

Safety NEWSLETTER

The MCWCF Safety Grant Program

This month's newsletter looks at how MCWCF members can identify meaningful opportunities for risk reduction, develop a strong grant request, and use the Safety Grant Program to help protect employees across a wide variety of county and public-sector operations.

Start With the Hazard - Not the Product

It can be tempting to begin a safety grant discussion with a piece of equipment. A better place to begin is:

“What employee exposure are we trying to reduce?”

The strongest safety improvements connect the proposed purchase to an actual workplace risk. That risk might be identified through:

- Injury trends
- Incident and near-miss reports
- Employee or supervisor concerns
- Safety inspections and assessments
- Safety committee discussions
- Risk Register findings
- Recurring or high-risk work activities

Once the exposure is understood, the organization can evaluate which control is most likely to make a meaningful difference.

Five Questions Can Help Build a Strong Grant Request

Before applying, consider whether your organization can clearly answer five questions:

- 1. What is the hazard?** Describe the work activity and employee exposure.
- 2. What is the evidence?** Explain why the concern deserves attention.
- 3. How will the proposed control reduce the risk?** Connect the proposed purchase directly to the exposure.
- 4. Who will benefit?** Consider how many employees will be protected and how frequently the improvement will be used.
- 5. How will you know whether it worked?** Consider how your organization will determine whether the improvement reduced the exposure.

A strong grant request tells a safety story: the hazard, the evidence, the control, who benefits, and how success will be measured.



MCWCF Is Here to Help

Members do not have to identify or evaluate safety improvements alone.

Through MCWCF, safety consulting and training services are available to members at no cost. The safety team can help evaluate workplace hazards, review potential controls, discuss possible safety improvements, and support implementation after an improvement is made.

If you have identified an exposure but are unsure what type of control may be appropriate, reach out to us. Sometimes the most valuable first step is simply having a conversation about the work being performed and the challenges employees are experiencing.

READY TO APPLY?

The MCWCF Safety Grant Program provides members with an opportunity to turn an identified safety need into meaningful action.

The online Safety Grant application and additional information are available on the MCWCF website: michigancountieswcf.org/loss-prevention-grant-application/

CONTACT US TODAY! (800) 258-1152 | michigancountieswcf.org



Timothy K. McGuire
MCWCF Administrator
tmmac24@gmail.com



Eric Waidelich
Vice President of Safety Operations
ewaidelich@rizikon.net

High-Impact Purchase Ideas for Safer Operations



A practical guide to help MCWCF members invest grant dollars where they can make the greatest difference.

UP TO
\$5,000
Maximum annual grant

AVAILABLE
**One Application
Per 12 Month Period**
Per member

DESIGNED FOR
**Reducing Risk
Improving Safety**
Practical, sustainable controls

What Is the Safety Grant Program?

The MCWCF Safety Grant Program helps members purchase equipment, tools, and other safety improvements that reduce workplace hazards and protect employees. The strongest grant requests connect a proposed purchase to a documented injury trend, near miss, Risk Register finding, or high-risk work activity.

The Grant May Help Support:

- Mechanical lifting and material-handling equipment
- Vehicle, roadway, and work-zone safety improvements
- Slip, trip, and fall prevention measures
- Duress, lone-worker, and emergency communication systems
- Specialized personal protective equipment
- Ergonomic and task-specific engineering controls

Start With the Hazard—Not the Product

- What work activity creates the exposure?
- What injuries, claims, near misses, or employee concerns demonstrate the need?
- How will the proposed item reduce the risk?
- How many employees will benefit—and how often?
- What training, inspection, and maintenance will support the purchase?
- How will the member measure whether it worked?

A full list of “**High-Impact Purchase Ideas**” is available on the MCWCF website

Highest value usually comes from purchases that eliminate a hazard, reduce it at the source, or separate employees from the exposure. This grant is an amazing opportunity to make a real difference.

ISSUED BY

WHERE GRANT DOLLARS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Examples based on common operations and national data

LIFTING & MATERIAL HANDLING

Common settings: Facilities, parks, fleet, animal care, grounds maintenance, transit and transportation, elections, public safety services

Possible purchases: Lift tables, wheel dollies, wheeled lifts, carts, transfer devices, stair chairs

VEHICLES & ROADWAY WORK

Common settings: Roads, parks, airports, transit, fire, sheriff, park rangers

Possible purchases: Backup cameras, scene lighting, warning devices, traffic control, high-visibility equipment, proximity alerts

SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS

Common settings: Facilities, parks, jails, airports, public works, transit

Possible purchases: Wet-recovery equipment, improved lighting, guarded platforms, traction and drainage improvements

VIOLENCE & LONE WORK

Common settings: Courts, human services, corrections, health, park rangers, law enforcement or any staff that may be assigned to perform work alone.

Possible purchases: Panic buttons, wearable duress alarms, man-down alerts, GPS or backup communication

HAZARDOUS EXPOSURES

Common settings: Public works, utilities, clinics, fleet, zoos, fire

Possible purchases: Gas monitors, exhaust extraction, decontamination, sharps controls, eyewash and ventilation

ERGONOMICS & REPETITIVE WORK

Common settings: Administration, dispatch, offices, custodial, vehicle shops, records

Possible purchases: Adjustable workstations, ergonomic carts, suspension seats, task-specific handling aids

A Strong Grant Request Clearly Explains:

1	2	3	4	5
THE HAZARD	THE EVIDENCE	THE CONTROL	WHO BENEFITS	HOW SUCCESS IS MEASURED

MCWCF IS HERE TO HELP

Members do not have to identify or evaluate safety improvements alone.

Safety consulting and training services are available to MCWCF members at no consulting or training cost. Our safety team can help evaluate hazards, discuss possible solutions, and support implementation after a purchase is made.

More ideas are available:

A full list of “High-Impact Purchase Ideas” is available on the MCWCF website.

READY TO APPLY?

The online grant application is available at
michigancountieswcf.org/loss-prevention-grant-application/

ISSUED BY



COMPONE
ADMINISTRATORS