

Wisconsin Workplace Wellness Program Grant Information

Grant applications are now being accepted for the newly created Workplace Wellness Grant Program. This program was a top legislative priority for the American Heart Association in Wisconsin. This program provides grants to small businesses that create workplace wellness programs.

Key aspects of the law include:

- Appropriates \$3 million per year for grants to reimburse workplaces that have employee wellness programs. The funds are used to reimburse workplaces that have already incurred expenses for their workplace wellness programs. Therefore, the application requires that workplaces submit actual expenses from a 12-month period, rather than ask for funds to develop a new program.
- Only small businesses (50 or fewer employees) establishing new workplace wellness programs after March 2014 are eligible for the grant.
- A “wellness program” is defined in the law and includes a health risk assessment and one or more specific components:
 - Chronic disease prevention
 - Weight management
 - Stress management
 - Worker injury prevention programs
 - Health screenings
 - Nutrition education
 - Health or fitness incentive programs
 - Vaccinations
 - Employee physical examinations
- The grant pays for 30% of wellness program costs for one year (\$15,000 cap), and each workplace can only apply once.
- Applications for the grant funds can be made online or by U.S. mail. Online applications and more specific information can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/physical-activity/worksite/grant.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q - What qualifies as a small business for the grant program?

A - The business needs to be in Wisconsin and have 50 or fewer employees. A business is associated with its Employee Identification Number (EIN); the total number of employees for that EIN must be 50 or fewer. Businesses with multiple sites all under one EIN (example: several sites in Wisconsin, or one Wisconsin site with other sites outside Wisconsin), must collectively total 50 or fewer employees to be eligible.

Q - Are nonprofit organizations eligible for grants?

A - Yes.

Q - Am I eligible for a grant if I had a workplace wellness program prior to the grant program being created in March 2014?

A - If you had a wellness program in place prior to March 2014 that met the full definition of a wellness program as described in law, you would not be eligible for a grant. However, if you had a wellness program that met some but not all of the wellness program definition, then you would be eligible.

Q - Can I request the funds to start a new wellness program?

A - You can request the funds **after** you start a new wellness program and have incurred expenses. The funds are for reimbursement of expenses already incurred, so you would likely want to wait for a full year after starting a wellness program so you can be reimbursed for a full 12 months of expenses.

Q - Can I apply multiple times?

A - No. You can only apply for one year of expense reimbursement. You can choose any eligible 12-month period from March 2014 until the grant program ends on December 31, 2018.

Q - What expenses are reimbursable?

A - All expenses to provide a workplace wellness program are reimbursable except any amount paid to acquire, construct, rehabilitate, remodel, or repair real property. The application form includes expense fields for staff time, health risk assessment, education programs, campaigns, equipment, incentives and contracted services.

If you have additional questions please contact Jon Morgan at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at 608-266-9781 or Jonathon.Morgan@dhs.wisconsin.gov