

**FY 2027**

**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**

**MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

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# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

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# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

*For necessary expenses for the Mine Safety and Health Administration, \$348,207,000, including for State assistance grants and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, including up to \$2,000,000 for mine rescue and recovery activities: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, not to exceed \$750,000 may be collected by the National Mine Health and Safety Academy for room, board, tuition, and the sale of training materials, otherwise authorized by law to be collected, to be available for mine safety and health education and training activities: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Mine Safety and Health Administration is authorized to collect and retain up to \$2,499,000 from fees collected for the approval and certification of equipment, materials, and explosives for use in mines, and may utilize such sums for such activities: Provided further, That the Secretary is authorized to accept lands, buildings, equipment, and other contributions from public and private sources and to prosecute projects in cooperation with other agencies, Federal, State, or private: Provided further, That the Mine Safety and Health Administration is authorized to promote health and safety education and training in the mining community through cooperative programs with States, industry, and safety associations: Provided further, That the Secretary is authorized to recognize the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association as a principal safety association and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may provide funds and, with or without reimbursement, personnel, including service of Mine Safety and Health Administration officials as officers in local chapters or in the national organization: Provided further, That any funds available to the Department of Labor may be used, with the approval of the Secretary, to provide for the costs of mine rescue and survival operations in the event of a major disaster.*

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>		<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>		<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	
	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Budget Authority Before Committee</b>	1,635	\$387,816	1,635	\$387,816	1,590	\$348,207
Spending Authority from Offsetting Collections: Non-DOL Reimbursements	0	\$1,909	0	\$3,249	0	\$3,249
<b>Total Budgetary Resources</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>\$389,725</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>\$391,065</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>\$351,456</b>

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Net Change
<b>Budget Authority</b>			
General Funds	\$387,816	\$348,207	-\$39,609
<b>Total</b>	\$387,816	\$348,207	-\$39,609
<b>Full Time Equivalents</b>			
General Funds	1,635	1,590	-45
<b>Total</b>	1,635	1,590	-45

### Explanation of Change

	FY 2026 Enacted		Trust Funds		Federal Funds		FY 2027 Total	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Increases:</b>								
<b>A. Built-Ins:</b>								
Total personnel compensation	1,635	\$162,359	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Personnel benefits	0	\$65,470	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Travel and transportation of persons	0	\$11,574	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Transportation of things	0	\$8,821	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Rental payments to GSA	0	\$14,075	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Rental payments to others	0	\$34	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Communications, utilities, and misc.	0	\$3,306	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Printing and reproduction	0	\$162	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Advisory and assistance services	0	\$869	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other services from non-Federal sources	0	\$4,993	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	0	\$19,968	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	\$977	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

## MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Research and development contracts	0	\$200	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maint. of equipment	0	\$1,560	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Supplies and materials	0	\$8,081	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Equipment	0	\$6,720	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Land and Structures	0	\$4,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	\$10,537	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Federal Employees' Compensation Act	0	\$7,182	0	\$0	0	\$15	0	\$15
Working Capital Fund	0	\$56,928	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>+1,635</b>	<b>+\$387,816</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$15</b>
<b>B. Programs:</b>								
Realign Program Administration			0	\$0	60	\$12,476	60	\$12,476
Create Education and Training Program			0	\$0	80	\$21,282	80	\$21,282
Create Regulatory and Data Analysis Program			0	\$0	28	\$6,626	28	\$6,626
Realign Technical Support Program			0	\$0	15	\$3,475	15	\$3,475
<b>Programs Subtotal</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>+183</b>	<b>+\$43,859</b>	<b>+183</b>	<b>+\$43,859</b>
<b>Total Increase</b>	<b>+1,635</b>	<b>+\$387,816</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>+183</b>	<b>+\$43,874</b>	<b>+183</b>	<b>+\$43,874</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>								
<b>A. Built-Ins:</b>								
Working Capital Fund	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	-\$5,493	0	-\$5,493
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-\$5,493</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-\$5,493</b>
<b>B. Programs:</b>								
Staff Attrition			0	\$0	-228	-\$76,990	-228	-\$76,990
Brookwood-Sago Grants Exclusion			0	\$0	0	-\$1,000	0	-\$1,000
<b>Programs Subtotal</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-228</b>	<b>-\$77,990</b>	<b>-228</b>	<b>-\$77,990</b>
<b>Total Decrease</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-228</b>	<b>-\$83,483</b>	<b>-228</b>	<b>-\$83,483</b>
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>+1,635</b>	<b>+\$387,816</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-\$39,609</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-\$39,609</b>

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## SUMMARY BUDGET AUTHORITY AND FTE BY ACTIVITY

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted		FY 2027 Request		Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Mine Safety and Health Enforcement</b>	1,213	\$266,524	1,213	\$265,774	1,167	\$252,307	-46	-\$13,467
General Funds	1,213	\$266,524	1,213	\$265,774	1,167	\$252,307	-46	-\$13,467
<b>Standards Development</b>	17	\$5,000	17	\$5,000	0	\$0	-17	-\$5,000
General Funds	17	\$5,000	17	\$5,000	0	\$0	-17	-\$5,000
<b>Assessments</b>	40	\$8,191	40	\$7,191	0	\$0	-40	-\$7,191
General Funds	40	\$8,191	40	\$7,191	0	\$0	-40	-\$7,191
<b>Educational Policy and Development</b>	106	\$39,070	106	\$39,820	0	\$0	-106	-\$39,820
General Funds	106	\$39,070	106	\$39,820	0	\$0	-106	-\$39,820
<b>Education and Training</b>	0	\$0	0	\$0	80	\$21,282	80	\$21,282
General Funds	0	\$0	0	\$0	80	\$21,282	80	\$21,282
<b>Regulatory and Data Analysis</b>	0	\$0	0	\$0	28	\$6,626	28	\$6,626
General Funds	0	\$0	0	\$0	28	\$6,626	28	\$6,626
<b>Technical Support</b>	167	\$36,041	167	\$36,041	182	\$39,516	15	\$3,475
General Funds	167	\$36,041	167	\$36,041	182	\$39,516	15	\$3,475
<b>Program Evaluation and Information Resources</b>	19	\$16,090	19	\$17,990	0	\$0	-19	-\$17,990
General Funds	19	\$16,090	19	\$17,990	0	\$0	-19	-\$17,990

## MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

<b>Program Administration</b>	73	\$16,900	73	\$16,000	133	\$28,476	60	\$12,476
General Funds	73	\$16,900	73	\$16,000	133	\$28,476	60	\$12,476
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>\$387,816</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>\$387,816</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>\$348,207</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-\$39,609</b>
<b>General Funds</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>\$387,816</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>\$387,816</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>\$348,207</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-\$39,609</b>

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted</b>
11.1 Full-time permanent	168,768	157,987	159,332	1,345
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	490	301	301	0
11.5 Other personnel compensation	9,256	4,071	4,248	177
12.1 Personnel Benefits	68,765	65,470	61,645	-3,825
12.1 FECA	6,880	7,182	7,084	-98
13.0 Benefits for former personnel	16	0	16	16
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	10,007	11,574	11,353	-221
22.0 Transportation of things	7,000	8,821	8,570	-251
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	15,719	14,075	13,272	-803
23.2 Rental payments to others	126	34	39	5
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	2,828	3,306	2,291	-1,015
24.0 Printing and reproduction	82	162	51	-111
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	331	869	95	-774
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	3,606	4,993	2,680	-2,313
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	17,012	19,968	9,831	-10,137
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	56,891	56,928	51,945	-4,983
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	1,003	977	742	-235
25.5 Research and development contracts	0	200	0	-200
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	822	1,560	1,543	-17
26.0 Supplies and materials	3,383	8,081	5,551	-2,530
31.0 Equipment	3,294	6,720	3,618	-3,102
32.0 Land and Structures	0	4,000	4,000	0
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	11,537	10,537	0	-10,537
<b>Total</b>	<b>387,816</b>	<b>387,816</b>	<b>348,207</b>	<b>-39,609</b>

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## AUTHORIZING STATUTES

<b>Public Law / Act</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Statute No. / US Code</b>	<b>Volume No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
91-173	Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, As Amended By Public Law 95-164	30 U.S.C., 801 et. seq.	30	823	None
109-236	Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act)	30 U.S.C., 801 et. seq.	30	823	None

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## APPROPRIATION HISTORY

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Budget Estimates to Congress	Appropriations	FTE
2017			
Base Appropriation	\$397,372	\$373,816	2,152
2018			
Base Appropriation	\$375,172	\$373,816	2,023
2019			
Base Appropriation	\$375,906	\$373,816	1,984
2020			
Base Appropriation	\$376,043	\$379,816	1,826
2021			
Base Appropriation	\$381,587	\$379,816	1,707
2022			
Base Appropriation	\$447,201	\$383,816	1,691
2023			
Base Appropriation	\$423,449	\$387,816	1,747
2024			
Base Appropriation	\$438,094	\$387,816	1,729
2025			
Base Appropriation	\$406,538	\$387,816	1,637
2026			
Base Appropriation	\$348,207	\$387,816	1,635
2027			
Base Appropriation	\$348,207	\$0	1,590

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## OVERVIEW

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) was established by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act). MSHA's mission is to prevent death, disease, and injury from mining and promote safe and healthful workplaces for the nation's miners. In creating MSHA, Congress declared that "the first priority and concern of all in the coal or other mining industry must be the health and safety of its most precious resource—the miner."

Miners supply iron ore and coal necessary to produce steel; sand and gravel needed to build our roads and bridges; and other minerals vital to national security and affordable, reliable energy. The Agency develops and enforces safety and health standards and regulations for all U.S. mines regardless of size, number of employees, commodity mined, or method of extraction. MSHA also provides technical, educational, compliance, and other types of assistance to mine operators, including small mines. The Agency works with industry, labor, and other federal and state agencies to improve safety and health conditions for all miners in the United States.

This is a dynamic moment for America's mining industry, as the Administration implements policies to improve American competitiveness and address downstream affordability for consumers of finished goods and energy. These policies, principally Executive Orders to make America energy dominant and reinvigorate America's clean coal industry, work together to rejuvenate American mining and increase mining jobs, while reshoring mineral production and eliminating our vulnerability to global supply chain disruptions.

In accordance with *Executive Order 14219- Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative*, MSHA will focus its limited enforcement resources on regulations squarely authorized by statute. These core statutory requirements include conducting inspections at all active underground mines at least four times per year and all surface mines at least twice per year. To ensure that miners can go home safe and healthy at the end of their shifts, MSHA inspectors identify safety and health hazards and require corrective actions to remedy such conditions. Other mandatory inspections and investigations include additional inspections for methane and other hazards, fatality and serious accident investigations, responding to hazardous condition complaints, and investigating miner discrimination complaints.

With this budget request, MSHA will seek to modernize the Agency in two ways. The first is through technological advancements, including artificial intelligence platforms capable of predicting real-world mine safety risks based on decades of inspection and investigation data. MSHA plans to make this data available to inspectors through its next-generation inspection system which will soon enter testing in several districts. This will allow staff to focus on the most likely risks and hazards when inspecting mines. The modern system will also help mine operators to identify and mitigate safety and health risks during day-to-day operations. Second, wherever possible, MSHA will modernize Agency regulations. In June of 2025, as a part of the administration's robust deregulatory agenda, MSHA published 19 Notices of Proposed Rulemaking intended to remove outdated or inconsistent requirements, reduce regulatory burdens without compromising miner health and safety, facilitate compliance, and modernize safety and health practices.

## MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

As part of the cooperation between MSHA and the mining industry and other stakeholders, compliance assistance activities remain a priority for the Agency. MSHA provides outreach and compliance assistance to mine operators and labor organizations to facilitate compliance, paying special attention to small mines and new mining operations. The Compliance Assistance in Safety and Health (CASH) program, launched in 2025, is MSHA's response to the surge in U.S. domestic mining activity, driven by the Administration's policies and the national demand for critical minerals.

Through MSHA's new *Information Hub*, the Agency connects users with the most-searched topics on the MSHA website, accessible in one convenient location. The Agency collaborates with stakeholders to improve and enhance this online feature. MSHA will work on creating interactive dashboards to provide stakeholders with real-time access to mine safety and health data and enabling informed decision-making by transforming raw data into actionable insights.

In alignment with *Executive Order 14179- Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*, MSHA is leveraging artificial intelligence for visualizing and analyzing mine safety and health data, to include:

**Drones with Artificial Intelligence-Powered Collision Avoidance Software:** In alignment with Executive Order 14307, *Unleashing American Drone Dominance*, MSHA is exploring the use of AI-powered drones to transform data collection and operational efficiency by enabling autonomous flight, real-time decision-making, and advanced imaging in challenging inspection and data collection environments. The use of drones improves accuracy and provides actionable insights, such as infrastructure inspection, mapping, security, and emergency response.

**Artificial Intelligence Data Analysis Tools:** MSHA is developing artificial intelligence tools to accelerate data analysis processes. This includes deploying AI-powered chatbots to assist with questions at every stage of the analysis workflow, enabling MSHA to leverage AI for data-specific inquiries.

**Artificial Intelligence Assisted Inspections:** MSHA is developing AI-powered wearable headsets to improve mine inspections. Equipped with cameras and augmented reality overlays, these devices use computer vision to detect non-compliance, equipment wear, and safety hazards. Inspectors receive real-time alerts and guidance, while the system creates a digital inspection record for review and continuous improvement. Hands-free operation, database integration, and standardized evaluations further enhance efficiency and consistency across sites.

**Predictive Analytics-**The Predictive Analytics for Proactive Safety Management initiative aims to shift MSHA's approach from reactive incident response to proactive risk prevention. By utilizing machine learning algorithms and advanced data analytics, the program will analyze patterns across various data sources, such as historical safety records, operator attributes, and compliance indicators. This analysis will help identify elevated risk conditions before incidents occur, enhancing overall safety and health measures.

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## **Resources, Priorities, and Performance**

For FY 2027, MSHA requests \$348,207,000 and 1,590 FTE to execute the Agency's mission to prevent death, disease, and injury from mining. These requested resources will enable MSHA to meet mandatory enforcement requirements. The request reflects MSHA's strong commitment to enforcement, compliance assistance, training, and innovative technologies to protect the safety and health of the nation's miners.

MSHA's request includes a proposed realignment that realigns similar functions under consolidated budget activities and a reduced headquarters structure to improve collaboration, create a more efficiently managed agency, and reduce overhead costs. The request also proposes that the Brookwood-Sago grants be excluded to improve administrative efficiency. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to make the necessary changes to the MINER Act to eliminate the Brookwood-Sago grant program.

MSHA will:

- Meet the Agency's statutory obligations under the Mine Act to include completing its mandatory mine inspections, at least four inspections per year in underground mines and at least two inspections per year in surface mines, and additional inspections for methane and other hazards, as well as enforcing mandatory health and safety standards to protect the safety and health of the nation's miners.
- Place emphasis on reducing fatalities by using all tools—enforcement, compliance and technical assistance, education and training.
- Emphasize protecting miners from dangerous health hazards, including respirable coal mine dust, diesel particulate matter, and levels of noise that can cause hearing loss.
- Identify ways to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability by aligning the Agency's organizational structure with its core mission and operating plan and focusing on activities to increase operational efficiency and provide cost savings.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to strengthen relationships and better understand the mining community's need for guidance and outreach materials focusing on hazards that account for the highest number of accidents, illnesses and injuries.
- Work to create innovative approaches to mine emergency response, including mine rescue.
- Review trends in the mining industry, perform risk analysis and take preventive, mitigative, and/or corrective actions in response to changes.
- Develop and employ advanced analytics that use the Agency's historical data combined with statistical modeling, data mining techniques, and machine learning to make predictions about future mine accidents and optimize resources.

## **MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

- Anticipate production increases across both the metal/non-metal and coal sectors. The Agency closely monitors industry forecasts and adjusts MSHA resources accordingly.
- Enhance compliance assistance activities related to mobile equipment, health hazards, electrocutions, falls from height, contractors, training of inexperienced miners, and training of miners performing new tasks.
- Develop and update training materials and review mine plans.
- Work collaboratively with the mining community in the event of mine rescue and recovery operations.
- Assist Pacific Territory mine operators and miners through onsite, remote, and partner-implemented training assistance and compliance activities to make progress toward fully implementing the provisions of the Mine Act.



# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>266,524</b>	<b>265,774</b>	<b>252,307</b>	<b>-13,467</b>
FTE	1,213	1,213	1,167	-46

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### **Introduction**

Mine Safety and Health Enforcement (MSHE), which is comprised of the formerly separate Coal Mine Safety and Health and Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health budget activities, will administer the provisions of the Mine Act, as amended by the MINER Act, to promote compliance with safety and health standards; prevent fatalities, injuries and illnesses; reduce the frequency and severity of accidents; and minimize health hazards in the nation’s approximately 950 active coal mines and 11,800 metal and nonmetal mines. MSHE will inspect all active underground mines at least four times per year and all surface mines at least twice per year. These inspections form the core of MSHA’s enforcement efforts, regularly providing a first-hand look at conditions in each of the nation’s mines to ensure that all hazards are corrected immediately so that miners can go home to their families and communities, safe and healthy, each day at the end of their shifts.

MSHE employees are located in Headquarters, 13 district offices and the 81 field, satellite, and duty stations located across the United States and Puerto Rico. Several of the district offices also function as field offices. Most employees are mine safety and health enforcement personnel who perform inspection activities and investigations of fatal accidents, non-fatal and non-injury accidents, verbal and written hazard complaints, and discrimination complaints.

### **Five-Year Budget Activity History**

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Funding</u></b> (Dollars in Thousands)	<b><u>FTE</u></b>
2022	\$264,500	1,209
2023	\$265,774	1,249
2024	\$265,774	1,249
2025	\$266,524	1,231
2026	\$265,774	1,213

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

## FY 2027

MSHA requests \$252,307,000 and 1,167 FTE for the MSHE budget activity. To promote transparency in Agency spending on its enforcement activities, MSHA separately presents annual spending on coal and metal/non-metal mines as it has in past Congressional Budget Justifications.

To promote transparency in Agency spending on its enforcement activities, MSHA continues to separately present annual spending on coal and metal/non-metal mines as it has in past Congressional Budget Justifications.

Program	FY 2027 Program Decrease relative to FY 2026 Enacted	FTE Decrease	FY 2027 Funding Total	FTE Total
CMSH*	-\$7,406,850	-25	\$138,768,850	642
MNMSH**	-\$6,060,000	-21	\$113,538,150	525
<b>Total</b>	<b>-\$13,466,850</b>	<b>-46</b>	<b>\$252,307,000</b>	<b>1,167</b>

\*Coal Mine Safety and Health

\*\*Metal/Non-metal Mine Safety and Health

President Trump signed several Executive Orders that positively influence the importance of the mining industry and the critical role that MSHA plays in keeping miners safe. These Executive Orders are: *Executive Order 14241- Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry*, and *Amending Executive Order 14241*; *Executive Order 14156- Declaring a National Energy Emergency*; *Executive Order 14154- Unleashing American Energy*; and *Executive Order 14220- Addressing the Threat to National Security from Imports of Copper*. These initiatives bolster the U.S. critical mineral supply chain, resulting in increased domestic production that will necessitate additional MSHE inspections and other activities in order to adequately protect miners' safety and health. Mine inspectors remain a critically important priority for MSHA to ensure that the Agency can enforce mandatory safety and health standards, execute existing enforcement and compliance assistance initiatives, and initiate new special emphasis programs in targeted areas.

MSHE improves workplace safety and health in the mining industry and remains committed to targeted enforcement and compliance assistance in its efforts to improve safety and health conditions in the mining workplace by the following strategies:

**Enforcing mandatory health and safety standards through complete inspections of each mine.** Complete statutorily mandated inspections at least four times per year in active underground mines and at least twice per year in surface mines, for all mining operations across MSHA's full jurisdiction, which includes the Pacific Territories.

**Emphasizing outreach and other initiatives to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.** Reduce fatalities through an Accident Prevention Team (APT) composed of members from all Agency program areas. The APT analyzes the fatalities, identifies root causes and innovative best

## MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

practices for preventing future fatalities, and develops an outreach program to disseminate this information to the mining community and other stakeholders. MSHE will also work with stakeholders to seek ways to use the data which MSHA collects for identifying trends and use predictive analytics to target likely sources of serious injuries.

**Enhance compliance assistance activities** related to powered haulage, surface mobile equipment, contractors, electrocutions, falls from height, the importance of maintaining and wearing proper protective equipment, training of inexperienced miners, and training of miners performing new tasks.

**Protect miners from discrimination.** Conducts timely investigations of hazard complaints and discrimination complaints and communicates with miners to raise awareness and understanding regarding their rights and responsibilities under the Mine Act, including the right to participate in an MSHA inspection.

**Inspection and enforcement effectiveness.** Focus on enforcement efforts to identify and eliminate hazards that contribute to serious and fatal accidents and illnesses. Enforcement efforts will be reinforced by working with stakeholders to cooperatively find the most effective solutions.

**Promote adoption of prevention-focused health and safety programs by mine operators.** The Agency will increase its health sampling activities to ensure that miners' overexposure to health hazards are addressed by mine operators. Technical investigations, which evaluate the root causes of hazards and accidents in mines, will be conducted. MSHE will conduct accident prevention inspections in response to specific mine hazards. MSHA will provide compliance assistance to operators to assist in correcting violations.

**Advancing inspection equipment and technology modernization.** Whenever practical, MSHE searches for and procures inspection equipment manufactured in the United States, as outlined in the President's priority "Deliver Results, Buy American." Additionally, MSHE will prioritize information technology and technology modernization, as well as focus on methods for increasing data capabilities to improve and enhance enforcement effectiveness and improve workplace safety and health in the mining industry.

### **FY 2026**

MSHE will administer the provisions of the Mine Act, as amended by the MINER Act, to promote compliance with safety and health standards, prevent fatalities, injuries and illnesses, reduce the frequency and severity of accidents, and minimize health hazards in the nation's approximately 950 active coal mines and 11,800 metal and nonmetal mines. MSHE will inspect all active underground mines at least four times per year and all surface mines at least twice a year.

Promote the use of innovative technologies to enhance mine safety oversight and operational efficiency. The Agency will explore and deploy emerging solutions such as AI-powered drones to assist with hazard identification, predictive analytics to detect safety trends and prioritize

## **MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT**

inspections, and NexGenIS smart headset technology to improve real-time inspection documentation and situational awareness in the field. These technologies will support inspectors and technical specialists by enabling faster access to information, improving hazard detection capabilities, and enhancing decision-making. Through continued innovation and technology integration, MSHA will strengthen its ability to proactively identify risks, improve inspection effectiveness, and support the Agency's mission of protecting miner safety and health

MSHE will improve workplace safety and health in the mining industry and will remain committed to enforcement and compliance assistance in its efforts to improve safety and health conditions in the mining workplace by implementing the following strategies:

- Enforcing mandatory health and safety standards through complete inspections of each mine.
- Enhance compliance assistant activities
- Emphasizing outreach and other initiatives to reduce fatalities.
- MSHE will assist mine operators and miners in the Pacific Territories within MSHA's jurisdiction, which includes American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through onsite, remote, and partner-implemented training assistance and compliance activities.
- Protect miners from discrimination.
- Promote adoption of prevention-focused health and safety programs by mine operators.
- MSHA is providing ongoing compliance assistance for its final rule, "Lowering Miners' Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection," which is designed to reduce miners' exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

### **FY 2025**

MSHE administered the provisions of the Mine Act, as amended by the MINER Act.

MSHE worked with stakeholders to strengthen collaborative relationships to better understand the mining community's needs and to develop guidance and outreach materials to focus on hazards creating the greatest accidents, illnesses and injuries that will help to ensure miners' safety and health.

MSHE improved workplace safety and health in the mining industry and will remain committed to statutory requirements and compliance assistance in its efforts to improve safety and health conditions in the mining workplace by completing the following strategies:

- Enforced mandatory health and safety standards through completing nearly 100% of statutorily mandated inspections of each mine.

## MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

- MSHA launched the Compliance Assistance in Safety and Health (CASH) Program website, designed to connect operators and miners with safety and health experts and information on MSHA requirements.
- Enhanced compliance assistance activities.
- Increased emphasis on impoundments.
- Protected miners from discrimination.
- Promoted the adoption of prevention-focused, health and safety programs by mine operators.
- Conducted the Enhanced Enforcement Program that focused on improving safety of customer and contract truck drivers and managers and supervisors performing mining tasks. MSHE reviewed violations of certain safety standards to ensure that truck drivers are properly trained. This strategy did not help reduce powered haulage accidents, injuries and fatalities, which contributed to the troubling increase in serious injuries and fatalities. MSHE conducted outreach initiatives related to powered haulage, and dissemination of best practice materials, including fatality and safety alerts.
- Provided compliance assistance for a final rule titled “Lowering Miners’ Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection,” to reduce exposures of miners to respirable crystalline silica.
- Conducted outreach, education and awareness programs focused on improving coal miners’ participation in the Part 90 program, which provides miners with evidence of pneumoconiosis the right to be transferred, with no loss of pay, to another part of the coal mine with less exposure to respirable dust.
- Investigated all hazardous condition complaints. Initiated investigations of imminent danger complaints within one day of receipt.

## MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY					
		FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
		Target	Result	Target	Target
<b>Mine Safety and Health Enforcement</b>					
MSHA-INSP1.1	Percentage of regular mandated underground inspections	100%	100%	100%	100%
MSHA-INSP2.1	Percentage of regular mandated surface inspections	100% <sup>1,2</sup>	100% <sup>1,2</sup>	100% <sup>1,2</sup>	100%
MSHA-01	Percentage of 105(c) investigations of miner discrimination complaints that are completed within 60 days of receipt	92%	98%	92%	92%
MSHA-02	Percentage of investigations of miner requests for temporary reinstatements that are completed within 20 days of receipt	92%	100%	92%	92%
MSHA-03	Percentage of 103(g) imminent danger complaint investigations initiated within 1 day of receipt	100%	100%	100%	100%
MSHA-PR-01	Percentage of new plan reviews completed within 52 days	87%	90%	87%	87%
MSHA-PR-02	Percentage of plan addenda reviews completed within 22 days	86%	85%	86%	86%

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Activity Code E27 (Attempted Inspection - Denial of Entry): Activities done under this code include “a mine visit specifically for the purpose of conducting an enforcement activity, but the activity could not be accomplished because of direct or indirect denial of entry”; and Activity Code E28 (Mine Idle Activity): Activities done under this code involve “a mine visit specifically for the purpose of conducting an enforcement activity, but the activity could not be accomplished because the mine was not operating.”

<sup>2</sup> Excludes inspections of Pacific Territories which will be fully implemented in FY 2027.

## MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY					
		FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
		Target	Result	Target	Target
MSHA-MNM-05	Percentage of MNM mines receiving comprehensive health inspections	37.0% <sup>1,2</sup>	35.1% <sup>1,2</sup>	37.0% <sup>1,2</sup>	37.0%
MSHA-CM-04	Percentage of underground coal mines surveyed for respirable dust in conjunction with regular mandated inspections	100%	100%	100%	100%
MSHA-CM-05	Percent of surface coal mines surveyed for respirable dust in conjunction with regular mandated inspections	100% <sup>1,2</sup>	100% <sup>1,2</sup>	100% <sup>1,2</sup>	100%
MSHA-ENF-01	Number of safety alerts issued	6	13	6	6
MSHA-ENF-02	Number of health alerts issued	6	6	6	6
MSHA-ENF-03	Percentage of Part 90 miners tracked	100%	100%	100%	100%
MSHA -03B	Percentage of 103(g) imminent danger complaint investigations completed within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint	85%	100%	85%	85%
MSHA-INSP1-Q1	Percentage of violations vacated	1.50%	1.01%	1.50%	1.50%

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

## Workload and Performance Narrative

MSHE will implement its enforcement strategies and initiatives through the following:

- In FY 2027, MSHE will complete one hundred percent<sup>3</sup> of its regular mandated (E01) inspections. These inspections provide an examination of mining conditions and play a key role in ensuring the safety and health of the nation's miners. The actual number of surface and underground inspections completed will depend on the number of active mines. The projected number of underground and surface mandated inspections in FY 2026 is approximately 20,000 and 20,250 for FY 2027. MSHE will inspect all existing impoundments during regular mandated inspections to reduce the risk to miners, the general public, and the environment should these impoundments fail.

The Mine Act gives miners the right to contribute to their safety and health by participating in the inspection process through a representative of their choosing, voicing concerns about hazards, refusing to work in dangerous conditions, and exercising other rights. MSHE will ensure that all miner requests for temporary reinstatements, investigations of 105(c) miner discrimination complaints, and 103(g) imminent danger complaints are investigated within the established timeframes. Prompt investigation of interference and discrimination complaints and reported hazardous conditions is of utmost importance in assuring miners that MSHA will protect their rights through the following efforts:

- Complete 92 percent of 105(c) investigations of miner discrimination complaints within 60 days of receipt of a complaint.
- Complete 92 percent of investigations of miner requests for temporary reinstatement within 20 days of receipt.
- Initiate 100 percent of 103(g) imminent danger complaint investigations within one day of receipt.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes Activity Code E27 (Attempted Inspection - Denial of Entry): Activities done under this code include “a mine visit specifically for the purpose of conducting an enforcement activity, but the activity could not be accomplished because of direct or indirect denial of entry”; and Activity Code E28 (Mine Idle Activity): Activities done under this code involve “a mine visit specifically for the purpose of conducting an enforcement activity, but the activity could not be accomplished because the mine was not operating.”

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted</b>
11.1 Full-time permanent	118,750	112,095	111,052	-1,043
11.5 Other personnel compensation	8,332	3,985	3,985	0
12.1 Personnel Benefits	49,568	47,882	41,676	-6,206
12.1 FECA	6,640	6,942	6,957	15
13.0 Benefits for former personnel	16	0	16	16
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	8,895	10,400	10,418	18
22.0 Transportation of things	6,342	8,200	8,200	0
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	14,043	12,114	12,114	0
23.2 Rental payments to others	57	4	4	0
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	1,037	724	724	0
24.0 Printing and reproduction	19	4	4	0
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	12	12	12	0
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1,290	456	456	0
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	5,863	5,462	7,462	2,000
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	40,428	43,542	38,149	-5,393
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	300	400	400	0
26.0 Supplies and materials	2,273	6,400	3,925	-2,475
31.0 Equipment	2,659	3,152	2,753	-399
32.0 Land and Structures	0	4,000	4,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,524</b>	<b>265,774</b>	<b>252,307</b>	<b>-13,467</b>

# MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

#### Built-Ins

Federal Employees' Compensation Act	\$15	
Working Capital Fund	-\$5,493	
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$5,478</b>	

<b>Base</b>	<b>\$265,774</b>	<b>1,213</b>
Program Decreases	-\$7,989	-46
<b>Net Program Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$7,989</b>	<b>-46</b>
<b>Total Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$252,307</b>	<b>1,167</b>

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$265,774</b>	<b>1,213</b>
<b>Program Increases</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decreases</b>	<b>-\$7,989</b>	<b>-46</b>

# STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5,000</b>
FTE	17	17	0	-17

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### **Introduction**

The Standards Development (SD) program develops safety and health standards and regulations for the mining industry that protect the safety and health of miners. These standards and regulations, developed in coordination with the Office of the Solicitor, Division Mine Safety and Health (SOL, MSH) and other MSHA program offices, establish enforcement requirements for compliance in accordance with the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (Mine Act). Standards Development coordinates all rulemaking activities with the DOL Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, SBA Chief Counsel for Advocacy and with OMB.

SD leads all MSHA’s rulemaking activities, from the pre-proposal stage to the publication of the final rule. Each year, it develops MSHA’s Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda and Regulatory Plan. In accordance with the Agenda and Plan, and consistent with the Agency’s mandate in the Mine Act, MSHA proposes and promulgates new and improved safety and health standards and regulations. MSHA’s standards and regulations are based on information submitted to the Secretary by interested parties, including any organizations representing miners and mine operators, nationally recognized standards-producing organizations, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), state or local governments, or otherwise available information developed by the Secretary. Pursuant to *Executive Orders 12866, 14192, and 13563*, SD also analyzes the anticipated benefits and costs of any significant regulatory or deregulatory action, and reviews existing standards and regulations to identify those that are inconsistent with EO policy directives. To ensure transparency in MSHA’s rulemaking, SD maintains MSHA’s rulemaking docket and posts all rulemaking documents on Regulations.gov.

In addition to being responsible for all aspects of rulemaking, SD manages the procedures for filing of petitions for modification or variances (through which a mine operator or a representative of miners can petition to modify the application of any mandatory safety standard), MSHA’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) program, and information collection activities under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. SD coordinates these activities with all MSHA programs, and SOL, MSH.

# STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

## Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2022	\$4,500	21
2023	\$5,000	20
2024	\$5,000	20
2025	\$5,000	16
2026	\$5,000	17

## FY 2027

Under the proposed realignment, the functions and resources will be consolidated as follows: the Standards Development (SD) program will be renamed, and the functions and resources will be combined with various functions from the Program Evaluation and Information Resources budget activity to create a new budget activity, Regulatory and Data Analysis, with \$6,626,000 and 28 FTE. The consolidation characterizes the representative structure of all other DOL agencies and aligns with DOL organizational structure. Consolidation of these programs will result in greater efficiency, improved quality, and a more effective central point for services as it supports the organizational capabilities as structured in all other DOL agencies.

## FY 2026

The Standards Development (SD) program works to advance rulemakings listed in the Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda. Additionally, SD manages the receipt and processing of petitions for modifications of safety standards, as well as publication of those petitions to the Federal Register.

- In FY 2026, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SD will process approximately 19 information collection requests (ICRs) for clearance from OMB, including annual DOL Generic ICR packages for Brookwood-Sago Grants and State assistance grants. The information collection reduces unnecessary or duplicative requests for information and ensures more accurate and usable data collection.
- In FY 2026, SD will manage the agency's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act program. FOIA activity has steadily increased over the past several years, with requests received totaling 644 in FY 2023, 700 in FY 2024, and 748 in FY 2025. Given the increased trend in FOIA requests, MSHA anticipates the FOIA processing burden will increase in FY 2026.

## FY 2025

Standards Development (SD) supported finalization of the Part 18 Final Rule (89 FR 99085), which adds flexibility for manufacturers seeking approvals for electric motor-driven equipment

## STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

designed for use in explosive atmospheres. The SD program supported work on the President's *Executive Order 14192-Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation* and *EO 14219-Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's 'Department of Government Efficiency' Deregulatory Initiative*. During FY 2025, MSHA undertook the following activities:

**Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of Electric Motor-Driven Mine Equipment and Accessories.** The final rule for Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of Electric Motor-Driven Mine Equipment and Accessories was published in the Federal Register on December 10, 2024 (89 FR 99085). The final rule amends 30 CFR part 18 to accept a set of voluntary consensus standards as alternatives to existing testing, evaluation, and approval requirements for electric motor-driven mine equipment and accessories for use in explosive atmospheres. The final rule is intended to promote the use of innovative and advanced technologies that lead to improvements in mine safety and health.

**Reviews and rulemaking under Executive Orders 14192 and 14219.** SD undertook an extensive review of its regulations to ensure compliance with EOs 14192 and 14219. With the effort, the program identified opportunities to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burden without compromising miners' safety and health. In FY 2025, MSHA published 19 NPRMs that, if finalized as proposed, will be deregulatory.

**Petitions for Modification.** SD supported the processing and publication of documents related to requests for variances from mandatory safety standards (petitions for modification). For FY 2025, SD processed and published 89 requests for variances to the Federal Register.

In addition, at the FY 2025 funding level, SD administered MSHA's FOIA program and information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The program processed 754 requests for information under FOIA. MSHA provided timely responses to at least 84 percent of initial FOIA requests.

SD published an estimated 19 Federal Register notices to notify the public of MSHA's review of the Agency's information collection requests and to seek public comments in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. SD ensured that MSHA collected information efficiently and effectively. When new rules were issued or new information-collection activities were initiated, MSHA developed additional paperwork packages, as appropriate.

# STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
11.1 Full-time permanent	2,499	2,147	0	-2,147
11.5 Other personnel compensation	33	0	0	0
12.1 Personnel Benefits	886	768	0	-768
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	9	60	0	-60
22.0 Transportation of things	2	3	0	-3
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	164	168	0	-168
23.2 Rental payments to others	35	30	0	-30
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	11	0	0	0
24.0 Printing and reproduction	20	120	0	-120
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	274	820	0	-820
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	57	95	0	-95
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	58	52	0	-52
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	919	508	0	-508
25.5 Research and development contracts	0	200	0	-200
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	25	6	0	-6
26.0 Supplies and materials	8	17	0	-17
31.0 Equipment	0	6	0	-6
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5,000</b>

# STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

<b>Built-Ins</b>		
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>17</b>
Program Decreases	-\$5,000	-17
<b>Net Program Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$5,000</b>	<b>-17</b>
<b>Total Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Program Increases</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decreases</b>	<b>-\$5,000</b>	<b>-17</b>



# ASSESSMENTS

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted</b>
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>8,191</b>	<b>7,191</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7,191</b>
FTE	40	40	0	-40

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### **Introduction**

The Office of Assessments (OA) assesses and collects civil monetary penalties for violations of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), as amended by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act), and mine safety and health standards and regulations. This mission includes determination of the civil penalty amounts, collection of and accounting for delinquent penalties, as well as tracking all penalty cases in litigation before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission (FMSHRC) and the Federal courts.

The OA is responsible for MSHA's Special Investigations Program, which investigates complaints of discrimination filed by miners and possible knowing/willful violations of the Mine Act or safety and health standards and regulations. These investigations protect miners who report safety or health hazards to mine operators, file an MSHA hazard complaint, assist an MSHA inspector, or testify in an MSHA proceeding. They also ensure that mine management (agents of mine operators) is held personally responsible for serious safety and health violations in certain circumstances..

The OA also manages MSHA's Pattern of Violations (POV) Program, identifying mines with a pattern of violations that subjects them to enhanced enforcement. Additionally, it manages the Scofflaw Program which is an enforcement tool MSHA uses to pursue violators demonstrating egregious cases of non-compliance with safety and health standards in combination with unpaid civil penalties.

The OA also administers MSHA's Accountability Program, which ensures enforcement policies and procedures are effectively implemented by MSHA district and field enforcement staff.

# ASSESSMENTS

## Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2022	\$6,627	42
2023	\$7,191	43
2024	\$7,191	42
2025	\$8,191	38
2026	\$7,191	40

### FY 2027

Under the proposed realignment, the functions and resources from Assessments will be consolidated as follows: \$3,361,000 and 12 FTE from the Technical Compliance Investigations Division and Accountability Division will shift to the new Education and Training Program while \$3,830,000 and 29 FTE from the Civil Penalty Compliance Division, Management Services Division, and Wilkes-Barre Assessments Center will move to Program Administration. The consolidation characterizes the representative structure of all other DOL agencies and aligns with DOL organizational structure. Consolidation of these programs will result in greater efficiency, improved quality, and a more effective central point for services as it supports the organizational capabilities as structured in all other DOL agencies.

### FY 2026

In FY 2026, the Office of Assessments (OA) will coordinate timely investigations of discrimination complaints filed by miners under Section 105(c) of the Mine Act. The MSHA enforcement program projects that 92 percent of miners' discrimination complaints will be investigated within 60 days of receipt and 92 percent of miners' requests for temporary reinstatement will be investigated within 20 days of receipt. To ensure MSHA enforcement conducts quality investigations, the OA will review 100 percent of all discrimination investigations that are conducted by the enforcement program staff for discrimination complaints received.

The OA will conduct 15 enforcement field office reviews, concentrating on field offices with cross-over mining operations, during FY 2026. The reviews determine whether MSHA enforcement policies, procedures and guidance were followed consistently.

MSHA will conduct an annual Pattern of Violations (POV) screening to identify mines that meet the screening criteria to warrant a review for the issuance of a Notice of POV.

### FY 2025

In FY 2025, the Office of Assessments (OA) coordinated the timely investigations of discrimination complaints miners file under Section 105(c) of the Mine Act. The MSHA enforcement program exceeded its goals by completing 98 percent of investigations of

## ASSESSMENTS

discrimination complaints within 60 days and 100 percent of requests for temporary reinstatement within 20 days. To ensure MSHA enforcement conducted quality investigations, the OA reviewed 100 percent of all discrimination investigations conducted by the enforcement program staff for discrimination complaints received.

The OA conducted 15 enforcement field office reviews, concentrating on field offices with cross-over mining operations. The reviews determined that MSHA enforcement policies, procedures and guidance were followed consistently.

In December 2024 and August 2025, the Agency conducted its Annual Pattern of Violations (POV) Screening which concluded with positive results, no mines meeting all the screening criteria.

Under the execution of MSHA's Scofflaw Program, 55 debt collection letters were delivered to mines that exhibited an egregious safety and health record coupled with delinquent debt.

## ASSESSMENTS

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY					
		FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
		Target	Result	Target	Target
<b>Office of Assessments</b>					
MSHA-11	Percentage of audited activities not requiring corrective actions	90%	97%	90%	--
MSHA-14	Percentage of corrective actions addressed and resolved within a year	75%	100%	75%	--
MSHA-AS-01	Percentage of civil penalties assessed under the regular formula within 65 days of issuance	90%	79%	90%	--
MSHA-AS-02	Percentage of civil penalties special assessed within 225 days of issuance	90%	89%	90%	--
MSHA-AS-03	Number of debt collection letters issued under the Scofflaw Program	50	55	50	--

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

# ASSESSMENTS

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted</b>
11.1 Full-time permanent	4,236	4,421	0	-4,421
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	73	0	0	0
11.5 Other personnel compensation	137	0	0	0
12.1 Personnel Benefits	1,337	1,606	0	-1,606
12.1 FECA	13	13	0	-13
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	46	29	0	-29
22.0 Transportation of things	0	1	0	-1
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	433	157	0	-157
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	367	284	0	-284
24.0 Printing and reproduction	2	1	0	-1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	11	16	0	-16
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	131	104	0	-104
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	1,384	504	0	-504
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	6	4	0	-4
26.0 Supplies and materials	7	32	0	-32
31.0 Equipment	8	19	0	-19
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,191</b>	<b>7,191</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7,191</b>

# ASSESSMENTS

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

<b>Built-Ins</b>		
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$7,191</b>	<b>40</b>
Program Decreases	-\$7,191	-40
<b>Net Program Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$7,191</b>	<b>-40</b>
<b>Total Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$7,191</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Program Increases</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decreases</b>	<b>-\$7,191</b>	<b>-40</b>

# EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted</b>
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>39,070</b>	<b>39,820</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-39,820</b>
FTE	106	106	0	-106

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### **Introduction**

MSHA's Educational Policy and Development (EPD) directorate manages and operates the National Mine Health and Safety Academy (Academy) located in Beckley, West Virginia. The Academy provides mine safety and health training to MSHA mine inspectors and other MSHA technical and administrative staff as well as government, industry, and labor officials.

EPD also administers the Educational Field and Small Mine Services (EFSMS) program which provides compliance assistance in the development and improvement of the health and safety programs of mine operators and contractors in the mining community. EFSMS assists operators with the development and better execution of training plans to reduce the number of injuries and illnesses in the mining industry. EFSMS evaluates industry instructors to ensure miners receive quality and effective training. Additionally, EFSMS training specialists work with mine operators, contractors, mining associations, and cooperative trainers to strengthen and modernize training.

EFSMS works to identify industry needs and provide assistance to mines with safety and health issues. EFSMS provides assistance to the mining community through outreach initiatives, which are developed in collaboration between MSHA and the mining industry to address accident trends in the mining community. These programs help mine operators, large and small, develop or revise training and safety and health programs to address the conditions and hazards specific to their mines. In support of enhanced and targeted outreach initiatives, EFSMS raises awareness and increases efforts to educate coal miners through compliance assistance on Part 90 and their rights and responsibilities under the Mine Act.

# EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

## Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2022	\$39,320	135
2023	\$39,820	125
2024	\$39,820	120
2025	\$39,070	102
2026	\$39,820	106

### FY 2027

Under the proposed realignment, Educational Policy and Development (EPD) will be renamed to Education and Training. The functions and resources from EPD will be realigned as follows: \$2,825,000 and 13 FTE from the Educational Field and Small Mine Services (EFSMS) will migrate to the Technical Support program. The consolidation characterizes the representative structure of all other DOL agencies and aligns with DOL organizational structure. Consolidation of these programs will result in greater efficiency, improved quality, and a more effective central point for services as it supports the organizational capabilities as structured in all other DOL agencies. This proposed realignment realigns mandated functions under a reduced structure and eliminates redundant support personnel.

### FY 2026

To foster a culture of safety and improve safety and health conditions in the mining workplace, EPD will strengthen and modernize training and education through compliance assistance events including presentations, seminars, speeches, committee meetings, task force meetings, training courses, town hall meetings, compliance consultations, webinars, and face-to-face consultation. These events are generally pre-scheduled and arranged with the Agency. In FY 2026, MSHA will conduct 14 compliance assistance events for the mining community.

ET recognizes the importance of miner training and education in the prevention of injury and disease. The mining industry can only achieve its goal of zero fatalities with an industry-wide culture of safety that reaches every level of the operation, from the CEO to the new miner trainee. Inadequate or ineffective training has been a contributing factor in many mine fatalities.

Mine inspectors are required to continuously train in hazardous scenarios to ensure consistent, high-quality inspections. Ongoing training of both new and experienced inspectors is essential to ensure familiarity with new mining processes and equipment, and to keep pace with changes to the law and regulations. Training improves consistency in enforcement across all MSHA Districts and U.S. mining sectors.

In FY 2026, EPD will evaluate, strengthen, and modernize training programs and provide compliance assistance to the mining industry to foster a culture of safety and health.

## EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Evaluate Training Programs.** EPD will conduct evaluations of health and safety training programs, including reviewing materials, plans, and records. EPD will provide onsite training assistance, including bilingual training assistance, to operators and contractors. Additionally, EPD will conduct training plan reviews and assist with training plan development. EPD will provide education on training regulations, policies, and recordkeeping requirements. In FY 2026, EPD projects 32,000 hours of injury and illness prevention/compliance assistance, 600 course days of training to MSHA inspectors and specialists, and 80 course days of training to members of the mining community.
- **Expand Academy Use.** The National Mine Health and Safety Academy will explore new opportunities for growth and expansion through partnerships with federal, state, and regional agencies such as the Border Patrol, Forestry Service, Department of Interior, military, industry associations, and higher education institutions. These partnerships support collaborative efforts which in turn provide efficient use of Academy resources, strengthen relationships across these agencies and institutions, and foster education and training within and outside the Academy's service area. Additionally, the Academy develops educational platforms to extend its reach through virtual training, hybrid, and virtual reality courses that support MSHA's mission.
- **Instructor Evaluation.** EPD will develop and improve the quality of training and provide feedback, training materials, and collaboration with industry instructors. EPD will use evaluation feedback to take immediate action when instructor shortcomings are identified. In FY 2026, EPD will monitor instructors to ensure they are providing effective health and safety training to miners. EPD will utilize the two-week training notifications submitted to MSHA by operators, contractors, and trainers. In FY 2026, EPD projects to provide 600 approved instructor evaluations.
- **Expand Distance Learning.** EPD projects to review and update the Agency's existing library of online courses. In FY 2026, EPD is projected to create and update 20 online courses.

### FY 2025

Educational Policy and Development implemented the following strategies to help further MSHA's mission:

- **Evaluate Training Programs.** EPD performed the tasks associated with this strategy as outlined in the FY 2026 section. EPD provided 38,459 hours of injury and illness prevention/compliance assistance, 724 course days of training to MSHA inspectors and specialists, and 192 course days of training to members of the mining community.
- **Instructor Evaluation.** EPD placed special emphasis on evaluation of contract instructors and utilized the two-week training notifications submitted to the MSHA District offices by operators, contractors, and trainers. EPD provided 818 instructor evaluations.

## EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Expand Distance Learning.** EPD reviewed and updated the Agency's existing library of online courses. In FY 2025, EPD created and updated 21 online courses.
- **State assistance grants.** MSHA awarded grants to state, tribal, and territorial governments to assist them in developing and enforcing state mining, workers' compensation, and mining occupational disease laws and regulations and improving safety and health conditions in the state's mines through federal-state coordination and cooperation.
- **Brookwood-Sago Grants.** MSHA awarded a total of \$250,000 to three grantees and expects Brookwood-Sago grantees to develop training materials or to develop and provide mine safety training or educational programs, recruit mine operators and miners for the training, and conduct and evaluate the training.

## EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY					
		FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
		Target	Result	Target	Target
<b>Educational Policy and Development</b>					
<b>Course days of training</b>					
MSHA-EPD-02	Course days of training provided to MSHA	625[p]	724	600[p]	--
MSHA-EPD-03	Course days of training provided to industry	32[p]	192	80[p]	--
<b>Total</b>		<b>657</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>0</b>
MSHA-EPD-01	Injury, illness prevention/compliance assistance hours provided	45,000	38,459	32,000	--
MSHA-EPD-07	Number of compliance assistance events conducted	14	9	14	--
MSHA-EPD-04	Number of new online courses created or updated	12	21	20	--
MSHA-EPD-06	Number of approved instructor evaluations	800	818	600	--

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

# EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
11.1 Full-time permanent	12,736	10,977	0	-10,977
11.5 Other personnel compensation	297	8	0	-8
12.1 Personnel Benefits	5,243	4,232	0	-4,232
12.1 FECA	30	30	0	-30
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	582	545	0	-545
22.0 Transportation of things	441	365	0	-365
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	481	900	0	-900
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	825	1,222	0	-1,222
24.0 Printing and reproduction	22	26	0	-26
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	1	4	0	-4
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1,692	3,562	0	-3,562
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	222	180	0	-180
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	4,204	3,520	0	-3,520
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	235	0	-235
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	142	174	0	-174
26.0 Supplies and materials	419	429	0	-429
31.0 Equipment	196	2,874	0	-2,874
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	11,537	10,537	0	-10,537
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,070</b>	<b>39,820</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-39,820</b>

# EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

**Activity Changes**

<b>Built-Ins</b>		
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$39,820</b>	<b>106</b>
Program Decreases	-\$39,820	-106
<b>Net Program Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$39,820</b>	<b>-106</b>
<b>Total Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>

	Amount	FTE
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$39,820</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Program Increases</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decreases</b>	<b>-\$39,820</b>	<b>-106</b>



# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,282</b>	<b>21,282</b>
FTE	0	0	80	80

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### Introduction

Under the proposed realignment, Educational Policy and Development (EPD) will be renamed to Education and Training (ET), and \$17,921,000 and 68 FTE will shift from EPD to ET. The functions and resources for the Educational Field and Small Mine Services, previously under EPD, will migrate to the Technical Support program. \$3,361,000 and 12 FTE from the Assessments Technical Compliance Investigations Division and Accountability Division will migrate to the new ET program. The consolidation characterizes the representative structure of all other DOL agencies and aligns with DOL organizational structure. Consolidation of these programs will result in greater efficiency, improved quality, and a more effective central point for services as it supports the organizational capabilities as structured in all other DOL agencies. This proposed realignment realigns mandated functions under a reduced structure and eliminates redundant support personnel.

MSHA’s ET program will manage and operate the National Mine Health and Safety Academy located in Beckley, West Virginia. The Academy provides safety and health training to MSHA mine inspectors and other MSHA technical and administrative staff as well as government, industry, and labor officials.

The ET program will ensure enforcement policies are effectively implemented by MSHA district and field enforcement staff. The functions of the Accountability Division include: evaluating the applicability of MSHA enforcement policies, procedures and guidance for consistency, and the effectiveness of certain mission-critical enforcement activities. Oversight will be provided by conducting annual accountability audit reviews of each enforcement district.

ET will have oversight of MSHA’s Special Investigations Program, which investigates complaints of discrimination filed by miners and possible knowing/willful violations of the Mine Act or safety and health standards and regulations. These investigations protect miners who report safety or health hazards to mine operators, file an MSHA hazard complaint, assist an MSHA inspector, or testify in an MSHA proceeding. They also ensure that mine management (agents of mine operators) is held personally responsible for serious safety and health violations in certain circumstances.

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2022	\$0	0
2023	\$0	0
2024	\$0	0
2025	\$0	0
2026	\$0	0

### FY 2027

In FY 2027, ET will evaluate, strengthen, and modernize training programs and provide compliance assistance to the mining industry by implementing the below strategies:

**Expand Academy Use.** The National Mine Health and Safety Academy will explore new opportunities for growth and expansion through partnerships with federal, state, and regional agencies such as the Border Patrol, Forestry Service, Department of Interior, military, industry agencies, and higher education institutions. These partnerships support collaborative efforts which in turn provide efficient use of Academy resources, strengthen relationships across these agencies and institutions; and fosters education and training within and outside the Academy’s service area. Additionally, the Academy will develop educational platforms to extend its reach through virtual training, hybrid, and virtual reality courses that supported MSHA’s mission.

**Expand Distance Learning.** ET projects to review and update the Agency’s existing library of online courses.

**State assistance grants.** This budget reflects the exclusion of the State assistance grants program. Although the authorization to award State assistance grants remains, any such funding may now be awarded subject to the availability of funding.

**Brookwood-Sago Grants.** This budget reflects the exclusion of the Brookwood-Sago grants program to increase administrative efficiency. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to make the necessary changes to the MINER Act to eliminate the Brookwood-Sago grant program.

**Investigate Discrimination.** ET will coordinate timely investigations of discrimination complaints filed by miners under Section 105(c) of the Mine Act.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY					
		FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
		Target	Result	Target	Target
<b>Education and Training</b>					
<b>Course days of training</b>					
MSHA-EPD-02	Course days of training provided to MSHA	--	--	--	600 [p]
MSHA-EPD-03	Course days of training provided to industry	--	--	--	80[p]
<b>Total</b>					<b>680</b>
MSHA-EPD-01	Injury, illness prevention/compliance assistance hours provided	--	--	--	32,000
MSHA-EPD-07	Number of compliance assistance events conducted	--	--	--	14
MSHA-EPD-04	Number of new online courses created or updated	--	--	--	20
MSHA-EPD-06	Number of approved instructor evaluations	--	--	--	600
MSHA-11	Percent of audited activities not requiring corrective actions	--	--	--	90%
MSHA-14	Percentage of corrective actions addressed and resolved within a year	--	--	--	75%

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### Workload and Performance Narrative

In FY 2027, the ET program will improve the program's audit related activities by completing 90 percent of audited activities not requiring corrective actions, and 75 percent of corrective actions addressed and resolved within a year.

In FY 2027, the ET program will evaluate, strengthen, and modernize training programs and provide compliance assistance to the mining industry to foster a culture of safety and health.

- In FY 2027, ET will provide 600 course days of training to MSHA inspectors and specialists and 80 course days of training to members of the mining community.
- In FY 2027, ET will create or update 20 online courses.

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	0	9,331	9,331
11.5 Other personnel compensation	0	0	185	185
12.1 Personnel Benefits	0	0	3,716	3,716
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	0	0	382	382
22.0 Transportation of things	0	0	118	118
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	0	0	352	352
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	0	0	770	770
24.0 Printing and reproduction	0	0	22	22
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	0	0	1,404	1,404
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	0	0	1,185	1,185
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	0	0	3,060	3,060
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	0	0	142	142
26.0 Supplies and materials	0	0	419	419
31.0 Equipment	0	0	196	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,282</b>	<b>21,282</b>

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

<b>Built-Ins</b>		
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
Program Increases	\$21,282	80
<b>Net Program Subtotal</b>	<b>\$21,282</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Total Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$21,282</b>	<b>80</b>

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Increases</b>	<b>\$21,282</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Program Decreases</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>

# REGULATORY AND DATA ANALYSIS

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,626</b>	<b>6,626</b>
FTE	0	0	28	28

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### **Introduction**

The Regulatory and Data Analysis (RDA) Program is a new program, which merges \$3,595,000 and 15 FTE from the Standards Development program and \$3,031,000 and 13 FTE from the Program Evaluation and Information Resources (PEIR) program. PEIR functions that will be realigned include program evaluations, data processes, reporting, and analytics. The Mine Emergency Operations personnel and contract resources previously in PEIR will move to the Technical Support program. Consolidation of these programs will result in greater efficiency, improved quality, and a more effective central point for services as it supports the organizational capabilities as structured in all other DOL agencies.

The RDA program will develop safety and health standards and regulations for the mining industry that protect the safety and health of miners. These standards and regulations, developed in coordination with the Office of the Solicitor, Division Mine Safety and Health (SOL, MSH) and other MSHA program offices, establish enforcement requirements for compliance in accordance with the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), as amended by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act). RDA coordinates all rulemaking activities with the DOL Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, SBA Chief Counsel for Advocacy and with OMB.

In addition to being responsible for all aspects of rulemaking, RDA will manage the procedures for filing of petitions for modification or variances (through which a mine operator or a representative of miners can petition to modify the application of any mandatory safety standard), MSHA’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) program, and information collection activities under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. RDA coordinates these activities with all MSHA programs and SOL, MSH.

Among other responsibilities, RDA will serve as a liaison between MSHA and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

# REGULATORY AND DATA ANALYSIS

## Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2022	\$0	0
2023	\$0	0
2024	\$0	0
2025	\$0	0
2026	\$0	0

### FY 2027

MSHA will expand and enhance open data initiatives by contributing datasets to the public-facing DOL Enterprise and Application Programming Interface, ensuring data is well-documented and machine-readable to improve data usability and transparency.

In FY 2027, RDA will:

- Support the implementation of the DOL Enterprise Data Strategy and related open data initiatives by contributing to the new consolidated data portal and API. RDA will identify opportunities to improve data access for internal and external stakeholders, particularly with respect to machine-readable and -actionable data.
- Evaluate the use of data that cannot be publicly shared or analyzed due to privacy concerns or legal restrictions.
- Evaluate program operations to develop performance metrics and data points to improve Agency responses to external (OIG, GAO) inquiries and evaluations, as well as supporting internal program evaluation and improvement activities.
- The former Standards Development staff within RDA will support the Administration's deregulatory agenda through identification, proposal, and finalization of deregulatory actions to streamline industry compliance requirements while maintaining and improving health and safety protections for miners. RDA will also advance rulemaking intended to promote the availability of new technologies and equipment for U.S. mining that can advance the safety and health of miners.

## REGULATORY AND DATA ANALYSIS

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY				
	FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
	Target	Result	Target	Target
<b>Regulatory and Data Analysis</b>				
MSHA-13      Major program evaluations conducted	--	--	--	2

Legend: (r) Revised    (e) Estimate    (base) Baseline    -- Not Applicable    TBD - To Be Determined    [p] - Projection

## REGULATORY AND DATA ANALYSIS

### **Workload and Performance Narrative**

MSHA utilizes RDA's data to determine if performance measures are met, are on target, or need attention from leadership. In FY 2027, the RDA will conduct two major program evaluations.

# REGULATORY AND DATA ANALYSIS

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	0	3,589	3,589
12.1 Personnel Benefits	0	0	1,146	1,146
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	0	0	29	29
22.0 Transportation of things	0	0	4	4
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	0	0	226	226
23.2 Rental payments to others	0	0	35	35
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	0	0	222	222
24.0 Printing and reproduction	0	0	22	22
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	0	0	50	50
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	0	0	144	144
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	0	0	1,122	1,122
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	0	0	25	25
26.0 Supplies and materials	0	0	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,626</b>	<b>6,626</b>

# REGULATORY AND DATA ANALYSIS

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

#### Built-Ins

<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
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<b>Base</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
Program Increases	\$6,626	28
<b>Net Program Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,626</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$6,626</b>	<b>28</b>

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Increases</b>	<b>\$6,626</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Program Decreases</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>

# TECHNICAL SUPPORT

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>36,041</b>	<b>36,041</b>	<b>39,516</b>	<b>3,475</b>
FTE	167	167	182	15

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### **Introduction**

The Directorate of Technical Support provides engineering, scientific, and technical expertise to MSHA and the mining industry. It is considered the Agency’s repository of technical knowledge, employing most of MSHA’s engineers, industrial hygienists, scientists, and technical experts. MSHA enforcement personnel, mine operators, and miners rely on Technical Support’s staff to carry out field and laboratory investigations aimed at resolving complex mine safety and health issues and to provide technical training related to these complex issues. The staff provides analyses of complex mining plans to assist the MSHA enforcement program in its review and approval of plans. They participate in accident investigations and identify root causes of accidents, and corrective measures which can be applied at all mining operations to prevent similar accidents. Technical Support oversees and maintains all MSHA laboratories and mine emergency response capabilities and equipment. Technical Support is also responsible for evaluating the safety of equipment and materials used in the mining industry.

Technical Support’s laboratories, the Pittsburgh Safety & Health Technology Center (PSHTC) in Pittsburgh, PA, the Approval and Certification Center (A&CC) in Triadelphia, WV, and the PSHTC-operated National Air and Dust Laboratory in Beckley, WV, provide MSHA enforcement programs with analyses of gas, dust, and other industrial hygiene samples to determine miner exposures and compliance with health and safety standards and regulations.

Technical Support maintains a mine emergency response capability that provides equipment and expertise in the event of a mine emergency, such as an inundation of water or gas, fire, entrapment, or explosion. Technical Support mine emergency personnel respond to every major U.S. mine emergency. The mine emergency personnel engage in mine rescue and recovery operations by reviewing and advising on the adequacy of rescue and recovery plans. Mine emergency personnel also maintain and deploy a fleet of mine emergency response vehicles, including vehicles for command and control, mobile laboratories for gas analysis, ventilation support, seismic detection and location of trapped miners, robotics support and other functions. Technical Support can dispatch equipment and trained personnel from mine emergency stations located in Pittsburgh, PA; Beckley, WV; Madisonville, KY; Denver, CO; and Price, UT.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical Support is responsible for administering a program to evaluate the safety of equipment and materials used in the mining industry in the A&CC. The A&CC evaluates new technologies to identify potential improvements to the safety and health of miners. The A&CC audits manufacturers of mining and rescue equipment to maintain the highest level of quality assurance. The A&CC also provides investigation assistance when an accident occurs involving mining equipment or materials. MSHA collects fees for the approval and certification of equipment, materials, and explosives for use in mines.

Technical Support provides technical training for MSHA enforcement to assist the mining industry and equipment manufacturers in achieving compliance with MSHA standards and regulations. Training activities cover a broad range of technical subject areas that apply to health and safety hazards in the mining environment and the testing and evaluation of mine equipment and products.

### **Five-Year Budget Activity History**

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Funding</u></b> (Dollars in Thousands)	<b><u>FTE</u></b>
2022	\$35,041	189
2023	\$36,041	188
2024	\$36,041	181
2025	\$36,041	161
2026	\$36,041	167

### **FY 2027**

MSHA requests \$39,516,000 and 182 FTE for the Technical Support budget activity. This request includes an increase of \$3,475,000 as a result of the Agency's proposed realignment.

Under the proposed realignment, \$650,000 and 3 FTE from Program Evaluation and Information Resources' Mine Emergency Operations Satellite contract will migrate over to Technical Support. Consolidation of these programs will result in greater efficiency, improved quality, and a more effective central point for services as it supports the organizational capabilities as structured in all other DOL agencies.

Additionally, \$2,825,000 and 13 FTE for the Educational Field and Small Mine Services (EFSMS) will migrate from Educational Policy and Development to Technical Support. Under this budget activity, the EFSMS program will continue to provide compliance assistance to assist operators and contractors with the development and better execution of health and safety programs and training plans to reduce the number of injuries and illnesses in the mining industry. EFSMS will evaluate industry instructors to ensure miners receive quality and effective training. EFSMS training specialists will work with mine operators, contractors, mining associations, and cooperative trainers to strengthen and modernize training. EFSMS will work to identify industry needs and provide assistance to mines with safety and health issues. EFSMS will provide assistance to the mining community through outreach initiatives, which are developed in

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

collaboration with MSHA and the mining industry to address accident trends in the mining community.

Technical Support will:

- Evaluate the safety of mine equipment, materials, and instruments, with a focus on reducing time to complete approvals.
- Evaluate the design of seals, mining impoundments, mine ventilation systems, and ground control systems.
- Provide engineering and scientific technical expertise to evaluate complex health and safety issues, identify causes of accidents, and support MSHA litigation cases.
- Provide laboratory support for MSHA enforcement by analyzing airborne dust samples, atmospheric gas samples, mine rock dust samples, and other industrial hygiene related samples collected to determine compliance with health and safety standards; and
- Provide support and guidance during a mine emergency response effort while continuing to oversee and maintain critical equipment, which includes onsite analytical equipment, communications links, and other sophisticated equipment essential to making critical decisions in rescue and recovery operations.

Technical Support anticipates its Pittsburgh Safety & Health Technology Center (PSHTC) laboratories to analyze 98,600 samples in support of the enforcement of mine safety and health standards in FY 2027.

Technical Support will conduct evaluations of health and safety training programs, including reviewing materials, plans, and records, and provide onsite training assistance to operators and contractors. Additionally, Technical Support will conduct training plan reviews and assist with training plan development. It also will provide education on training regulations, policies, and recordkeeping requirements. An estimated 45,000 hours of injury and illness prevention/compliance assistance will be provided.

In FY 2027, Technical Support will monitor instructors to ensure they are providing effective health and safety training to miners and projects to provide 600 approved instructor evaluations. Technical Support will utilize the two-week training notifications submitted to MSHA by operators, contractors, and trainers. This effort will develop and improve the quality of training and provide feedback, training materials, and collaboration with industry instructors, and will use evaluation feedback to take immediate action when instructor shortcomings are identified.

### **FY 2026**

In FY 2026, Technical Support's Pittsburgh Safety & Health Technology Center (PSHTC) laboratories will support enforcement by analyzing respirable dust samples, mine dust samples, mine air samples, and other industrial hygiene samples. Technical Support laboratories anticipate

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

analyzing 93,900 samples in support of the enforcement of mine safety and health standards in FY 2026.

### **FY 2025**

In FY 2025, Technical Support:

- Evaluated the safety of 253 mine equipment, materials, and instrument approval applications with a focus on reducing time to complete approvals. Technical Support also concurred on 23 respirator approvals as part of the NIOSH/MSHA joint respirator approval program. Technical Support personnel also completed 516 Quality Assurance Actions, including mine-site and Part 7 audits of approved products, field complaint investigations, approval retirements, internal reviews, approval transfers, and technical assistance requests.
- Participated and provided leadership in mine emergency response efforts, including providing and managing onsite analytical equipment, communications links, and other sophisticated equipment essential to making critical decisions in rescue and recovery operations. Technical Support deployed the Pittsburgh Mobile Gas Laboratory (MGL) five times in response to two mine emergency events: Longview (12/18/2025- 12/31/2025), Leer South (2/3/2025-2/14/2025, 5/13/2025, 6/9/2025-6/26/2025, and 7/7/2025 – 7/18/2025). These responses also included deployment of the Mine Emergency Operations Division personnel and equipment.

Technical Support's Pittsburgh Safety & Health Technology Center (PSHTC) laboratories supported enforcement by analyzing respirable dust samples, mine dust samples, mine air samples, and other industrial hygiene samples. Technical Support laboratories analyzed 89,513 samples in support of the enforcement of mine safety and health standards,

Technical Support provided scientific and engineering support for Agency rulemaking efforts, including the 30 CFR part 18 subpart F rule to allow the use of voluntary consensus standards in addition to MSHA electrical standards for product approvals. Additionally, personnel assisted with the silica rule, its implementation, and its challenge.

Technical Support completed 537 engineering studies and investigations in support of MSHA Enforcement during this rating period. This included 49 field investigations and responses to 488 consultative requests by phone and/or email. These requests addressed the most complex engineering issues in electrical safety, respirable dust and mist control, hoists and elevator safety, noise control, ground control, and structural strength and integrity. In addition, 18 fatal and 8 serious nonfatal accidents were investigated by Technical Support. Technical Support also reviewed 257 complex mining plans including plans to recover/re-enter a mine following a fire/explosion, roof control, dust control, ventilation, dams and impoundments, and seals at the request of MSHA Enforcement.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY				
	FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
	Target	Result	Target	Target
<b>Technical Support</b>				
MSHA-TS-01	Percentage of product reviews (electrical and mechanical equipment, materials, and refuge alternatives) completed within 120 days		80.0%	80%
MSHA-TS-02	Injury, illness prevention/compliance assistance hours provided		--	45,000
MSHA-TS-03	Number of approved instructor evaluations		--	600

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

# TECHNICAL SUPPORT

## Workload and Performance Narrative

In FY 2027, the Technical Support program will evaluate, strengthen, and modernize training programs and provide compliance assistance to the mining industry to foster a culture of safety and health. Technical Support will:

- Complete 80% of product reviews (for electrical and mechanical equipment, materials, and refuge alternatives) completed within 120 days.
- Provide 45,000 hours of injury and illness prevention/compliance assistance to MSHA inspectors and specialists.
- Provide 600 approved instructor evaluations.

# TECHNICAL SUPPORT

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
11.1 Full-time permanent	18,318	16,989	19,248	2,259
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	84	64	64	0
11.5 Other personnel compensation	51	78	78	0
12.1 Personnel Benefits	7,609	6,823	8,039	1,216
12.1 FECA	89	89	89	0
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	390	458	458	0
22.0 Transportation of things	189	248	248	0
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	141	128	128	0
23.2 Rental payments to others	2	0	0	0
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	262	514	514	0
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	36	33	33	0
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	342	743	743	0
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	502	964	964	0
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	5,891	5,360	5,360	0
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	1,003	742	742	0
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	329	976	976	0
26.0 Supplies and materials	562	1,163	1,163	0
31.0 Equipment	241	669	669	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,041</b>	<b>36,041</b>	<b>39,516</b>	<b>3,475</b>

# TECHNICAL SUPPORT

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

#### Built-Ins

**Built-Ins Subtotal**

**\$0**

**Base**

**\$36,041**

**167**

Program Increases

\$3,475

15

**Net Program Subtotal**

**\$3,475**

**15**

**Total Activity Appropriation**

**\$39,516**

**182**

**Amount**

**FTE**

**Base**

**\$36,041**

**167**

**Program Increases**

**\$3,475**

**15**

**Program Decreases**

**\$0**

**0**

# PROGRAM EVALUATION AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>16,090</b>	<b>17,990</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-17,990</b>
FTE	19	19	0	-19

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### **Introduction**

The Directorate of Program Evaluation and Information Resources (PEIR) manages MSHA’s program evaluations, data processes, reporting, and analytics, and serves as the liaison between MSHA and DOL’s Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for MSHA’s information technology (IT) program. PEIR conducts program reviews to evaluate the effectiveness of MSHA’s programs and conducts follow-up reviews to ensure that appropriate corrective actions have been taken. PEIR manages MSHA’s directives system and ensures enforcement personnel have electronic access (online and offline) to handbooks, manuals, and related directives for inspections via their tablets.

PEIR collects, analyzes, and publishes data obtained from mine operators and contractors on the occurrence of work-related injuries and illnesses in the mining industry. MSHA, the mining community, and the public use this data to assess progress in preventing occupational injuries and illnesses in mining. MSHA also utilizes PEIR’s data to determine if performance measures are met, are on target, or need attention from leadership. With the assistance of the Department’s OCIO, PEIR manages all agency IT applications and the content on the Agency’s internet and intranet sites. PEIR collaborates with stakeholders and contractors as needed to develop customer-driven projects that support MSHA’s mission to protect the safety and health of miners.

PEIR serves as MSHA’s business process owner for IT applications. Its function is to plan and prioritize the Agency’s IT initiatives.

Among other responsibilities, PEIR serves as a liaison between MSHA and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

# PROGRAM EVALUATION AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

## Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2022	\$17,990	21
2023	\$17,990	38
2024	\$17,990	36
2025	\$16,090	19
2026	\$17,990	19

### FY 2027

Under the proposed realignment, Program Evaluation and Information Resources (PEIR) will be realigned and migrate \$3,031,000 and 13 FTE to the new program, Regulatory and Data Analysis. The Mine Emergency Operations personnel and costs that were within PEIR (\$650,000 and 3 FTE) will be moved to the Technical Support program, while \$8,646,000 for the DOL Enterprise Shared Services resources will be moved to Program Administration. Consolidation of these programs will result in greater efficiency, improved quality, and a more effective central point for services as it supports the organizational capabilities as structured in all other DOL agencies.

### FY 2026

In FY 2026, PEIR will deploy and support the following projects in order to advance the Administration's priorities.

- **Expand Compliance Assistance Operations:** PEIR will actively engage stakeholders by leveraging advanced data analytics to provide actionable insights, identify emerging trends, and support evidence-based decision-making. Through transparent data sharing and collaborative analysis, PEIR aims to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, fostering a culture of continuous improvement in mine safety and health compliance.
  - **Visualizations:** PEIR will develop interactive dashboards for the mining community. These dashboards will allow stakeholders to interact with MSHA's publicly available data to integrate insights on mining accidents and injuries, violations, mine locations by commodity, critical mineral sites, and trends in mine employment and coal production. In accordance with Executive Order 14241, PEIR will implement advanced visualizations to accurately display the geographic locations of mines engaged in critical mineral extraction.
  - **Mobile Visualizations:** PEIR will deploy mobile data visualizations, allowing users to easily explore miner safety and health data. These visualizations will provide interactive, real-time insights optimized for mobile devices, enabling stakeholders to monitor key metrics and trends anytime, anywhere. By leveraging responsive design and intuitive dashboards, PEIR aims to improve transparency, streamline reporting, and support evidence-based strategies in mining. This

## PROGRAM EVALUATION AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

initiative aligns with MSHA's commitment to modernizing information resources and delivering actionable intelligence in a user-friendly format.

- **Implement Artificial Intelligence:** In alignment with Executive Order 14179, PEIR will explore opportunities to leverage artificial intelligence for visualizing and analyzing mine safety and health data.
- **MSHA Assistant for Compliance Information:** PEIR will deploy an AI-driven chatbot on the agency website to reduce the time mining stakeholders spend navigating the site, thereby improving access to information and overall user satisfaction.
- **MSHA Information Hub Expansion:** MSHA will further develop a centralized resource for compliance assistance materials to help miners, operators, contractors, and other stakeholders quickly find answers to their most frequently asked questions.
- **Data Modernization to Strengthen Cybersecurity:** In alignment with Executive Order 14306, MSHA will migrate the MSHA Standardized Information System from the aging Ashburn Data Center to a secure cloud environment and strengthen cybersecurity protections for critical mine safety data.

### FY 2025

In FY 2025 PEIR deployed the following projects:

- **Research and Data Analysis.** PEIR established a robust data analytics framework, developing dynamic dashboards that provide real-time insights into mining safety and health metrics. This initiative enhanced public accessibility to MSHA's data, facilitating better decision-making among stakeholders.
- **Mobile Accident and Illness Incident Dashboard:** The development of a Mobile Application Accident and Illness Incident Dashboard was initiated, allowing users to easily explore miner occupational safety and health reporting information. This tool is aimed at improving miner awareness and safety practices.
- **Data Analytics.** PEIR established a robust data analytics framework, developing dynamic dashboards that provide real-time insights into mining safety and health metrics. This initiative enhanced public accessibility to MSHA's data, facilitating better decision-making among stakeholders.
- **Real-Time Data and Transparency.** MSHA integrated fifteen datasets into the Department of Labor's Application Programming Interface (API), giving the mining community real-time access to data resources to enhance safety and health.
- **Electronic Chartbooks:** PEIR created detailed chartbooks targeting miner diseases, injuries, and workplace exposures. These resources provided vital analyses of miner-

## PROGRAM EVALUATION AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

related safety and health data, aiding in the identification of emerging issues and informing preventive strategies.

- **MSHA At a Glance Fiscal Year Reporting Automation:** PEIR explored automating the reporting process for Mine Safety and Health At a Glance, integrating data aggregation systems to streamline the reporting workflow.
- **Technical Support System Integration Application:** MSHA released the Technical Support System Integration application. The application has been migrated from the legacy MSHA Standard Information System to the MSHA Centralized Application System to improve equipment certification management, tracking, and overall approval process.
- **Inquiry Inspection System (IIS):** MSHA deployed the IIS module in MSHA Centralized Application System. IIS is a reporting application that provides mine safety and health inspectors with inspection data, highlighting accident/injury tracking, mine information, and other analytics. The system enables field personnel to monitor safety compliance, inspection information, and track enforcement actions within their designated districts.
- **Alternative Case Resolution (ACR) Contests MSHA Centralized Application System (MCAS) Module:** MSHA released the ACR Contests module which streamlines the ACR process by providing district and headquarters personnel with a unified platform for managing, tracking, and reviewing conferenced and contested issuances, eliminating duplicated efforts between districts and the Solicitor's office. Notable improvements include multiple file uploads, enhanced search capabilities, docket change history, and an improved user interface for more intuitive navigation.
- **MSHA's Miner Safety and Health Application.** MSHA expanded the agency's free mobile application (iOS and Android) with current safety and health alerts and fatality notifications. This application provides miners with safety resources, rights information, and tools to report hazards.
- **MSHA Information Hub:** MSHA launched the MSHA Information Hub, a centralized online portal that provides comprehensive mining safety and health information to stakeholders for the most frequently asked questions. This information hub consolidates inspection and enforcement records, accident and injury reports, safety alerts, regulatory guidance, training materials, and interactive dashboards.

# PROGRAM EVALUATION AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY				
	FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
	Target	Result	Target	Target
<b>Program Evaluation and Information Resources</b>				
MSHA-13      Major program evaluations conducted	2	2	2	--

Legend: (r) Revised    (e) Estimate    (base) Baseline    -- Not Applicable    TBD - To Be Determined    [p] - Projection

# PROGRAM EVALUATION AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted</b>
11.1 Full-time permanent	2,443	2,166	0	-2,166
11.5 Other personnel compensation	33	0	0	0
12.1 Personnel Benefits	988	817	0	-817
12.1 FECA	70	70	0	-70
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	20	16	0	-16
22.0 Transportation of things	2	4	0	-4
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	129	156	0	-156
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	311	501	0	-501
24.0 Printing and reproduction	5	8	0	-8
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	40	44	0	-44
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	10,100	13,130	0	-13,130
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	1,765	1,070	0	-1,070
26.0 Supplies and materials	4	8	0	-8
31.0 Equipment	180	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,090</b>	<b>17,990</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-17,990</b>

# PROGRAM EVALUATION AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

**Activity Changes**

<b>Built-Ins</b>		
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$17,990</b>	<b>19</b>
Program Decreases	-\$17,990	-19
<b>Net Program Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$17,990</b>	<b>-19</b>
<b>Total Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>

	Amount	FTE
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$17,990</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Program Increases</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decreases</b>	<b>-\$17,990</b>	<b>-19</b>



# PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

## BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>16,900</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>28,476</b>	<b>12,476</b>
FTE	73	73	133	60

NOTE: FY 2025 reflects actual FTE.

### **Introduction**

Program Administration (PA) provides executive direction as well as administrative and management advice and services to support all MSHA activities. Program Administration consists of the Office of Assistant Secretary (OAS) and the Directorate of Administration and Management (A&M). The A&M Directorate supports all the Agency’s program areas providing essential services in budget; finance; medical reviews for inspectors and other technical personnel; emergency management; construction and design; facility management supporting 81 locations over the United States, territories, and Puerto Rico; personal property management; fleet management; employee safety and health; Workers’ Compensation claims management; and significant DOL administrative liaison activities.

The program’s services are critical for the Agency to carry out its mission. Successful execution of PA’s mission will help eliminate fatal mining accidents, reduce the frequency and severity of accidents, and minimize health hazards through effective enforcement of mandatory safety and health standards and regulations in the mining industry. PA supports and strengthens all MSHA program activities by providing leadership, policy direction, and administrative support services, and enabling the agency to meet annual performance goals and objectives.

Under the proposed realignment, \$3,830,000 and 29 FTE from the Civil Penalty Compliance Division, Management Services Division, and Assessment Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA, which were formerly in the Assessments program area, and \$8,646,000 for the Mission Information Technology resources from the PEIR program area, will shift to the PA program. Consolidation of these programs will result in greater efficiency, improved quality, and a more effective central point for services as it supports the organizational capabilities as structured in all other DOL agencies.

# PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

## Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2022	\$15,838	74
2023	\$16,000	84
2024	\$16,000	81
2025	\$16,900	70
2026	\$16,000	73

### FY 2027

The PA budget activity will utilize appropriated resources to enhance operations that will allow the program to provide executive direction as well as administrative and management advice and services to support all MSHA activities.

**Mission Support.** PA supports the Administration’s initiatives and Departmental activities, spearheading all efforts related to budget, finance, medical reviews for inspectors and other technical personnel, emergency management, construction and design, facility management. The directorate routinely develops all required reporting documents under its purview, ensuring the Agency is operating soundly, efficiently, and fiduciarily.

**Health and Safety Services.** The Program Administration’s Office of Employee Safety and Health (OESH) will implement a National Boothless Audiometry System, replacing conventional audiometric booths with a mobile solution. This approach improves speed, accuracy, and convenience while eliminating wasteful overhead and aligning with federal efficiency mandates. The system fully complies with MSHA requirements for employees exposed to hazardous noise under applicable federal regulations, ensuring streamlined testing without the need for fixed-location facilities.

**Assessments.** PA will assess civil penalties for all violations of the Act consistently and in accordance with statutory criteria, assess those penalties in a timely manner at a level that will encourage compliance, account for all penalty cases in litigation before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and collect and account for penalties paid. PA will collaborate with Mine Safety and Health Enforcement program to ensure reviews of the violations marked for special assessment were warranted.

**Manage IT Resources.** PA will manage MSHA’s program evaluations, data processes, reporting, analytics, and serve as the liaison between MSHA and DOL's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for MSHA's information technology (IT) program.

**Supported facility and space related initiatives.** PA analyzes MSHA’s space usage and identifying opportunities to consolidate and improve cost effectiveness.

### FY 2026

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The PA budget activity will utilize appropriated resources in FY 2026 to enhance operations that allow the program to provide executive direction as well as administrative and management advice and services to support all MSHA activities, to include:

**Mission Support.** PA will support Departmental activities associated with Agency reform and consolidation for several administrative functions.

**Increasing efficiencies while decreasing footprint.** In FY 2026, as part of an ongoing commitment to sustainability, PA will take significant steps to reduce MSHA's physical footprint and operate more efficiently. PA will release approximately 20,000 square feet of office space, a move that reflects a focus on smart resource management. This reduction will be achieved by releasing the second floor of the Madisonville District Office and reducing half of the footprint in the Pikeville Field Office. These changes position the Directorate of Administration and Management (A&M) to adapt to evolving workplace needs while maintaining the high level of service MSHA's stakeholders expect.

**Health and Safety Services.** The Office of Employee Safety and Health (OESH) in PA now operates under a firm-fixed-price contractor model for occupational health and safety services, having successfully transitioned from a multi-stage interagency agreement. This modernization leverages technology to strengthen compliance, improve efficiency, and control costs. Under the new approach, service delivery times have been reduced from months to days, and variable pricing risks have been eliminated. During recent federal closures and weather-related disruptions, hundreds of missed appointments—previously costing thousands under the old model—were managed without additional expense. This operational improvement aligns with federal mandates for cost-effective, technology-driven service delivery and generates substantial savings.

**Grant Programs.** PA will support grant activities, ensuring compliance with rules and regulations. The grant programs will fund health and safety training for new miners and refresher training for experienced miners and mine operators. Emphasis will be placed on grant recipient accountability through grant compliance evaluations and review of the grantees' training programs.

### **FY 2025**

The PA budget activity utilized appropriated resources to enhance operations that allowed the program to provide executive direction as well as administrative and management advice and services to support all MSHA activities.

### **PA provided:**

**Mission Support.** PA supported Departmental activities associated with Agency reform and consolidation for several administrative functions. PA facilitated means to reduce employee injury and illness rates and workers' compensation costs by prioritizing actions with the greatest impact on employee health and safety. This data-driven approach focused Agency actions,

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

enabled conversations, and improved safety and health awareness, resulting in a 9.3 percent decrease in occupational injuries and illnesses.

**Increasing efficiencies while decreasing footprint.** Effectuating OMB's National Strategy for Real Property and the Reduce the Footprint Policy, PA is at the forefront of digitizing temporary records to facilitate and improve work efficiencies and reduce redundant processes. In FY 2025, MSHA reduced its footprint by approximately 65,000 rentable square feet by relocating the Headquarters office in Arlington, VA to the Francis Perkins Building in Washington, D.C. and the existing office at the Denver Federal Center to a smaller space in a separate building. Furthermore, MSHA consolidated its offices by closing five locations. PA promptly transferred approximately 50 full-time employees from these closed sites to other established offices within the region. PA analyzed MSHA's space usage and identified opportunities to consolidate and improve cost effectiveness.

**Health and Safety Services.** The Office of Employee Safety and Health (OESH) transitioned from a complex, multi-stage interagency agreement to a streamlined, firm-fixed-price contractor model for occupational health, safety, and medical services. This modernization leverages advanced technology to enhance compliance, improve operational efficiency, and reduce costs, cutting service delivery times from several months to an average of 1.5 days. By replacing market-variable pricing with a high-accountability framework, the shift represents a fundamental optimization of agency operations and aligns with federal mandates for cost-effective, technology-driven service delivery.

**Grant Programs.** PA supported grant activities, ensuring compliance with rules and regulations. PA processed and awarded \$250,000 to three applicants under the Brookwood-Sago grant program and \$10,537,000 to 48 states, territories, and Native American nations under the State assistance grant program. The grant programs funded health and safety training for new miners and refresher training for experienced miners and mine operators. Emphasis was placed on grant recipient accountability through grant compliance evaluations and review of the grantees' training programs.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY					
		FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
		Target	Result	Target	Target
<b>Program Administration</b>					
MSHA-AS-01	Percentage of civil penalties assessed under the regular formula within 65 days of issuance	--	--	--	90%
MSHA-AS-02	Percentage of civil penalties special assessed within 225 days of issuance	--	--	--	90%
MSHA-AS-03	Number of debt collection letters issued under the Scofflaw Program	--	--	--	50

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

## **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

### **Workload and Performance Narrative**

The timely assessment of civil penalties is a key component in MSHA's strategy to enforce safety and health standards. PA supports MSHA's efforts through the following:

- In FY 2027, PA aims to assess 90 percent of regular formula civil penalties within 65 days of issuance. PA will assess civil penalties for all violations of the Act consistently, in accordance with statutory criteria, in a timely manner, and at a level that will encourage compliance. PA will account for all penalty cases in litigation before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and collect and account for penalties paid.
- In FY 2027, PA projects that at least 90 percent of civil penalties that merit a special assessment will be assessed within 225 days of issuance. The PA will collaborate with the Mine Safety and Health Enforcement program to ensure reviews of the violations marked for special assessment are warranted.

# PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

## BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Diff. FY 2027 Request / FY 2026 Enacted
11.1 Full-time permanent	9,786	9,192	16,112	6,920
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	333	237	237	0
11.5 Other personnel compensation	373	0	0	0
12.1 Personnel Benefits	3,134	3,342	7,068	3,726
12.1 FECA	38	38	38	0
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	65	66	66	0
22.0 Transportation of things	24	0	0	0
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	328	452	452	0
23.2 Rental payments to others	32	0	0	0
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc.	15	61	61	0
24.0 Printing and reproduction	14	3	3	0
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	8	0	0	0
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	174	77	77	0
25.3 Other goods and svcs. from Fed. sources	136	76	76	0
25.3 WCF (Non-Add)	2,300	2,424	4,254	1,830
25.7 Operation and maint. of equipment	20	0	0	0
26.0 Supplies and materials	110	32	32	0
31.0 Equipment	10	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,900</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>28,476</b>	<b>12,476</b>

# PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

## CHANGES IN FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

<b>Built-Ins</b>		
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>	<b>73</b>
Program Increases	\$12,476	60
<b>Net Program Subtotal</b>	<b>\$12,476</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Total Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$28,476</b>	<b>133</b>

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Program Increases</b>	<b>\$12,476</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Program Decreases</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>