

## KAGE Innovation Expands Global Footprint from Polk County

KAGE Innovation, a growing manufacturer based in the Osceola Industrial Park, continues to strengthen Polk County's reputation as a hub for innovative manufacturing while expanding its reach in the snow, lawn, and dirt maintenance industries worldwide.

Founded in 2008, KAGE Innovation was created with a clear mission: to design better equipment attachments for the snow and landscaping industries while creating meaningful employment opportunities for local residents. The company was born in Minnesota, where it developed its first eight products and began building a reputation for durable, practical solutions that solve real-world challenges faced by contractors and operators.



KAGE's steady growth ultimately led the company to relocate operations to Osceola in 2017. Since that move, KAGE Innovation has significantly expanded its manufacturing capabilities and product lineup. Today, the company produces more than 20 snow removal products along with six attachments designed specifically for lawn and dirt maintenance.

There are great things happening throughout Polk County delivering economic success. It is a culmination of multiple factors that deliver economic stability & prosperity. We are extremely fortunate to have an incredible environment that makes Polk County an excellent place to live, work & play.

## This issue:

- KAGE Innovation Expands Global Footprint from Polk County
- USDA Rural Development invests \$105 Million for St. Croix Regional Medical Center New Critical Access Hospital
- Osceola Medical Center Expanding
- Register for Women's Business Expo
- Training Grants and Programs Available to Boost Health Care Workforce
- St Croix Valley Legislative Team in Madison
- How to Stack Capitol Seminar

## KAGE Innovation Continued...

KAGE's products are primarily engineered for skid steers, wheel loaders, tractors, and commercial lawn mowers. Its diverse offering includes snow plows and pushers, snow tires, laser guides, tractor undercarriages, land planes, sprayers, grass catchers and deflectors, snow shovels, and a wide range of related accessories. This versatility allows KAGE to serve customers across multiple seasons and industries, from winter snow removal to year-round landscape and grounds maintenance.

The company first gained national recognition for its simple yet heavy-duty 2-in-1 snow plow and pusher systems, which helped redefine efficiency in snow removal operations. More recently, KAGE has been making headlines for its advanced hydraulic wing plows and innovative motorized lawn mower attachments, further solidifying its reputation as a forward-thinking manufacturer.

As its name suggests, innovation remains central to KAGE's identity. Over the past two years alone, the company has released eight new products designed to improve performance, efficiency, and productivity for landscape and grounds maintenance professionals around the globe.

KAGE Innovation currently employs more than 30 local residents and continues to invest in its workforce and facilities in Polk County. The company also maintains a robust stocking dealer network that spans 20 states and two countries, reaching from Idaho in the west to Maine in the east. This growing distribution network allows KAGE products to compete on a global stage while remaining firmly rooted in the local community.

With its expanding product portfolio, commitment to innovation, and continued investment in Polk County, KAGE Innovation stands as a strong example of how local manufacturing businesses can grow successfully while supporting regional economic development.



[Visit the KAGE Innovation website HERE.](#)

## St Croix Valley Legislative Days in Madison



A group of 23 St. Croix Valley economic focused industry leaders were recently in Madison to meet with legislators to discuss and promote economic initiatives for our region.

Topics included:

- Housing
- Healthcare
- Continuing Education
- Energy Grid Infrastructure

## Polk Economics to Ponder

QUESTION:

POLK COUNTY'S ECONOMY HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN SHAPED BY WHICH TWO MAJOR INDUSTRIES: LOGGING, AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, OR AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING?

Visit our Facebook Page and 'LIKE' the Polk Economics To Ponder post to see the answer to this article's trivia question.



## Osceola Medical Center is Expanding

Osceola Medical Center is expanding its facilities and services to meet growing community health needs. This expansion stems from significant increases in patient volume and space limitations in key clinical areas.

### What the Expansion Includes

- **Campus Reconfiguration & Expansion:** The medical center has developed a strategic plan to expand and reconfigure its main campus in Osceola. This includes enlarging clinic space, improving patient flow, and upgrading infrastructure.
- **Clinic and Service Growth:** There's a focus on addressing space shortages in primary and specialty care clinics, waiting areas, retail pharmacy, and physical therapy/rehabilitation services due to growing demand.
- **Scandia Clinic:** A new clinic in Scandia, Minnesota is under construction and expected to open in mid-2026 (around August). This facility will include family medicine, urgent care, on-site pharmacy, lab, and imaging services, supporting the health needs of Scandia and nearby communities.

### Why the Expansion Is Happening

- **Patient Growth:** OMC reports patient volumes increased over 150% in recent years, with patients coming from both Wisconsin and Minnesota. This growth has created space constraints in core clinical areas.
- **Community Health Needs:** Expanding services and space is part of OMC's mission to deliver timely, high-quality care locally without long travel.

OMC is a nonprofit community health provider with roots in the area going back to 1932.



# USDA Rural Development invests \$105 Million to Help St. Croix Regional Medical Center Construct Its New Critical Access Hospital

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) State Director Andrew C. Iverson announced St. Croix Regional Medical Center will receive \$105 million to construct a 130,000-square-foot replacement critical access hospital facility in St. Croix Falls. The funding includes a \$95,000,000 direct loan and a \$10,000,000 guaranteed loan.

“Access to health care is an important element of a prosperous and self-sustaining community,” said Iverson. “President Trump and Secretary Rollins are focused on investing in critical infrastructure to make sure rural Wisconsinites have access to the health care services they need.”

The existing hospital was constructed in 1954, and many aspects of the building have reached or exceeded their useful lifespan, which makes the continued delivery of quality care challenging. Once completed, the new hospital will increase bed capacity to 25, add surgical and specialty care units, incorporate state of the art imaging and diagnostics, and have a state-of-the-art floor plan to support efficient patient flow and centralize outpatient services.

The new facility will ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and improve patient experience through accessibility, sufficient parking, and updated technology. The plan includes improvements to energy efficiency, monitoring of hospital systems, code compliance, patient safety and comfort, and a reduction in energy and operating costs.

There will also be a shift in focus from inpatient services to outpatient services to follow shifts in community needs with expanded space allocated to outpatient services.

The replacement facility will be located approximately three miles from the existing facility, which is outside the center of the City of St. Croix Falls residential district. The location will allow emergency vehicles easier access.

Funding is being provided through the [Community Facilities Direct Loans and Guaranteed Loans program](#).



## Training Grants and Programs Available to Boost Health Care Workforce



**Fast Forward** 

**Keep Your Success  
Moving Forward**

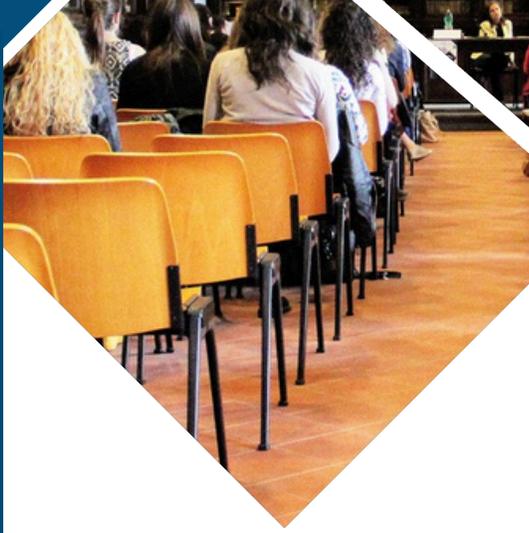
The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is sharing this information on behalf of our partner, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

Strengthening the health care workforce is a key priority for Wisconsin, and DWD has training grants and programs available to help organizations like yours address employment challenges.

The Wisconsin Fast Forward grant program and Wisconsin Apprenticeship successfully help Wisconsin health care employers train or upskill their workforce and recruit and retain workers. Health care apprenticeship programs have grown rapidly in our state since the launch of the first program in 2018 and now include options for registered nurses, respiratory therapists, surgical technologists, ophthalmic assistants, caregivers, interventional cardiovascular technologists, medical assistants, pharmacy technicians, sterilization technicians, and dental assistants.

Funding is available now through [Wisconsin Fast Forward](#) to help employers launch an apprenticeship or alternative employee training program. Wisconsin Fast Forward award funds that reimburse the costs of customized occupational training for unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers.

Learn more about how apprenticeship programs helped UW Health, SSM Health, Western Wisconsin Health, and Children's Wisconsin address skills gaps in their workforce while reducing financial and operational barriers. Then, [connect with DWD](#) to start or expand Wisconsin Apprenticeship programs at your organization and to learn more about training grant opportunities.



# HOW TO STACK CAPITAL: A GUIDE TO LEVERAGING FUNDING SOURCES TO START OR GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Join us on February 27 to hear from expert panelists about leveraging funding resources and application strategies—including bank, gap, government & private venture financing—to help start or grow your business.

Morning refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to everyone, please help spread the word!

## JOIN US



**Friday, Feb 27, 2026**



**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**



**Amery City Hall**

104 Maple St W, Amery, WI 54001

## PANELISTS

- Amanda Veith - Regional Business Fund
- April Nelson - WBD, Inc., SBA
- Paul Mayer - PCM Global Solutions
- Jim Richison - WESTconsin Credit Union

Please register through the  
Microsoft form by February 20.



**Register today!**



The Women's Business Expo will be held on April 28 at Ready Randys in New Richmond ~ [click to learn more and register](#)

R&D INVITES YOU TO

LUNCHEON

**BUSINESSWOMEN'S**

EXPO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - LINDA SKOGLUND

9:30 am - Vender Expo  
11:30 am - Lunch  
12:00 pm - Program  
1:00 pm - Newtworking

R&D Banquet Center|

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