



News/Updates from the WI Department of Safety and Professional Services

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DSPS Launches Workforce Ready Wisconsin page – The department [developed and launched](#) its Workforce Ready Wisconsin website in June. [Workforce Ready Wisconsin](#) highlights DSPS initiatives that further Governor Tony Evers' success in addressing our state's workforce challenges, using novel collaborations, technology, and data to speed up the transition from classroom to job site. Initiatives include the [DSPS LEAP Portal](#) and an initiative called [Accelerate Wisconsin](#) which empowers nursing students to take their national nursing exam before graduation.



Trades data added to DSPS Performance Dashboard – As DSPS continues to move more of its licensing functions onto its online platform, it is gathering more data that it can share related to licensing performance. The department recently added Trades Applications to its [Occupational Licensing: By the Numbers](#) dashboard. Credential holders can go there to find an up-to-date average time for DSPS to review application materials, review times by profession, and other data.

Commercial Building Plan Review numbers trending up - In FY24, the DSPS Division of Industry Services conducted more commercial building plan reviews than any year in the past seven. DSPS reviews plans for public buildings, including places of employment and multifamily buildings, prior to construction to ensure compliance with state statute and building code. Just another way DSPS is helping keep Wisconsin safe.



Forecasting Demand for Nurses – DSPS developed and took a survey of the state's registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, with the survey results allowing the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development to [forecast future needs](#) in the nursing field. This kind of collaboration illustrates how state agencies, under the leadership of Governor Evers, are connecting the dots to better understand and address our state's challenges.

DSPS's Jennifer Garrett Earns Prestigious Fellowship - The Council of State Governments (CSG) recently [awarded DSPS Assistant Deputy Secretary Jennifer Garrett](#) with a 2024 Henry Toll Fellowship and a place in the nation's premier leadership development program for state government officials. The 49 individuals chosen for this year's fellowship class represent 34 states and U.S. territories and all three branches of state government. Garrett is one of two members of this year's class from Wisconsin. You can find the full list [here](#).



DSPS Assistant Dep. Secretary Jennifer Garrett (center) speaks at the 2024 Salesforce Govt. Trailblazers Summit.

State Fair Ride Inspections – In August, DSPS [performed its annual task](#) of ride inspections for the Wisconsin State Fair. The department’s Field Services staff inspects all rides in Spin City ahead of the Fair to help ensure a fun, safe experience for families attending the fair. In addition, the State Fair takes the extra step of hiring a third-party inspector to review the rides.



Left – DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth and State Fair CEO Shari Black get ready to test the Crazy Mouse rollercoaster following its inspection.

Right – DSPS Fields Services staff inspect rides ahead of the 173rd Wisconsin State Fair.

Fire Dues payments 2024 - DSPS recently [sent payments totaling \\$32,171,000](#) to fire departments across the state as part of the Wisconsin 2% Fire Dues Program. The figure represents a nearly \$4 million increase over the total distribution in 2023. The 2% Fire Dues Program is a significant source of funding for the state’s professional, volunteer, and hybrid fire departments, which use the money to buy and replace equipment, operate fire prevention programming, train crews, and more. The program requires insurers to pay 2% of premiums collected for insurance against loss from fires. The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance collects the dues, and DSPS distributes the dues to cities, towns, and villages across the state according to a prescribed formula. You can see a [detailed accounting of the 2024 distribution](#) on the DSPS website.

Youth Firefighter Training Grant Awards - The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) announced in the Spring its Youth Firefighter Training Grant award winners for 2024. This summer, DSPS has presented ceremonial checks to two of the

winners. [Fox Valley Technical College](#) received \$15,405 and [Northcentral Technical College](#) received \$25,000 in the latest round of grants. Recruitment and retention have become key issues for many Wisconsin fire departments but particularly the all-volunteer departments across the state. The Youth Firefighter Training Grant Program is designed to help address these concerns by exposing high school students to career and volunteer opportunities in the fire service at a time when they are making decisions about their future careers and endeavors.



DSPS Leadership Tours New UW Health Facility – UW Health executives welcomed DSPS leadership for a tour of its nearly completed Eastpark Medical Center in East Madison. They showed Sec. Dan Hereth some of the state-of-the-art technology that will be available to patients in southern Wisconsin and explained how the Center will improve medical care for families, as well as working conditions for the licensed medical professionals employed there.

Board Member Honored - Sheng Lee Yang, a member of Wisconsin's Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board, was recently named to Madison 365's list of the [state's most influential Asian American leaders](#). In addition to her work with the Board, Yang is executive director of Us 2 Behavioral Health Care, a nonprofit mental health organization she founded in 2019 that focuses on accessible, culturally competent care.



Overview of Wisconsin DSPS

DSPS Mission: The mission of DSPS is to promote economic growth and stability while protecting the citizens of Wisconsin.

Description of Work: The Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) provides policy coordination and administrative services to boards, committees, and councils. DSPS also oversees the regulation of credential holders, professional and industry standards, and safe construction of public and private buildings. DSPS includes five divisions:

- **The Division Performance and Management** provides budget and finance, technology, fleet, and facilities management services to DSPS staff statewide.
- **The Division of Policy Development** provides administrative support and policy guidance to professional regulatory boards, as well as consultation about continuing education and examination requirements for regulated professions. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and the Educational Approval Program are housed in this division.
- **The Division of Industry Services** performs inspections of commercial buildings, amusement rides, boilers, elevators, pressurized gas systems, and electrical systems. It also performs plan reviews of elevators, boilers, and private onsite wastewater treatment systems. In addition, this division is responsible for:
 - Auditing third-party and municipal inspection agencies.
 - Performing commercial building, plumbing, and fire suppression plan reviews
 - Administering the Uniform Dwelling Code program and the federal HUD Manufactured Housing program
 - Providing consultations and training to local building officials, as well as commercial and residential contractors.

Industry Services also administers the 2% Fire Dues program and provides consultation, support, and training to more than 800 fire departments throughout the state.

- **The Division of Professional Credential Processing** is responsible for all credential application processing, including determination of credential eligibility and credential renewal.
- **The Division of Legal Services and Compliance** is responsible for the complaint intake process, compliance monitoring, and a confidential program for impaired professionals. In addition, the Division conducts business compliance inspections and financial audits.

Funding: DSPS and board operations are funded through application, renewal, and examination fees, as well as fees associated with required reviews of building plans and other items regulated under the law. A fee schedule for the application and renewal of professional credentials is set by DPCS with legislative oversight. Examination and other DPCS fees are set by statute and administrative rule. DPCS is self-sustaining through the fees it generates and also directs some of its fee revenue annually to the general fund. The department needs legislative approval to spend any surplus generated from fee collection.