

# 2026 GRANT PROGRAM AVAILABLE NOW-deadline to submit is March 5!

By Robin Aronson

On January 20, 2026, all delegates and alternates of record were notified that the 2026 Grant Program is open and available for submission until March 5, 2026.

WCIA is once again excited to be able to offer the Risk Reduction and Staff Development grants to members. The grants provide financial assistance to members desirous of improving their risk profiles and who have limited funding to accomplish their goals. All grant submittals are **due no later than March 5, 2026 at 5 p.m.**

Detailed information on how to apply was emailed to delegates and alternates. A few highlights:

**Electronic submission:** All applications need to be made exclusively through the **WCIA Origami Member Portal** and only your designated Origami user has access to Origami. Your entity's designated Origami user may need to assist whoever is making application if it is not the delegate or other user. You will have the ability to upload whatever documents you would like to support your request, e.g., estimates, photos.

On the Origami member dashboard, you will see the following:



On the member dashboard, the Origami user can just click on the blue button and find applications for both Mitigation and Staff Development grants.

## Some things to keep in mind as you consider what to ask for:

The total amount to be distributed collectively amongst the membership for 2026 is \$175,000 for Mitigation grants, and \$6,000 for Staff Development grants to attend PRIMA Institute in Alexandria, Virginia in October.

**Mitigation grants** have typically ranged from a low of \$1,000 to a high of \$25,000. **On average**, Mitigation grants tend to be in the \$10,000 range. If you can offer matching funds, that will be considered in your favor.

**Staff Development grants** are available for use by the delegate, alternate, and claims contact only. Staff Development grants are limited to a maximum of \$3,000 but may be less based upon the number of applicants requesting funding; offers to match are appreciated! For 2026, PRIMA Institute is the only training offered as part of this grant program.

**Also note:** Mitigation grants are intended to help reduce covered liability exposures. Priority consideration will be given to projects that support the WCIA COMPACT and Risk Management Goals. Projects must be completed in 2026.

**Examples of what are not covered exposures:** WCIA does not cover public records so a request for public records software would not be granted. WCIA does not cover pure ADA claims so a request to upgrade sidewalks solely for ADA reasons or for an ADA transition plan would not be granted; a request to repair sidewalks due to tripping hazards would be eligible and if required by law, ADA upgrades have to be made, those ADA improvements would be included in the grant. The program does not fund studies, but rather “shovel ready” projects. (please read the Guidelines for more information). For example, the program will not fund a tree study but it might fund a project to remove hazardous trees.

- WCIA members can submit one Mitigation Grant request and one Staff Development Grant request. (can submit 1 of each for a total of 2)
- WCIA members are not eligible to receive a grant two years in a row in a category funded the prior year. (e.g., if a member received a Risk Reduction grant in 2025 the member is eligible for and can apply for a Staff Development Grant in 2026 but not a Risk Reduction grant.)

A list of projects that received grants in 2021-2025 is posted on the WCIA website under Risk Management, [Grants-Awarded-Last-5-Years-PDF \(wciapool.org\)](https://www.wciapool.org/Grants-Awarded-Last-5-Years-PDF). You must be logged into the WCIA website to view the document.

The Risk Reduction Grant Committee will review the Staff Development Grant applications in early March. The Mitigation Grant applications will be reviewed shortly thereafter, hopefully prior to April 1; grant recipients will be contacted shortly thereafter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Robin Aronson, Risk Services Manager, at [robina@wciapool.org](mailto:robina@wciapool.org) or 206-687-7900.