Workforce Development Training Fund Updates

As you may know, the demand for Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF) funds have steadily increased over the past several years as more Wyoming employers discover the program and continue to utilize it to enhance their workforce training. At the same time, the program has sustained budget reductions, significantly impacting the availability of grants. The Department of Workforce Services is actively seeking feedback from employers and training entities regarding how to improve the distribution of grant funds. We have extended the deadline for feedback until March 31, 2017. Please direct all comments and recommendations to Carmalee Rose at carmalee.rose@wyo.gov. In addition, we will be sending out a short questionnaire to past recipients of the training fund which will pose questions on best case scenarios with limited funding and the need to focus on highest priorities. Your responses will help shape future changes to the program currently under review.

Workplace Safety Contracts – Safety Improvement Fund

Success Story

Interstate Power Systems, Inc. of Gillette, Wyoming places safety as a top priority. With a team of 150 employees, Interstate Power Systems provides repair for all truck models and trailers, on-site services, with a strong focus on mining trucks and other equipment. They take great pride in their ability to stay safe in the fast paced and dynamic mining environment. “Part of the business’ safety success is attributed to their involvement in the Wyoming Workforce Services, Workers’ Compensation Safety Improvement Fund,” said Interstate Power Systems Safety Manager Bill Boyle. When discussing their accomplishments, Boyle said “Much of the energy and focus started with our biggest and fast paced operations in Gillette, Wyoming. The reason being was the relationship we were able to build via the Workforce Services Program.” In September of 2015, Interstate Power Systems, Inc. was approved for a Workplace Safety Contract, allowing the company to send employees to a course on new miner training. The program awarded Interstate Power Systems the maximum amount of $10,000 towards the training and related expenses. Not only did the training provide the employees with the opportunity to gain more experience, it also helped Interstate Power Systems safely deploy more efforts into the mining industry. Employees without the proper training are not equipped to handle the unique environment of the mining industry, something that Boyle and his team recognized. Today, Interstate Power Systems, Inc. continues to maintain its

Workers’ Compensation Officer/Owner Average Wage for 2017
$11,443.23/quarter; $3,814.41/month

Unemployment Insurance Taxable Wage Base for 2017
$25,400
safety record with an Experience Modification Rating below 1.0 and a strong safety culture within its business. To learn more about the Workplace Safety Contracts - Safety Improvement Fund please visit http://wyomingworkforce.org/businesses/workerscomp/sif/ or contact the program manager at businessrisk@wyo.gov.

Workers’ Compensation Safety & Risk (WCSR)
The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services has a new program called Workers’ Compensation Safety & Risk (WCSR). Currently the staff consists of 10 Safety Specialists located throughout Wyoming. This group collaborates with employers to conduct on-site health and safety audits at the employers’ request. With no Federal oversight, the group is able to work with companies who are registered with Workers’ Compensation, including public agencies. WCSR’s focus is to help companies identify physical or health hazards, correct the hazards, and lower the number of injuries and illnesses in the workplace. With reduced injuries and illnesses, employers will see a savings in workers’ compensation rates. In addition, WCSR offers on-site visit discounts of up to 10%. These discounts are valid for three (3) years and could lead to an additional savings for the employers.

WCSR is a voluntary program for employers and free of charge. The goal is to provide a safer work environment for their employees. There are no fines associated with this program and all information remains confidential. Hazard findings are reported to the employer only.

For more information about the program or to speak with a Safety Specialist, please contact our office at (307) 777-8901.

OSHA Consultation Program
The Wyoming OSHA Consultation Program (WY OSHA Consultation) is available at no charge to Wyoming employers, with priority given to small business employers in high hazard industries.

Our staff of experienced professional safety and health (industrial hygiene) consultants will assess your safety and health programs. This includes identification of safety and health hazards in your workplace with recommendations to reduce or eliminate hazards, meet current safety and health regulations and develop an ongoing, effective safety and health management system. We provide confidential, comprehensive written reports detailing our findings and recommendations. Consultation services are completely confidential; no information is shared with any entity by Consultation.

Per your request, we can conduct follow-up visits as needed to address specific concerns or changes in your workplace that could affect your employee’s safety and health. You decide the scope and extent of the safety and health services provided. WY OSHA Consultation helps accomplish this without issuing citations or penalties.

By law, employers must provide a safe and healthy working environment to their employees. Employers that provide a safe work environment for their employees benefit by increased productivity, higher workplace morale, decreased workers’ compensation costs, and lower health care concerns with their employees.

Available Services
- A comprehensive safety and health walk-through survey to help you recognize and correct hazards in your workplace to prevent injuries and improve productivity.
- Assist you in developing and maintaining an effective safety and health program.
- Offer training and education for you and your employees at your workplace.
- Industrial hygiene assistance, noise measurements, air sampling and analysis.
- Opportunity to participate in state and nationally recognized prestige programs, such as Employer Voluntary Technical Assistance Program (EVTAP), Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) and Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

To apply for OSHA Consultation Services, please visit http://wyomingworkforce.org/businesses/osha/consultation/ or feel free to contact one of our Consultants for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cheyenne</th>
<th>Casper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1510 East Pershing Blvd.</td>
<td>851 Werner Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 307-777-7786</td>
<td>Phone: 307-689-6688</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gillette</th>
<th>Rock Springs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>551 Running W Drive #300</td>
<td>2451 Foothills Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 307-689-6688</td>
<td>(White Mtn. Mall - 101)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 307-214-4744</td>
<td>Phone: 307-689-6688</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP)
The Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) recognizes small business employers who have used OSHA’s Consultation Program services and operate an exemplary injury and illness prevention program. Acceptance into SHARP from OSHA is an achievement of status that singles businesses from their peers as a model for worksite safety and health.

Automation & Electronics, Inc., has been an active partner with Wyoming OSHA Consultation for nineteen years and continues to work diligently to maintain their SHARP status. They are an industrial electrical design-build contractor with strong automation and communication departments. Located in Casper with 180 employees, they provide complete instrumentation and software, electrical, electronic and control services to the oil and gas, coal mining, industrial, and municipal water and waste water industries. They provide services locally and as far reaching as Russia and Africa.

Participation in the SHARP program has resulted in reduced injury and illness rates, lowered insurance costs, and increased productivity. Dedication, longevity to protecting workers, and establishing an outstanding safety culture is exemplified through Automation & Electronics, Inc.’s long-standing involvement in the SHARP Program. Sixteen continuous years as a SHARP participant clearly shows their commitment to their motto “Safety, It’s our Way.”

For the full article on Automation & Electronics, Inc.’s achievement please visit https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/success/ss_automation_and_electronics.html