

Legislative report: Logger Safety Grant Program summary, state-fiscal-year 2022

The commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) was designated to establish a Logger Safety Grant Program to provide matching funding for logging industry employers to make safety improvements recommended by an on-site safety survey by the 92nd Legislature, 2021 1st Special Session, Chapter 10, Article 3, Section 21. An appropriation of \$1 million was made.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for a grant, an employer must meet the following requirements.

- The employer must be in the logging industry or a closely associated field with at least one employee.
- The employer must have current workers' compensation insurance provided through the Assigned Risk Plan, provided by an insurer subject to penalties under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 176, or provided as an approved self-insured employer.
- The employer must have an on-site safety survey with results that recommend specific equipment or practices that will reduce the risk of injury or illness to employees. This survey must have been conducted by a Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) Compliance investigator, a MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation consultant, 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.

Grant cycle, funding summaries

The following information provides a detailed summary of each grant cycle and the funding awarded.

Cycle one (June 16 through Aug. 15, 2021)

- Applicants: 28
- Awarded grants: 26
- Total grant amount requested: \$691,343.50
- Total employer contribution toward safety improvements: \$2,971,229.91
- Total grant amount awarded: \$640,029.75

Cycle two (Aug. 16 through Oct. 15, 2021)

- Applicants: 29

- Awarded grants: 24
- Total grant amount requested: \$706,255
- Total employer contribution toward safety improvements: \$1,485,409.01
- Total grant amount awarded: \$312,133.31

Cycle three (Oct. 16, 2021, through June 30, 2022)*

- Applicants: 6
- Awarded grants: 4
- Total grant amount requested: \$58,874.72
- Total employer contribution toward safety improvements: \$288,140.00
- Total grant amount awarded: \$47,836.94

Totals for state-fiscal-year 2022

- Applicants: 63
- Awarded grants: 54
- Total grant amount requested: \$1,456,473.22
- Total employer contribution toward safety improvements: \$4,744,778.92
- Total grant amount awarded: \$1 million

*Cycle three was extended through the end of the state fiscal-year because limited grant funds remained after the initial two cycles. The cycle remained open because some employers withdrew their applications and some employers did not use all the awarded grant funding, creating additional funds. All remaining unused or returned funding after the first two cycles was awarded by the end of the state fiscal-year.