety agency is celebrating the end of another year improving safety for Wisconsin citizens and bringing greater efficiency to state regulation.

In 2024, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) [moved more of its licensing functions](#) to its online, self-service *LicensE* platform. For most of the past year, initial and renewal applications for all occupational credentials have been completed online.

“This has been a multi-year project,” noted DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. “And it was a major lift for our staff over that time. However, moving Health, Business, and Trades credentialing online was a necessary and important step towards making Wisconsin a leader in occupational licensing.”

Other examples of DSPS success in streamlining licensure in 2024 include:

- **The second highest total of initial licenses issued in a calendar year.** 2024 will trail only the record number reached in 2023, [making it by far the highest](#) two-year total ever for DSPS.
- **Enhanced licensing performance dashboards.** DSPS [added more data](#) to its public dashboards in 2024, including median times to receive a Health, Business, or Trades license. The agency has put a focus on sharing information that can be useful to initial applicants or license holders renewing their credentials.
- **Expanded access to Trades exams.** DSPS followed through on plans [announced in 2023](#), partnering with a third-party testing service to dramatically expand Trades exam testing sites across Wisconsin.

“We have seen, and expect to keep seeing, increased demand for trades exams in Wisconsin. Looking into the future, we want to position Wisconsin to meet that demand and help hard-working Wisconsinites get into a variety of great fields quickly and safely,” Hereth said.

DSPS has also kept a focus on safety throughout 2024 as part of its mission to protect Wisconsinites through regulation of license holders and required approval of building plans. One

example from this year was the creation of the Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee. DSPS worked with multiple Boards it administers to form the new Committee, which is [looking into rising concerns and practice questions](#) related to new ways to deliver health care. Made up of members from the Medical Examining Board, Board of Nursing, Pharmacy Examining Board, Physician Assistant Affiliated Board, Cosmetology Examining Board, and Controlled Substances Board, the Committee will look at evolving practices not specifically regulated at emerging businesses like IV, weight loss, and ketamine clinics.

Other examples of DSPS's safety work in 2024 include:

- **The [Accelerate Wisconsin Initiative](#)**, which encompasses multiple new DSPS efforts to streamline the path to licensure in various professions, keeping an emphasis on safety while speeding up the transition from classroom to job site. In 2024, [DSPS worked with participating state nursing programs](#) to offer a pathway for their students to take the national nursing exam before graduation, so they can more quickly join the workforce after graduating.
- **Firefighter Training Grants.** DSPS awarded a [third round of grants](#) through this program, totaling \$75,000. The grant program is a response to thinning ranks at fire departments across the state. The grants go to programs focused on boosting recruitment by introducing students to volunteer and professional opportunities in the fire service.

“By working together, we are building pathways ensuring a viable, and sustainable, public safety workforce for central Wisconsin,” said Northcentral Technical College President Jennie Worden upon accepting the college’s grant in June.

DSPS has also played a vital role in some major economic development projects in 2024, including Microsoft’s work to develop a datacenter in Mount Pleasant. The department’s Division of Industry Services staff has been working with the company to make sure all safety and code requirements are met during development.

“I have worked on site development projects all over the world on behalf of Microsoft Corporation. The plan review and approval process and the general responsiveness of Wisconsin DSPS staff is as high quality and professional as I have encountered,” said Ryan Carver, Senior Director, Construction at Microsoft.

I want to publicly congratulate our staff for their work this year,” said Hereth. “Their work to make Wisconsin a leader in the licensing and regulatory industry, while maintaining the guardrails that keep Wisconsinites safe, is commendable. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2025.”

About DSPS

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, and maintains the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health

campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With two offices and roughly 250 employees, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

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