

Mission

To partner with forward-thinking healthcare leaders to safeguard assets, enhance patient safety, and inspire innovation.

Vision

Through our collective experience and unique expertise, we will provide the leading pathway for managing risk and improving safety in healthcare.

LIGHTHOUSE GRANT APPLICATION

DEFINITION

The Lighthouse Grant category focuses on quality and patient safety risk mitigation activities that a member organization would like to complete within the next eighteen months.

ELIGIBILITY & STRUCTURE

- AEIX Members are eligible to apply.
- For purposes of this application, "Member" includes any organization (e.g., hospital, clinic, long-term care, urgent care, behavioral health, outpatient services) as well as any department (e.g., Risk Management, Patient Safety, Quality, High Reliability Team) or individual unit (e.g., ICU, Med-Surg, Perinatal, Environmental Services, Human Resources/Talent, Education) within a member system.
- Grants are limited to projects that are forecasted to be completed within the next eighteen (18) months.
- Grants are typically awarded for dollar amounts up to \$12,000 or less.
- Details of the requested amount must be provided (breakdown of the anticipated costs)
- Grants must have accompanying information that supports the project's goals in demonstrating improved patient safety (risk reduction).
- Grant Application Winners: Receipts are sent to AEIX and reimbursed to the member organization.

EXAMPLES OF PAST LIGHTHOUSE GRANT WINNERS

Implementation of Mobile Triage in the Emergency Setting This Initiative was designed to proactively support patients through high-risk transitions of care. Its goal was to reduce preventable harm, improve outcomes, and optimize the patient experience.	Clinic Administered Medication Safety The project represented a critical step in advancing medication safety and reducing risk across our ambulatory clinics, where infrastructure for safe medication management has historically been limited funding would help us purchase the ACCUVAX and Omnicells.
Connected Care Front Door Initiative was designed to proactively support patients through high-risk transitions of care. Its goal was to reduce preventable harm, improve outcomes, and optimize the patient experience.	RN Orientation Simulation Program The grant focused on the purchase of simulation equipment to enhance nursing orientation to improve skills, competency, and outcomes.
Enhancing Maternal-Fetal Health Education Through High-Fidelity Simulation & the Acquisition of the Noelle Birthing Simulator The grant focused on the quality of clinical training healthcare providers receive and addressed the growing need for competent, confident, and well-prepared medical professionals in labor and delivery.	

INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Complete** the application in its entirety by typing into the fields. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.
2. **Submit** your application in WORD format. Do not scan and send the document or send in a non-editable format.
3. **Send** your completed application to your system (corporate) Risk Management Leader - or equivalent for your organization - for review and submission to AEIX.
 - *Before sending the application to your system (corporate) Risk Management Leader (or equivalent for your organization), applicants should collaborate with their local Risk Management and/or Patient Safety leaders in accordance with internal expectations.*

RISK MANAGEMENT LEADER (CORPORATE OR SYSTEM)

1. **Review** the application for completeness. Blank fields or incomplete information may result in disqualification.
2. **Submit** the application(s) to AEIX at aeixawards@premierinc.com. We cannot accept applications directly from the applicant.

Grant monies are **not** to be used for compensating the organization's staff for their efforts related to the grant including paying salaries, overtime pay, or time spent conducting the grant work.

Application period opens Monday, May 11, 2026 and closes on Friday, July 17, 2026.

Notifications of winning and non-winning applications will be sent on or before Friday, November 20, 2026.

Please complete all questions and fields in the application.
Incomplete applications may be disqualified.

LIGHTHOUSE GRANT APPLICATION

1	Applicant Name(s):	Brandi Hughes
2	Title(s):	Director of Quality and Medical Staff Services
3	Hospital or Entity Name:	St. Peter's Health
4	Healthcare System:	(same as above)
5	Clinical or Operational Area:	Quality and Medical Staff Services
6	Project Title:	HRO for One
7	Mailing Address: (where the notification of the winning applications and the award check should be sent):	2475 E Broadway St Helena, MT 59601
8	Telephone:	503-547-5718
9	E-mail Address(s):	bmhughes@sphealth.org
10	Name and address of Hospital/Entity (LOCAL) Risk Manager:	Michelle Rush – St. Peter's Health Corporate Compliance Officer Mrush@sphealth.org
11	Name of and address of SYSTEM Risk Manager (or equivalent role) if different from above:	
12	Name and address of Hospital/Entity/System CEO	Wade Johnson, CEO wcjohnson@sphealth.org
13	Name and address of Hospital/Entity/System CFO	Nate Coburn, CFO NCoburn@sphealth.org

14. The project being proposed involves the following clinical areas (Check all that apply):

- ☒ Ambulatory Care or Clinic
- ☒ Emergency Services
- ☒ Hospital/System-wide Focus
- ☒ Infection Prevention
- ☐ Obstetrics/Perinatal
- ☒ Patient Safety or Risk Management
- ☒ Quality
- ☐ Radiology/Imaging Services
- ☒ Surgical/Peri-Operative
- ☐ Other (Please specify) Click or tap here to enter text.

15. Briefly describe the project and its importance to the organization: (one paragraph maximum)

I would like to obtain support and funding to bring DNV training staff to complete training for leaders at St. Peter's Health with their new course The ISO Edge: High Reliability for One

16. Explain how the proposed project described in Question #15 will improve patient safety or reduce the potential for liability: (one paragraph maximum)

This course delivers ISO-based High Reliability Organization (HRO) training grounded in the principle "If I can control my process, I can control my output." By training 20 process owners, department managers, and frontline leaders at St. Peter's Health, we will build internal capacity to identify variation in clinical and operational processes and apply standardized, repeatable methods that reduce the potential for error. Rather than relying on top-down policy alone, this approach embeds reliability at the grassroots level, equipping leaders closest to the work with the tools and mindset to proactively manage risk in complex, high-variability healthcare environments. Stronger process ownership directly translates into fewer breakdowns in care delivery, more consistent patient outcomes, and reduced exposure to preventable adverse events and associated liability.

17. List the metric(s) or other criteria that will be used to measure and to sustain success? (one paragraph maximum)

Following training, we will initiate three pilot projects applying the ISO reliability framework to high-priority process areas: lockdown/security procedures, patient fall precaution initiation, and hand hygiene compliance. Success will be measured using baseline-vs-post-implementation data for each area, including [fall precaution compliance rate / falls-with-injury rate], [hand hygiene compliance audit scores], and [lockdown drill response time or checklist compliance rate]. Sustained success will be tracked through recurring audits, incorporation of the metrics into existing quality dashboards, and periodic leader check-ins to ensure process adherence is maintained rather than reverting to prior practice.

18. Please describe the anticipated tangible results of the proposed project that could be shared *as Best Practices* with other members of AEIX: (one paragraph maximum)

I anticipate this project will produce a replicable model for embedding ISO-based reliability principles into frontline leadership across a hospital system — including a training-to-pilot-project pipeline, a set of standardized process control tools, and measurable improvements in the three targeted pilot areas (lockdown procedures, fall precaution initiation, and hand hygiene). These outcomes, along with lessons learned in scaling the training to 20 leaders, could be shared with other AEIX members as a practical framework for building high-reliability culture without requiring a large, standalone HRO infrastructure investment.

19. Provide the amount you are requesting from AEIX for this project. AEIX grants may not exceed \$12,000.

Course fee \$25,300*, requesting \$12,000

*Understandably, St. Peter's Health will be responsible for the difference

20. Provide a breakdown of costs for your grant (details of costs):

Course with travel, lodging and food for speaker

21. Is this practice an original concept created by the project team, or is it based on successful practices that have been evaluated from literature or other healthcare providers which are being implemented for the first time?

This project is based on an established, internationally recognized framework — ISO high-reliability and

process-control principles — rather than an original concept created by the project team. St. Peter's Health is applying this proven methodology for the first time at our organization, adapting it specifically to our leadership structure and priority process areas (lockdown procedures, fall prevention, and hand hygiene).

22. How does the grant align with AEIX's mission of *"To partner with forward-thinking healthcare leaders to safeguard assets, enhance patient safety, and inspire innovation"* and vision of *"Through our collective experience and unique expertise, we will provide the leading pathway for managing risk and improving safety in healthcare."*?

This project directly supports AEIX's mission to partner with forward-thinking healthcare leaders in safeguarding assets and enhancing patient safety. By investing in high-reliability training for frontline leaders, St. Peter's Health is building internal capability to proactively manage risk rather than react to it — advancing AEIX's vision of providing a leading pathway for managing risk and improving safety in healthcare. The pilot projects generated from this training will also create shareable best practices, extending the value of this investment to the broader AEIX member community.

23. Additional information to support the quality of your grant proposal:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

You may attach any supporting documentation such as graphs, tables, posters, PowerPoint to the application.

24. Indicate the "Primary Clinical Sponsor" (Responsible for monitoring the progress of the initiative which is the basis of the grant, and for submitting receipts and other documentation supporting the use of grant funds, including a one to two-page summary of the grant's outcome.)

Name: Brandi Hughes
Title: Director of Quality & Medical Staff Services
Contact Email: bmhughes@sphealth.org
Contact Phone Number: 503-547-5718

25. Indicate an "Alternate Clinical Sponsor" (Responsible for supporting the responsibilities of the Primary Clinical Sponsor, and assuming those responsibilities if the Primary Clinical Sponsor is unable to fulfill the requirements of the project.)

Name: Dr. Melissa Edwards
Title: Chief Medical Officer
Contact Email: medwards@sphealth.org
Contact Phone Number: 541-915-0502

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