



Value of the Fund for Members

The expense associated with insurance coverage for companies is an unavoidable “cost of doing businesses” which affects all Fund clients. While we work diligently to get the best value in terms of rates, it is not always enough.

Global pandemics, weather-related tragedies, war, worldwide market fluctuations, cyber-attacks, and other emerging threats all affect insurance pricing. Even if your geographic area was not hit by a hurricane, we all share the resulting costs. It may feel like we are all victims of large-scale forces which we cannot control. What then can be done to help control expense at the District/Authority level and potentially impact insurance costs?

The Fund was created in 1988 to help provide options for insurance protection in a market which had become “hardened” meaning soaring prices and reduced capacity for insurance, (availability of coverage decreases). The Fund gave members the option to purchase coverage when Districts/Authorities had no affordable place to turn. But having affordable coverage, by itself, is not enough. You need a strong risk mitigation strategy. That is where the Risk Management Fund comes into play.

As a Fund Member, you have access to a variety of services included as part of your contributions designed to help identify and mitigate risk. The menu of services offered by the Fund include:

Legal Consulting

Fund members have access to legal consultation with attorney Joel Geary as a liability loss prevention measure. Examples of how this may be used include: consulting on an employee issue regarding discipline or termination, crisis management and the media, reviewing policies and procedures and education about emerging liability exposures.

Risk Management Consultation

A risk management consultation can range from doing a safety walkthrough of facilities to give comprehensive suggestions and solutions to potential workplace hazards. Members often use this service for a contract review, insurance review for new construction projects, developing a working safety committee, and policy review.

Risk Control Training

Our experienced consultants will meet with you to help determine needs associated with workplace risk. Employee training is available for topics such as driver training, active shooter workplace evaluation and training, jobsite safety practices, creating an effective safety system and many more. Regional training is held periodically to assist with smaller

Members who may have fewer staff or can't release employees for training due to the need to cover District/Authority business.

Leadership Training

A skilled, educated workforce is your best defense in mitigating risk. Our experienced facilitators focus on practical skill vs. theories in developing and presenting our Leadership courses. The intended audience is current and future leaders. Having competent and confident managers will help reduce the risk which can come from unsafe work practices, harassment, wrongful termination, discrimination, and employee turnover. Popular topics include: The Fund offers one-day or half-day training sessions or regional meetings as scheduled.

Cyber Risk Control

An experienced cyber consultant begins with an assessment of the current District or Authority computer network, policies and procedures, cross departmental interactions, and hardware protections. This broad review includes aspects of risk which involve defending against cyber-attacks and other external intrusions into your systems. Employee training is also available as they are the "front line" of defense against the nefarious actors trying to hack into your systems.

Political Subdivision Workers' Compensation Alliance, (The Alliance)

The Fund's relationship with The Alliance is a great benefit to Fund Members. The Alliance has created a list of Workers' Compensation providers across the state who have been vetted and whose outcomes are monitored. The result for injured workers is targeted care, better outcomes, and faster return to health and to work. The Texas Department of Insurance in its annual report card typically lists The Alliance as either first or second in the major categories of care which also measure injured worker satisfaction.

Online Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Check

Fund members who check MVRs for employees can run reports online reducing the wait time and increasing efficiency. The result is faster turnaround time for checking driving records which can impact hiring decisions and accident investigations.

Online and Virtual Training

The Fund has available online employee training on a broad range of topics. This can help with employees who can't attend onsite sessions due to working 2nd or 3rd shifts or those who are in locations which are remote from the District or Authority office. Scheduled sessions are available as a virtual option to give the District or Authority flexibility. Texas is a big place, and this can reduce employee's lost productive time due to driving or schedule conflicts.

Fund Membership has its benefits and having included options gives Members the flexibility to access one or all these offerings. There is data that demonstrates those Members who actively use Fund services tend to have fewer claims and avoidable incidents.

The Fund is ready to serve our Members. For more information, please contact your representative or Timm Johnson, Member Services Manager at timj@sedgwick.com.