

Safety Grant Program Workplace Safety Consultation

Safety Grants Administrator

Phone: (651) 284-5162

1-800-731-7232

Email: dli.grants@state.mn.us

Web: www.dli.mn.gov/WSC/Grants.asp

Department of Labor and Industry

443 Lafayette Road N.

St. Paul, MN 55155

History

- Legislation was passed in 1992 to set up an account for the Safety Grant Program under the following Minnesota Statutes and Rules:
 - Minnesota Statutes 2002, Section 79.253; and
 - Minnesota Rules 5203.0010 to 5203.0070.
- Funds are deposited in the Safety Grant account from fines levied against employers and insurance companies. Examples of these fines are:
 - late filing of *First Report of Injury*;
 - late first payment of benefits;
 - late denial of claims; and
 - uninsured employers.

Program information

- The Safety Grant Program awards matching funds up to \$10,000 to qualifying employers for projects designed to reduce the risk of injury/illness to employees (the grant award can be 50 percent of the total project cost, up to \$10,000).
- This is a matching (dollar-for-dollar) reimbursement program.
- The grants are designed to promote safety and health in the workplace, especially in high-risk industries.
- The number of grants awarded varies depending on available funding, but can range from 150 to more than 200 grants awarded each year.

Eligibility

- To be eligible, an employer must meet the following conditions.

An on-site hazard survey must be conducted by an approved entity:

- Minnesota OSHA Compliance;
- Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation;
- an in-house safety and health committee;
- a workers' compensation insurance underwriter;
- a private consultant; or
- a person under contract with the Assigned Risk Plan.

Eligibility

- The on-site survey must have resulted in specifically recommended safety practices, equipment or training designed to reduce the risk of injury to employees.
 - The on-site survey must have identified specific safety and/or health hazards and recommended equipment and/or training designed to reduce the risk of injury/illness to employees.
 - The results of the survey must be consistent with the project description in the application.
- The grantee must have workers' compensation insurance.

Eligibility

- The applicant must be a Minnesota employer.
- The applicant must be financially able to complete the project.
- Grant projects must be for *employee* safety and health.

Priority

- If the number of qualified applicants exceeds availability, grants will be awarded based on the following priorities:
 - projects at sites where the majority of jobs are in goods-producing, manufacturing or processing areas;
 - projects located on sites where jobs have been lost or are in jeopardy because of problems relating to safety shortcomings, which will be addressed by the project;
 - projects at industries that are the current focus of the Minnesota OSHA strategic plan; and
 - other announced priority industries (see www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/GrantsPI.asp).

Process

- Steps in the grant process
 - Submit an online application to Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC).
 - Access the online application at www.dli.mn.gov/WSC/Grants.asp
 - If additional information is needed, the employer will be notified.
 - Applications are accepted continuously and grants are awarded every two months.
 - WSC reviews the applications; the WSC director recommends approval or denial.

Process (continued)

- If recommended for approval, the applicant will receive a contract in the mail for signature.
- The signed contract is sent back to WSC for the commissioner's signature.
- Upon receipt of the fully executed contract, signed by the commissioner, the application is approved and the contract is **effective**. (*Note: Do not purchase equipment or provide training prior to the commissioner signing the contract or those items will be voided from the contract.*)

Process (continued)

- Recipients have 120 days from the date of the commissioner's signature to complete the project.
- The project must be paid in full prior to submitting for reimbursement.

*(Note: To receive grant payment, a copy of the **paid** invoice or canceled check, and a signed certificate of completion, must be submitted.)*

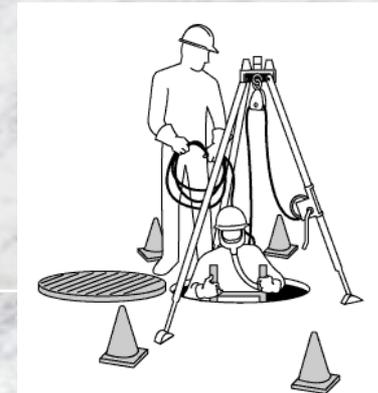
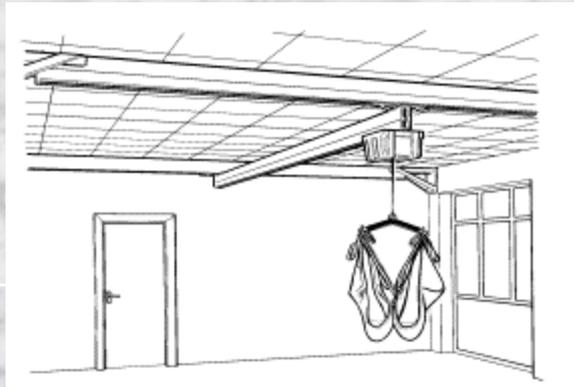
Terms

- Grant recipients will not be eligible to apply for another grant until two years after the date of the award.
For example, if a grant is awarded July 1, 2012, the recipient is not eligible until after July 1, 2014.
- Whether your grant application is approved or denied, in no way diminishes, delays or absolves you of any obligation to abate hazards as required by law.
- No state funds will be distributed until all grant documents are signed by all parties; funds expended before that will not be reimbursed.

Equipment



- Examples of the types of equipment funded:
 - patient lifts, sterilization units, material handling equipment, ventilation systems, machine guarding;
 - specialized PPE, lifts, fall protection, trench boxes, retrieval equipment, air monitoring equipment;
 - eyewash stations, emergency lighting, smoke and heat detectors, respirators; and
 - surveillance and security equipment, other specialized tools/equipment that minimize safety and health risk.



Training tied to equipment

- A. Training for equipment purchase
 - The vendor, manufacturer's representative or other must have the required experience to provide the needed training and the application must contain:
 - who will provide the training;
 - the trainer's credentials; and
 - an overview (syllabus) of what the training will include.

The training must be consistent with OSHA regulations.

Tuition reimbursement

- Safety and health tuition reimbursement
 - Classes are offered at an accredited institution, such as colleges, tech schools or organizations, and the application must contain:
 - a description of the course offering, including course name and the entity offering the course;
 - the number of employees and the job titles of those who will attend; and
 - an overview (syllabus) of what the course will include.

Training must be consistent with OSHA regulations.

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