

**FINANCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Safety Staff**



2016 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	16-17
FTE	0.0	3.0	1.5
GF-State	\$0	\$258,000	\$258,000
Total	\$0	\$315,000	\$315,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The DSHS Financial Service Administration (FSA) requests funding to add three Safety Officer 3 positions. Two of the Safety Officer 3 positions would provide direct, more responsive safety support to the department’s thousands of employees located at institutions and regional / field office sites in Eastern Washington. These positions would also provide assault investigation support to Eastern State Hospital as part of a critical settlement effort and partnership with the Department of Labor and Industries. The third Safety Officer 3 position would be qualified to address on an enterprise level ever-increasing industrial hygiene and infectious disease issues, such as: air quality, mold concerns, asbestos certification, blood-borne pathogens, infectious diseases, and hazardous material maintenance and disposal for DSHS’s eleven residential facilities, eight community facilities and 200-plus office sites.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Employee safety services for locations in Eastern Washington are being met sporadically by Safety Officers assigned to the western side of the state. Exorbitant travel time and travel costs preclude effective or timely safety training, consultation, investigatory or compliance services to the thousands of DSHS staff working in Eastern Washington. Currently, the increased travel also poses an increased safety hazard to current staff pressured to meet an ever-increasing need for safety support on the eastside, particularly in the winter months. Additionally, there is a growing requirement to conduct timely assault investigations at all facilities throughout the department. This demands an ongoing presence of additional Safety Officer support for the Spokane area in order to respond swiftly to assaults at Medical Lake facilities and to help determine root causes and strategic mitigation.

Industrial Hygiene and infectious disease concerns are considerable throughout DSHS and require full time expertise. It is evident by the state’s increasing concern for the proper use, transportation and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials, as well as the safeguarding of employees routinely handling potentially toxic



DSHS VISION
People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION
To transform lives

DSHS VALUES
Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

drugs as they do in our facilities. It can also be demonstrated by the concerns for infectious disease issues as experienced recently in global Ebola and Bird-flu events. Air quality and potential mold issues are raised by staff each year requiring expert attention. Similarly, the potential presence of asbestos materials in a number of our aging structures demands proper, professional oversight and disposition. Moreover, the department requires expert oversight for: all DSHS' infectious disease / blood-borne pathogen programs; all location's hazardous materials / communications milieu; confined space /gas free engineering policies and plans; and expertise in vermin control.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

FSA intends to hire to three positions, all Safety Officer 3s, to be managed by the department's Central Safety Office in ERMO. One position will reside in Olympia and two of the Safety Officer positions will reside at the Medical Lake complex.

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Program Contact: Kevin Doty 360-902-8051

EXPECTED RESULTS

It is expected that by incorporating professional industrial hygienist and the added Safety Officer support east of the mountains, the entire department will be positively impacted by: making DSHS a more satisfying, and safer environment for every employee; increasing the occupational health posture of the department; providing greater, more cost effective monitoring and oversight of the department's safety and occupational health programs; helping to decrease safety incidents and employee risk ratings; reduce Worker's Compensation premium payouts in future years; decreasing complaint visits and possible violations/penalties issued by the Department of Labor and Industries; and increasing the department's state and national reputation as a leader in safety and occupational health.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

It is anticipated that the legislature, employee unions, and the Department of Labor and Industries will favorably endorse the department's expanded efforts to concentrate qualified, professional expertise at the critical issue of safety and occupational health.