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US Labor Department's MSHA announces \$8.44 million in mine health and safety training grants to 47 states and Navajo Nation

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration today announced that it has allocated \$8,441,000 in health and safety training grants for fiscal year 2011.

Grantees will use the funds to provide federally mandated training to miners. The grants cover training and retraining of miners working at surface and underground coal, and metal and nonmetal, mines, including miners engaged in shell dredging or employed at surface stone, sand and gravel mining operations.

Funds have been awarded to 47 states and the Navajo Nation, which had to apply for the grants. They are administered by state mine inspectors' offices, state departments of labor, and state-supported colleges and universities. Each recipient tailors the program to the needs of its mines and miners, and also provides technical assistance.

The state grants program was authorized by the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. States first received funding to provide health and safety training to miners in 1971.

“These grant awards continue a tradition of cooperation between MSHA and the states that can really contribute to the development of a strong safety culture in the mining community,” said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. “There are many different facets to creating a safe work environment, and training workers and supervisors is an important one.”

Under these grants, in addition to health and safety training, some states offer training for mine operators specifically on compliance with health and safety standards, as well as training for miners on their rights under the law and for mine rescue teams on being prepared in the event of a mine emergency.

State summaries and contact information for program officials is available at <http://www.msha.gov/training/states/states.asp>.

Editor's note: A chart following this news release lists recipient states, along with the Navajo Nation, and the amount of each grant. Individual amounts have been rounded.

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2011 MSHA State Grants

STATE	AMOUNT
ALABAMA	\$199,499
ALASKA	\$51,092
ARIZONA	\$287,287
ARKANSAS	\$99,335
CALIFORNIA	\$338,619
COLORADO	\$210,406
CONNECTICUT	\$54,094
FLORIDA	\$171,509
GEORGIA	\$192,841
IDAHO	\$92,578
ILLINOIS	\$219,948
INDIANA	\$191,632
IOWA	\$115,553
KANSAS	\$83,067
KENTUCKY	\$627,659
LOUISIANA	\$81,643
MAINE	\$55,719
MARYLAND	\$57,843
MASSACHUSETTS	\$65,651
MICHIGAN	\$215,470
MINNESOTA	\$273,858
MISSISSIPPI	\$60,910
MISSOURI	\$206,947
MONTANA	\$137,460
NAVAJO NATION	\$26,839
NEBRASKA	\$66,623
NEVADA	\$235,157
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$40,683
NEW JERSEY	\$49,957
NEW MEXICO	\$147,305
NEW YORK	\$258,884
NORTH CAROLINA	\$153,133
NORTH DAKOTA	\$58,544
OHIO	\$262,862
OKLAHOMA	\$107,800
OREGON	\$105,729
PENNSYLVANIA	\$533,392
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$65,831
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$59,313
TENNESSEE	\$139,864

TEXAS	\$429,723
UTAH	\$172,025
VERMONT	\$70,482
VIRGINIA	\$268,849
WASHINGTON	\$148,423
WEST VIRGINIA	\$563,256
WISCONSIN	\$192,249
WYOMING	\$193,457
TOTAL	\$8,441,000