

Risk Services says “Hello” to the New Year and gets ready to roll out the 2026 COMPACT!

By Robin Aronson

Happy New Year to all our members! Not sure where 2025 went but here we are in 2026! Are you ready? Risk Services is ready for action; working to roll out the 2026 programs. Whether programs and services are delivered virtually or in person, we always enjoy and appreciate the opportunity to engage with our members.

Thank you to the 2025 Long Range Planning Committee, which met this past August to discuss WCIA staff recommendations for the 2026 COMPACT. Committee members include Aaron Barber, Auburn; Wade Farris, Chelan; Blaine Fritts, Woodinville; Angela Pashon, Pasco; Chris Searcy, Enumclaw; and Lisa Young, Ellensburg.

For the **2026 COMPACT**, members will again be presented with three options for consideration and will work with their assigned Risk Management Representative to select the audit option that best meets the individual member’s needs, and in keeping with the primary goal of improving the pool’s loss experience. The three options for 2026 include the following:

Option 1: Traditional Audit

The member and Risk Management Rep together will work to choose from one of two on-line audit questionnaires. The Option 1 audit topics for 2026 include a revamped **Parks and Recreation** (to include maintenance) audit along with the **Public Works** audit (roadways emphasis) audit from this past year.

Option 2: Targeted Risk Management Review

The Risk Management Rep will meet with the member and focus on one of the following Targeted Risk Management Reviews based upon individual member need and applicability:

- Contract Review / Right of Way Ordinance Review
- Fleet Liability Review / Facility Use Agreements Review
- Program review and development including senior centers, sidewalks (incorporating WCIA Sidewalk Tool Kit), and volunteers
- Playground and park walk through and inspection for liability exposures
- Parks and Recreation Program analysis
- Personnel

- Police Liability
- Risk 101 analysis
- Special Events (incorporating WCIA Special Event Tool Kit)
- Homelessness

Option 3: Strategic Risk Management Plan

The member works with their assigned Risk Management Representative to review and discuss current issues, concerns, and emerging exposures, to include a review of the Risk Profile and loss runs to help identify the member's top priorities and issues. The Risk Rep works with the member to develop a formalized strategic risk improvement plan to help reduce or eliminate future exposures.

COMPACT Education Component

Watch for more communications in January and February as we get set to roll out the 2026 COMPACT. There is an abundance of educational opportunities available!

Members will continue to be required to complete three trainings overall. Just as in 2025, to fulfill one of the three trainings, the Delegate or Alternate will be required to attend a Full Board Education Session. The sessions are held in conjunction with the Full Board Meetings in January, May and October.

The other two required trainings will be the member's choice, selecting from WCIA offerings advertised for 2026. Training Reimbursement courses, WCIA Online Academy topics or member specific education events will qualify upon staff approval.

The New Year always brings something to celebrate! Put on those thinking caps as it is almost time for the annual WCIA Grant Program!

WCIA is pleased to be able to once again administer the Risk Reduction Grant Program! Funding levels for 2026 will be \$175,000 allotted for risk mitigation grants and \$6,000 for staff development grants to attend the Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) Institute next October in Virginia. As you start to think of mitigation projects, please keep in mind that in years past funding per project has typically ranged from \$1,500 to \$25,000 with an average of \$10,000 to \$12,000 being awarded.

The grant application will be accessed through Origami! **But not quite yet...** watch for more information later in January on how to apply. We anticipate an application period from late January to early March. Details are being finalized! Start thinking about those projects now! Consideration will be given in particular to those projects linked to potential loss exposures and loss history. A list of past projects awarded grants can be found on the [WCIA website](#).

2026 looks to be another busy and exciting year! Risk Services looks forward to visiting the membership once again!