

Program Eligibility Employers

North Dakota Employers

To be eligible to participate in the PWP employers must:

- Be in good standing with WSI
- Have and maintain an account providing WSI coverage

Note: The employer of injury is eligible for program participation if the injured worker has returned to work in a permanent, alternate position. Alternate employment is a new position with pre-injury employer.

Out-of-State Employers

To be eligible to participate in the PWP, out-of-state employers must submit proof of worker's compensation insurance at the time the ID card is submitted.

Program Eligibility for Injured Workers

To be eligible to participate in the PWP, an injured worker must have:

- Sustained a compensable work injury in North Dakota, resulting in an inability to return to their pre-injury position
- Completed the vocational rehabilitation process
- Not released to pre-injury occupation
- Not refused an offer of appropriate employment with the employer of injury



For More Information

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Return to Work Coordinator
800-440-3796, ext. 3876
701-328-3876

Customer Service
800-777-5033
701-328-3800

WSI

North Dakota Workforce
Safety & Insurance

1600 E Century Ave., Ste 1
PO Box 5585
Bismarck ND 58506-5585

Visit www.worforcesafety.com in the Return to Work section for additional information on the Preferred Worker Program.

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WSI

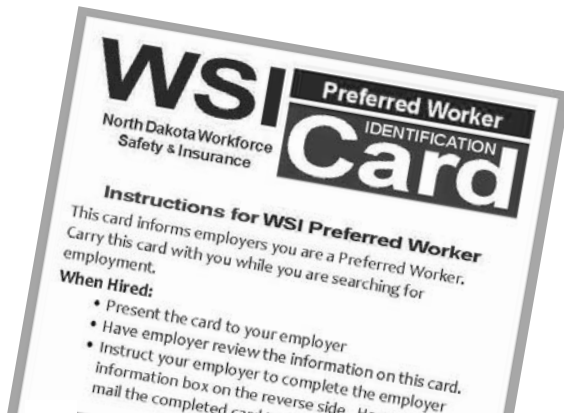
North Dakota Workforce
Safety & Insurance

Preferred Worker Program

The Preferred Worker Program is designed to encourage the re-employment of North Dakota's injured workers. It offers cost-saving incentives to participating employers and benefits for preferred workers.

To Participate in the Preferred Worker Program (PWP)

1. An injured worker must register for the PWP and be approved by Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI). Program decisions are not appealable.
2. If WSI approves an injured worker for the PWP, the preferred worker will receive an Identification (ID) Card. The preferred worker should have the ID card with them when performing work search.
3. If hired, the preferred worker may give the ID card to the employer to complete and return to WSI.
4. WSI will send a Preferred Worker Agreement to the employer. The employer and the preferred worker will review, sign, and return the agreement to WSI.
5. The application process is complete when WSI approves the agreement.
6. WSI will issue a new ID card to the preferred worker. If the preferred worker changes jobs, or obtains additional employment, they may present the new ID card to the new employer.



Preferred Worker Program Benefits



Work Search Allowance

The preferred worker is eligible for a \$250 work search allowance. This allowance is for appropriate clothing for interviews, uniforms, travel expenses, or other needed items. The maximum benefit is \$250.

Certification, Licensure or Related Employment Costs

WSI may reimburse costs for certification, licensure, or other testing required for employment. This includes physical examinations or membership fees required for the job. The maximum benefit is \$500.

Moving Expenses

WSI may pay relocation expenses to move the household to where the injured worker has obtained employment and the distance is equal to or greater than 35 miles from their primary residence. Moving expenses are paid according to North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) § 65-05.1.

Reimbursement for Lodging, Meals and Travel Expenses Relating to On-The-Job Training

WSI may reimburse the preferred worker or employer for lodging, meals and travel expenses (public transportation or mileage) to attend required employment training. WSI reimburses travel at the North Dakota state rate at the time of travel.

Tools and Equipment

WSI may reimburse the preferred worker or employer for tools, equipment, or starter sets mandatory for employment. The maximum benefit is \$2,500.

Job Analysis/Ergonomic Assessment

An on-site job analysis and/or ergonomic assessment may be conducted at no cost to the employer.

Worksite Modification Reimbursement

WSI may approve costs for modifications necessary for employment or retraining.

Wage Reimbursement

WSI may reimburse the employer up to 50% of gross wages (not to exceed North Dakota's Average Weekly Wage) at the time of employment start date. The wage reimbursement period is 26 consecutive weeks. ***This benefit is not available to the employer of injury.***

If a preferred worker has a catastrophic injury as defined in N.D.C.C. § 65-05.1-06.1 (2) (1), reimbursement is 75% of gross wages for 52 consecutive weeks. ***This benefit is not available to the employer of injury.***

Premium Exemption

Employers may not be assessed premiums on a preferred worker's salary for 3 years from the date of hire. ***This benefit is not available to the employer of injury or out-of-state employers.***

Claim Cost Exemption

If the preferred worker sustains a new compensable injury during the 3-year premium exemption period, WSI may not charge the claim costs to the employer. ***This benefit is not available to the employer of injury or out-of-state employers.***