



NFIB Ohio Workers' Compensation Program

SAFETY RESOURCES

Spring 2025



This issue contains essential safety articles to help you comply with Ohio's workers' compensation regulations to effectively manage your small business this winter.

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IMPORTANT Dates

May 2025

- May 30
 - **Deadline** to enroll in the BWC's Drug-Free Safety Program.
 - **Deadline** to enroll in the BWC's Transitional Work Program.

June 2025

- June 30
 - **Deadline** for Safety Council participation requirements for the 2024 policy year.

July 2025

- July 1
 - First day of the 2025 policy year.
- July 31
 - Last day to enroll in the Safety Council Rebate Program for the 2025 policy year.

The NFIB Select Program Plus Advantage

Were you unable to qualify for experience or retrospective group rating programs for the 2025 policy year? NFIB and Sedgwick have partnered to offer the NFIB/Ohio Select Program Plus, which is designed to help employers who did not qualify for experience or retrospective group rating programs, control workers' compensation claims costs, with the goal of achieving group eligibility.

Like all other NFIB workers' compensation programs, employers will receive the following best-in-class services for a competitive annual fee:

1. Workers' compensation claims management and hearing attendance;
2. Workers' compensation rates management, including BWC Bonus Program savings studies;
3. Comprehensive workplace safety services, including safety audits, seminars, and webinars;
4. Unemployment compensation claims management and hearing attendance; and,
5. A legal defense program administered by the prominent law firm of Bricker Graydon LLP.

For more information: Email [Zachary Stewart](#) or call (614) 932-1565.

Get Evaluated 2026 NFIB WORKER'S COMPENSATION GROUP RATING PROGRAM

If your company is not already in an NFIB sponsored program and would like to be evaluated for the group rating program or group retrospective rating program, please use this link and **fill out the required information** so your company can be reviewed for our workers' compensation group programs.

For more information: Email [Zachary Stewart](#) or call (614) 932-1565.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) requires anyone receiving unemployment benefits to be able and available for suitable work each week claims, and to accept offers of suitable work. ODJFS defines a suitable offer of work as “an offer of work that is similar to the workers’ prior experience, training, rate of pay, and hours worked.” Unemployment benefits can be denied if the offer for suitable work is refused.

ODJFS advises that the following conditions are considered when making a suitable work offer:

- Risk to employee’s health and safety
- Employee’s physical fitness to perform the job
- Employee’s prior training and experience
- The travel distance from the employee’s residence to the location of the job, and
- Rate of pay, relative to where they previously worked.

HOW TO HANDLE WORK REFUSALS

Employers can submit a work refusal eligibility protest by fax to 614-466-7449 or online by filing the “[Eligibility Notice/Refusal to Return to Work](#)” form. The work refusal eligibility letter has to be submitted within 45 days of the offer and should contain the following information:

- The date the offer of work was made;
- The name and title of the individual that made the offer;
- The method of how the individual was contacted;
- Beginning and ending dates of the work offered;
- Type of work, duties, rate of pay, hours scheduled, and location of work; and,
- Details of the reason given by the individual for refusing the work offer.

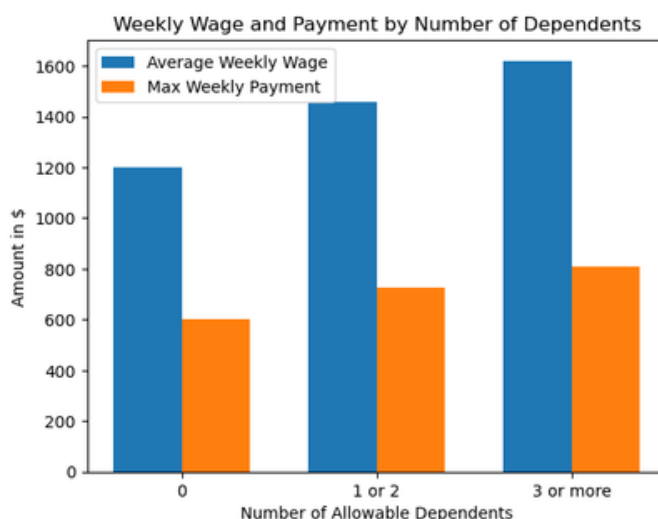
For more information: Email [Staci Schwartz](#) or call (614) 932-1540

2025 WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT CHANGES

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services defines the weekly benefit amount, as the amount an employee may receive for one week of total unemployment. The 2025 weekly benefit amounts are based upon dependence class as defined below and must not exceed 50% of the employee’s average weekly wage.

The maximum number of weeks to receive unemployment benefits remained at 26 weeks.

For more information: Email [Staci Schwartz](#) or call (614) 932-1540.



CHANGES COMING TO ANNUAL PAYROLL TRUE-UP REPORT

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) has announced a change to the deadline for the annual true-up report. Starting with 2024's policy year, **the deadline to complete the payroll true-up report process will be August 31st.**

On July 1, 2025, BWC will open the window for employers to complete the payroll true-up process. Employers must report their actual payroll for the previous policy year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) by August 31, 2025. If the final calculated premium is greater than the previously remitted premium, employers must also pay the outstanding balance by August 31, 2025.

Any overpayment of premium will be refunded or credited to the account. True-up payments must be made online at www.bwc.ohio.gov or by phone at 1 (800) 644-6292.

Failure to file the annual payroll true-up report and pay any outstanding balance by August 31, 2025, will result in the following penalties:

- Immediate removal from any current group rating or retrospective rating plan.
- Immediate removal from any BWC program, such as the Claim Impact Reduction Program.
- Disqualification from any group rating or retrospective rating plan the following year.
- Disqualification from any BWC program the following year, such as the Claim Impact Reduction Program.
- The BWC will add an additional 10% to the premium owed, and bill the employer.
- The BWC may certify the true-up outstanding balances to the Ohio Attorney General's office for collection.

There will be no grace period for employers who do not complete the payroll true-up process by August 31st, 2025.

For more information:
Email [Zachary Stewart](mailto:Zachary.Stewart@bwc.ohio.gov) or call
(614) 932-1565.

REDUCE YOUR WORKER'S COMPENSATION COSTS

Enroll in the BWC Bonus Programs

Reduce Your Workers' Compensation Costs by Enrolling in BWC Bonus Programs!

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) offers alternative savings programs designed to help employers improve workplace safety, while saving money on workers' compensation costs. Several of the programs are considered compatible with each other, enabling employers to "stack" multiple rebate programs. The BWC Bonus Programs and their potential premium rebates are listed below:

- **Transitional Work Grant and Performance Bonus -** This program offers a potential 4% rebate and is designed to reward employers who utilize transitional work to facilitate an early return to work for employees with workplace injuries. After 2025's policy year, BWC will be formally ending the program.
- **Drug-Free Safety Program (DFSP) -** The basic program offers a 4% rebate, while the advanced program offers a 7% rebate.

Employers are rewarded for implementing a program designed to reduce the risk of workplace accidents and injuries attributed to the use of alcohol and other drugs.

- **Safety Council Rebate Program -** Employers participating in this program can achieve a 3% rebate (up to \$5,000) when employers attend 10 of the 12 monthly safety council meetings. [Locate a local safety council.](#)

Except for the Safety Council Rebate Program, the **deadline to enroll into these programs is May 30th.**

The deadline to enroll into the Safety Council Rebate Program is July 31st.

For more information: Email [Zachary Stewart](mailto:Zachary.Stewart@bwc.ohio.gov) or call (614) 932-1565.