



SAFETY RESOURCES

Spring 2026



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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The NFIB Select Program Plus Advantage




Were you unable to qualify for experience or retrospective group rating programs for the 2026 policy year? NFIB and Sedgwick 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.
5. A legal defense program administered by the prominent law firm of Bricker Graydon LLP.

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

Important dates:

	<p>MARCH 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th - Ohio Safety Congress & Expo • 31st - Deadline to submit annual report for the BWC's Substance Abuse Use Prevention & Recovery Program
	<p>JUNE 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th - Deadline for Safety Council participation requirements for the 2025 policy year
	<p>JULY 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st - First day of the 2026 policy year BWC opens window for employers to complete their 2025 policy year payroll true-up report. • 31st - Last day to enroll in the Safety Council Rebate Program for the 2026 policy year



The Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC) has safety and wellness tools designed to support businesses around Ohio, including the Better You, Better Ohio!™ program. Some of the program's free services include a health assessment, biometric screening, online health-related support groups, digital health coach, and wellness education and training.

To be eligible for this program, a company must be: *(continued on page 2)*

PAYROLL
**ANNUAL
TRUE-UP REPORT**

It's never too early to start thinking about the annual workers' compensation payroll true-up report! On July 1, 2026, 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, 2025 - June 30, 2026) by August 31, 2026.**

If the final calculated premium is greater than the previously remitted premium, **employers must also pay the outstanding balance by August 31, 2026.**

Any overpayment of premium will be refunded or credited to the account. True-up payments must be made **online** or by phone at **1 (800) 644-6292**. **There will be no grace period for employers who do not complete the payroll true-up process by August 31st, 2026.**

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- A small business (250 employees or less); and,
- Work in a "high-risk" industry, which includes agriculture, automotive repair and service, construction, firefighters, health care, manufacturing, police and public safety, public employers, restaurant and food service, transportation and trucking, trash collection, wholesale and retail.

BWC states that the program can help with the following:

- Prevent injuries in the workplace through improved health.
- Reduce employee absenteeism.
- Reduce injury severity.
- Reduce time away from work while recovering from an injury.

Visit the [BWC's website](#) for more information about the program.

For more information: Email Sedgwick's [Zack Stewart](#) or call **(614) 932-1565**.

2026

**WEEKLY BENEFIT
AMOUNT**

changes

The 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 2026 weekly benefit amounts are based up dependence class as defined below and must not exceed 50% if the employee's average weekly wage.

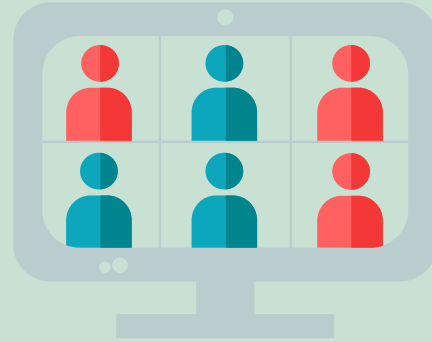
# of Allowable Dependents	Dependency Classification	Average Weekly Wage	Maximum Weekly Pay
0	A	\$1,248 or higher	\$624
1 or 2	B	\$1,514 or higher	\$757
3 or more	C	\$1,684 or higher	\$842

Unemployment Client Education Program 2026

Sedgwick will be offering a **free unemployment webinar** covering Ohio unemployment claims, hearing preparation, and cost-control strategies. Although focused on Ohio processes, the session also shares best practices useful for employers in any state.

This webinar is ideal for HR teams, supervisors, and anyone managing unemployment claims.

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



Webinar Dates:

April 28, 2026 – [Register Now](#)

August 5, 2026 – [Register Now](#)

Annual Payroll True-Up Report *(continued)*

Employers with no payroll will be eligible for a waiver and will not be required to submit a payroll true-up report. BWC will complete the true-up report for companies with no payroll on their behalf.

Failure to file the annual payroll true-up report and pay any outstanding balance by August 31, 2026, 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; and,
- The BWC may certify the true-up outstanding balances to the Ohio Attorney General's office for collection.

For more information: Email Sedgwick's [Zack Stewart](#) or call **(614) 932-1565**.

How to
Handle

WORK REFUSALS

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) requires anyone receiving unemployment benefits to be able and available for suitable work each week claimed, and to accept offers of suitable work. Unemployment benefits can be denied if the offer of suitable work is refused.

ODJFS advises that the following conditions are considered when making a suitable work offer (including, but not limited to):

- 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 (comparable to previously performed work).

ODJFS defines a suitable offer of work as:

"An offer of work that is similar with the worker's prior experience, training, rate of pay, and hours worked."

Work Refusal Eligibility Letter

Employers can submit a work refusal eligibility protest:



Online: [Employer Inquiry Form](#)



Fax to: **614-466-7449**

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

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

2027 NFIB Workers' Compensation Group Rating Programs!

GET EVALUATED! If your company is not in an NFIB-sponsored program and would like to be evaluated for the group rating program or group retrospective rating program, please [fill out the required information](#) so your company can be reviewed for our workers' compensation group programs.

For more information: Email Sedgwick's [Jack Stewart](#) or call **(614) 932-1565**.

