

South Dakota OSHA Consultation
Activities Report
for
South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation

Covering Federal Fiscal Year 2024

Prepared and submitted by
Greg Derynck, Program Director
On
Date 06/06/2025

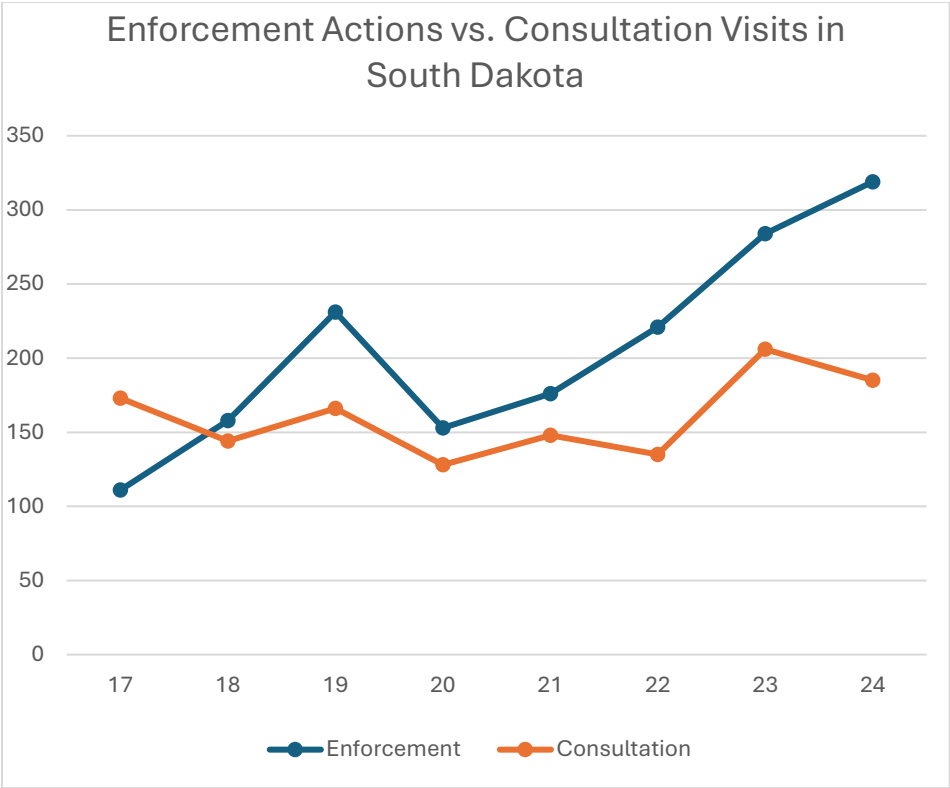
I. South Dakota OSHA Consultation Summary

This report is provided to satisfy the Agreement Between South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation and South Dakota State University, part II.C.

The South Dakota 21(d) On-site Consultation Program is administered by the Engineering Extension Office, at the Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering, South Dakota State University, in Brookings, SD. OSHA Consultation has been on the SDSU campus since inception in 1983. Although it included other services in the past, the administration of the South Dakota OSHA Consultation Program is the only remaining mission of SDSU Engineering Extension. Requests for visits are taken by phone, an online request system, email, and through personal contact.

The biggest challenges to the program in FY24 were finances and staffing. The Federal Department of Labor cut our grant award in July of 2024. It was unprecedented for us to have a reduction in funding during the grant cycle. This loss of funding was offset by the fact that one of our consultants vacated his position for a safety and health job in private industry. We operated for nine months with three consultants, which is one less than the minimum required by the grant. In these cases, waivers are granted until a replacement can be hired. The search to hire this position took nine months. We are now back to four consultants in the program. Funding known to be available for the near future will still be \$23k less than before the cut of FY24.

As predicted, the enforcement actions taken by the OSHA area office in Sioux Falls have continued to increase. We had a record year of visit numbers in FY23, and slightly fewer in FY24. With all credit to the three consultants in the office, we have handled all requests in a timely manner for the nine months we were short-handed. Our new consultant started in April and is on track to be a contributor to the program.



Repeat clients, targeted emails, OSHA referrals, and cold calls are the largest drivers of requests. Some requests come via promotional activities such as booths at trade shows.

Greg Derynck is the Consultation Program Manager. The SDSU designated title for this role is program director. Hiring and employee retention remains one of the biggest challenges of the program. This is due to the pay scale compared to private industry.

The supervisor of the program at SDSU is Suzette Burckhard.

There were no de-obligated funds in FY24. The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation again agreed to support us with the minimum 10% match money for FY24. The Federal base award for FY24 was \$600k. Recently, in FY24 under the previous administration, the US Dept. of Labor announced cuts to all consultation programs in the amount of 3.77% of the total award. This did not impact our program last year because we were on track to be underspent on our grant due to open positions. The initial search to fill a consultant position was declared failed. The second search was successful in April of 2025. Our efforts are now focused on trying to pay four consultants well instead of having five consultants with marginal pay. The federal base award for the upcoming year, FY26, has been set at \$577k.

II. Impact on Workplaces in South Dakota

Cooperative Agreements

South Dakota OSHA Consultation has signed on to the following cooperative agreements. These were arranged through the efforts of the Area Office. These agreements show the employers desire to work with OSHA Consultation for the duration of a project.

Strategic Partnerships:

- High Plains Processors Project
- Lloyd Companies Project

Alliances:

- 811 Notification Board
- South Dakota Ag Cooperative Safety Directors Association

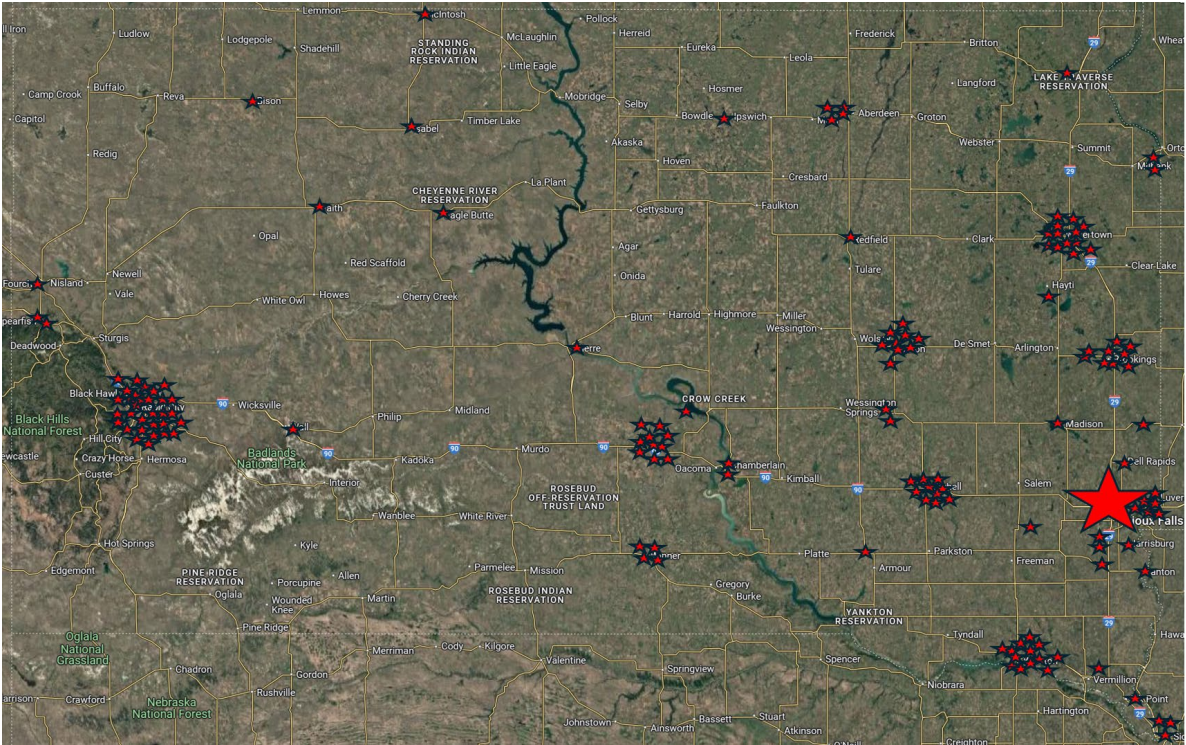
Emphasis Programs

OSHA concentrates their efforts on certain areas through the promulgation of emphasis programs. Here are the emphasis programs in effect currently.

- Regional
 - Noise Induced Hearing Loss
 - Beverage Manufacturing
 - Grain Handling Facilities
 - Powered Industrial Vehicles
 - Roadway Work Zone Activities
 - Scrap and Recycling Industries
 - Automotive Service Industry
 - Oil and Gas Industry
 - Wood Manufacturing and Processing Facilities
 - Silica in Cut Stone and Slab Handling
- National Emphasis Programs
 - Combustible Dust
 - Falls
 - Amputations in Manufacturing Industries
 - Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards
 - Hexavalent Chromium
 - Lead
 - Primary Metal Industries
 - PSM Covered Chemical Facilities
 - Respirable Crystalline Silica
 - Trenching and Excavation
 - Warehousing and Distribution Center Operations

Significant Impacts

- We carried out 185 visits in FY24. We discovered, on average, 4.2 serious hazards per visit.
- 59 of our visits were to new clients. They found out about us through a variety of sources, including door-to-door solicitation, OSHA referrals, promotional activities, word of mouth, and finding our website online.
- We held a free OSHA 10-hour class in Brookings. These classes usually cost hundreds of dollars to attend but we did it on as a promotional event for the program. The class was full at forty students. It was very well received and serves a need in the state. We have plans to do it again in Brookings and another in Rapid City.
- The program performed 78 compliance assistance activities. These are less intensive than an on-site visit and often involve fielding questions from employers by phone or email, doing some research, and sharing the information with the employer.
- 7 formal training courses were done for employers in the state. We offer formal training when we find the employer lacks the training required by OSHA standards.
- We were guest speakers at 4 events. These are informational and promotional speeches at the request of an employer or industry group.
- OSHA has done economic analysis of consultation programs nationwide. It can be found here:
https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/Economic_Benefits_OSHA_On-Site_Consultation_Program_2023_Update_FINAL.pdf
- Taking the numbers from this study and applying them to the size of South Dakota's workforce produces economic benefits of somewhere between 4.25 and 12.2 million dollars per year. There are, of course, challenges inherent to determining the number of accidents that didn't happen; thus, the wide range.
- The map below shows the distribution of our visits across the state in FY24. Sioux Falls represents 38 visits.



III. Staffing

As of June 5, 2025, this is our staff. This is the minimum staffing requirement for a consultation program. The option for a fifth consultant, as we have had at times in the past, has been vacated as federal funding no longer allows it. Staffing continues to be the biggest challenge the program faces. It took 9 months to fill the last open consultant position.

South Dakota FY 2025 Organizational Chart (D-3)

