The Department of Labor and Industries is now accepting proposals for SHIP Return-To-Work (RTW) grants.  Applications will be accepted until further notice.

The Department of Labor and Industries’ Safety and Health Investment Projects (SHIP) Program funds grants that seek to:

* Prevent workplace injury, illness, and fatality in Washington workplaces through cooperation of employers and employees or their representatives.
* Reduce the cycle of disability for injured workers in Washington State through the development and implementation of innovative and effective return to work programs

The materials and products developed through completed grant projects are available through the SHIP Program and on the L&I/DOSH web site.

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All RTW project proposals should promote early return-to-work programs and/or reduce long-term disability through the cooperation of employers and employees or their representatives.

The following criteria will apply to all SHIP grant applications.

* There is no per proposal monetary cap for Return-to-Work grant proposals. SHIP will fund projects until the amount available has been disbursed. Please contact the program for additional information about funding availability amounts.
* Projects approved for this cycle should expect to receive grant funds and start work beginning around 8-12 weeks after submission but approval could require more time.
* Duration for projects approved for this cycle should not exceed 24 months.
* All products and materials developed with SHIP grant funds must assure accessibility.
	+ Washington State Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Policy 1.88 requires that all state agencies (including L&I) ensure that people with disabilities have access to information and provide access to the same services and content that is available to persons without disabilities. This policy requires L&I to ensure electronic content published on our website, including any products produced with SHIP Grant funds, meets Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 A and AA Specifications. See “[Introduction to Accessibility](https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/grants-committees-partnerships/safety-health-investment-projects-grant-program/_docs/Accessibility101forSHIPGrantees.pdf)”
* Enhancement of products developed towards an electronic platform delivery is preferred, if appropriate, for the audience.
* Organizations who are eligible to apply for SHIP grants in WAC 296-900-175.

**RTW Grant Projects should fit into the following criteria:**

1. Is your project designed to develop and implement innovative and effective return to work programs or strategies in your and similar workplaces?

**OR**

Does your project seek to reduce long-term disability for injured workers through the development of tools, resources, or programs?

**AND**

1. Does your project seek to address injured workers in one or more of the following groups?
* Short term compensable claim: After a short stint of being off work, the worker is able to return to work, typically with the job of injury through the employer of injury.
* Long-term compensable: The worker is not able to return to the job of injury. While they may be eligible for retraining, they are at high risk for long-term disability.
* Medical only claim: Either less than three days or no time missed from work.

Projects that include programs or processes intended to assist returning an injured worker back to work at any point along a claim until pension will be considered. These programs include but may not be limited to:

* Promoting modified duty or graduated return to work
* Assisting in taking advantage of incentive programs like Stay at Work, Job Modification, or Preferred Worker
* Establishing an effective return to work program in the event of an injury
* Assisting in creating On the Job Training opportunities
* Creating programs to hire workers who have been retrained

The full guidelines for SHIP RTW Grants can be found at [SHIP Grant RTW Eligibility Guidelines](https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/_docs/SHIPGrantsEligibilityGuidelinesRTW.docx).

Grant applications can be found here: [RTW Grant Application](https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/_docs/RTWApplication.doc) or by calling 360-902-5588