

BWC/OhioMeansJobs Program gets Ohio's injured workers back to work, back to life

BWC Employer Return-to-Work Incentives

BWC offers the following financial incentives to employers who hire workers participating in a vocational rehabilitation plan:

- **Employer incentive contract (EIC)**
An EIC provides a financial incentive to an employer to hire a worker participating in a vocational rehabilitation plan who is learning how to perform a new job. The incentive to the employer can be up to 50 percent of the worker's weekly wage for up to 13 weeks;
- **Job modification**
A job modification is the removal or alteration of physical barrier(s) that may prohibit a worker from performing essential job functions. BWC reimburses 50 percent of the costs of the completed job modification. The remaining 50 percent is paid after the injured worker completes 90 days on the job;
- **On-the-job training**
This practical program allows a worker to obtain or upgrade a vocational skill through actual work experience. BWC reimburses the employer for up to 50 percent of the worker's weekly wage for the training period;
- **Tools and equipment**
This incentive can provide tools and/or equipment necessary for the worker's employment once he or she obtains a job;
- **Work trial**
This allows an employer to test, evaluate and observe the worker at the actual job prior to hiring. BWC pays 100 percent of the worker's wages for the four-week work trial.

If you have questions, call your local BWC customer service office and ask to speak with a disability management coordinator, or call 1-800-644-6292.

To help Ohio's injured workers return to work, BWC is partnering with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to create the BWC/OhioMeansJobs Program. This innovative program is a **win-win** for Ohio employers and workers who cannot return to their previous employers due to work-related injuries or diseases.

The program will help create a career pathway for injured workers who cannot perform their previous job responsibilities or who want to learn new job skills. In addition, it establishes a skilled talent pipeline for Ohio employers who need a workforce for in-demand jobs.

What are the program's benefits for injured workers?

The program's goal is to improve return-to-work outcomes for workers with workplace injuries by using the OhioMeansJobs.com website resources. Helping injured workers recover from their work-related injuries and getting their lives back on track is BWC's #1 goal. BWC strives for injured workers to have the best possible experience and recovery. This personalized program will help injured workers navigate their job searches and establish a career pathway for the future.

What are the program requirements for injured workers?

The job-placement resources available on OhioMeansJobs.com are simple to use and are helping thousands of Ohioans find new jobs and careers.

- For injured workers participating in employment services (i.e., job placement) within a vocational rehabilitation program, BWC will require job-placement and job-development specialists to use the resources on OhioMeansJobs.com to assist workers with their job searches. If injured workers are participating in a job-search program through vocational rehabilitation services, they must register and submit a resume to OhioMeansJobs. BWC also encourages injured workers to use the other job-placement resources on OhioMeansJobs.com.
- For injured workers not in a vocational rehabilitation program but who may need job placement resources, BWC will encourage them to use resources on OhioMeansJobs.com. In addition, BWC will refer workers for any needed one-on-one support and guidance to their county's OhioMeansJobs Center.

What does this program mean for employers?

If employers are looking for applicants to become their new skilled workforce, the BWC/OhioMeansJobs Program has the answer. This new program offers an easy way for employers to find potential employees who are registered on OhioMeansJobs.com.

What financial incentives are available for Ohio's employers?

BWC offers financial incentives to employers who hire workers participating in a vocational rehabilitation plan. BWC can provide the financial resources for training tailored to the injured worker's needs and assist with his or her wages through our employer-incentive programs.

If injured workers want more information, they can talk with their employment specialist or their OhioMeansJobs customer service representative by emailing omj-help-desk@jfs.ohio.gov or calling 1-888-296-7541. Let's work together to help Ohio's injured workers get *back to work, back to life* today.