

Return to Work Incentives







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L&I's mission is to keep Washington safe and working













- Create a return-to-work policy for your company
- The Stay at Work Program
- The 5 steps to reimbursement
- Return-to-work resources
- The Preferred Worker Program
- The 5 steps to Hiring a Preferred Worker
- How to Take Advantage of Preferred Worker Benefits

Create a return-to-work policy for your company



What is a "return-to-work" program?

- Helps your employee get back to work as soon as medically appropriate after a workplace injury
- The employee progressively returns to their original job duties
- Options may include
 - Working shorter hours
 - Modified job duties
 - Temporary reassignment to an alternate position



What happens when an employee doesn't return to work after a workplace injury?

The Employer

- You lose the skills and of an experienced employee
- You may need to recruit, onboard, and train a new employee
- Your company's future workers' comp insurance premium will increase

The Employee

- The employee loses 30-40% of their income
- The employee may experience emotional isolation and depression
- The longer the employee is away from work, the harder it is to return

Adopt a return-to-work (RTW) culture

Best practices

- ✓ Develop a written policy
- ✓ Communicate it to employees
- ✓ Get commitment from owners
- ✓ Designate a RTW coordinator
- ✓ Identify light-duty opportunities
- Create a packet for the Attending Provider

Working together for return to work success





STAY AT WORK Program



What's your experience with the Stay at Work Program?



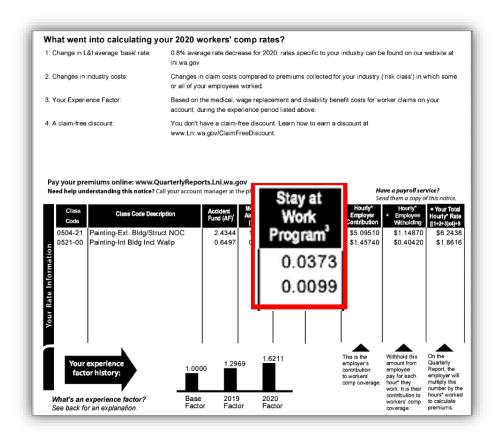
The Stay at Work Program

- A financial incentive for State Fund employers to bring injured workers back to work quickly and safely
- Eligible employers can be reimbursed by L&I for light duty wages and/or expenses
- RCW 51.32.090 and WAC 296-16A



How is the Stay at Work Program funded?

- All L&I employers contribute to the Stay at Work Fund
- Stay at Work reimbursement s don't impact your experience factor
- Don't leave money on the table!





STAY AT WORK Program



Reimbursement categories

- Wages
- Tools and equipment
- Training
- Clothing

Wage Reimbursement

- 50% of the base wages for up to 66 days (max \$10,000)
- Base wages
 - May include overtime or shift differential
 - Do not include tips, commissions, bonuses, or room and board
- Reimbursement only for actual days worked
 - Not for holiday pay, vacation pay, sick leave, Kept on Salary (KOS), etc.
 - -The 66 days do not have to be consecutive

Expense reimbursement - equipment

Tools and equipment – up to \$2,500 per claim

- Must be necessary for the worker to perform the light duty work
- Not for items you normally provide to your employees









Expense reimbursement - training

Training – up to \$1,000 per claim

- Must be necessary for the worker to perform the light-duty job
- Includes tuition, books, supplies
- For example, online training or community college courses

Examples:

- Safety certifications

 (blood borne pathogen,
 HAZWOPER/HazMat,
 Flagger)
- Language courses
- Technical training
- Computer skills training

Expense reimbursement - clothing

Clothing – up to \$400 per claim

- Clothing that is needed for the worker to perform the light duty
- Not for clothing you normally provide to your employees



Examples: Steel-toe boots, office clothing, or outdoor clothing

Required documentation

- A light-duty job description approved by the Attending Provider
- ☐ Stay at Work **wage** reimbursement form
- ✓ Payroll records and daily timecards
- ☐ Stay at Work **expense** reimbursement form
- ✓ Dated and itemized receipts



Steps to Stay at Work reimbursement

- Comply with restrictions on the Activity Prescription Form (APF)
- Complete a written job description
- Get the Attending Provider's approval
- Offer the light-duty job to the worker
- Apply for wage and expense reimbursements



Comply with the Activity Prescription Form (APF)

Work status

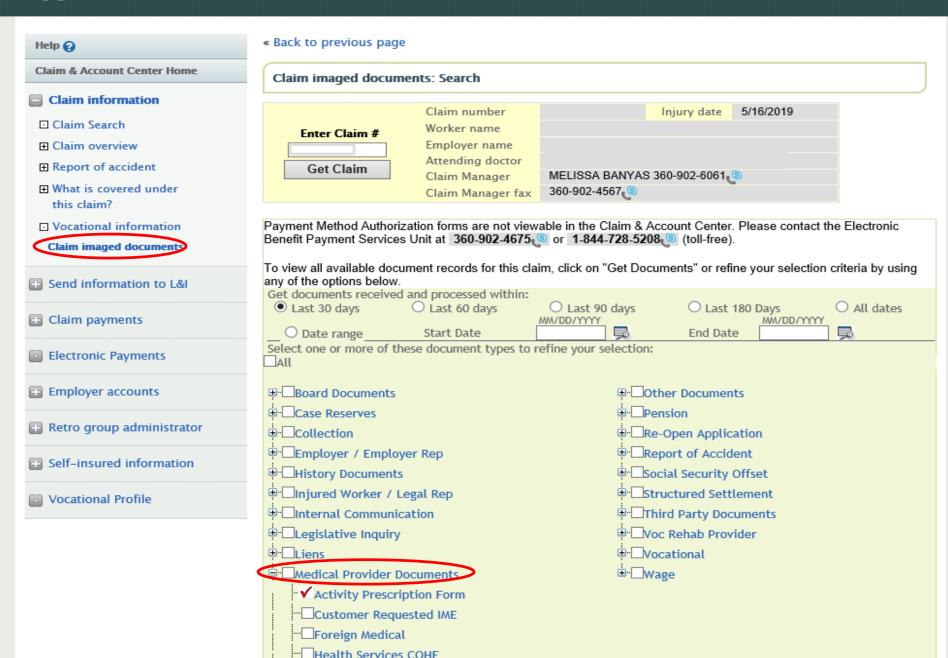
Work Restrictions

Treatment Plans

State Fund Claim: Department of Labor and Industries PO Box 44291 Olympia WA 98504-4291 Fax to claim file: 360-902-4567 Self-Insured Claims: Contact the Self Insured Employer (SIE)/Third Party Administrator (TPA) For a list of SIE/TPAs, go to www.Lni.wa.gow/Selfinsured Activity Prescription Form (APF) Billing Code: 1073M (Guidance on back) Reminder: Send chart notes and reports to L&I or SIE/TPA as required. Complete this form only when there are changes in medical status or capacities, or change in release for work status.												
le o	Worker's Name:			Patien	t ID:		Visi	t Date:		Claim Numb	er:	
General info	Healthcare Provider's Nam	print):				Date of Injury:		Diagnosis:				
	Worker is released to the job of injury (JOI) without restrictions (related to the work injury) as of (date):/											
Worker may perform modified duty, if available, from (date): to^									e x-ray, swelling	g, muscle atrophy,		
	How long do the worker's current capacities apply (estimate)? Other Restrictions / Instructions:											
	1-10 days 11-20 days			Outer ites	u icuona / ina	diduons.						
9 5	Worker can: (Related to work A blank space – Not restricted	: Injury)	Never Seldom 1-10% 0-1 hour		Occasion 11-33% 1-3 hours	24-	quent 65% hours	Constant ex-100% (Not restricted)				
quired: Estimate what the worker can do work and at home unless released to JOI	Sit Stand / Walk					_						
er o	Perform work from ladder										apacities? Yes No	
ork	Climb ladder Climb stairs				-	+				ıty available?		
v v	Twist					+			Name of co	ntact:/_		
ŧ,	Bend / Stoop								Notes:	ntact.		
that only	Squat / Kneel Crawl				+	+			110100			
A 0	Reach Left, Right, Both				_	+						
nate om	Work above shoulders L, R, B								Note to CI	aim Manager	:	
i ii t	Keyboard L, R, B					+						
2	Wrist (flexion/extension) L, R, B Grasp (forceful) L, R, B											
10 5	Fine manipulation L, R											
Required:	Operate foot controls L, R	, B										
Ded i	Vibratory tasks; high impact Vibratory tasks; low impact											
@ n	Lifting / Pushing	Never	Sel	dom	Occas.	Freque	nt I	Constant	□ May pag	d assistance o	eturning to work	
	Example	50 m) lar	10 /bs	0 n		O new	New diagno		suring to work	
	Lift L, R, B	lbs	5	lbs	Ibs		06	lbs	-	escribed for:	Acute pain or	
	Carry L, R, B	Ibs	5	lbs	Ibs	- 1	25	lbs	Opioids pi	esometa idi:	Chronic pain	
	Worker progress: 1 100 ov	mested /	hoffor t	nan ayor	cted			laut sahadi i	ad visit in:	dman word	en es Date:	
ired:	Worker progress: □ As expected / better than expected □ Next scheduled visit in: □ days weeks or Date: □ / / □ Treatment concluded, Max: Medical Improvement (MMI) Current rehab: □ PT □ OT □ Home exercise □ Next scheduled visit in: □ days weeks or Date: □ / / □ Treatment concluded, Max: Medical Improvement (MMI) Any permanent partial impairment? □ Yes □ No □ Plossibly If you are qualified, please rate impairment for your patient											
Requ	Surgery: Not Indicated Possible Care transfe Planned Date: // Consultation Completed Date: // Consultation									fer Reques	IT IME	
	Copy of APF given to worker Discussed three key messages on back of form with patient Signature: / / / () Date Phone											
Req: Sign									Phone			
. Description of the control of the												

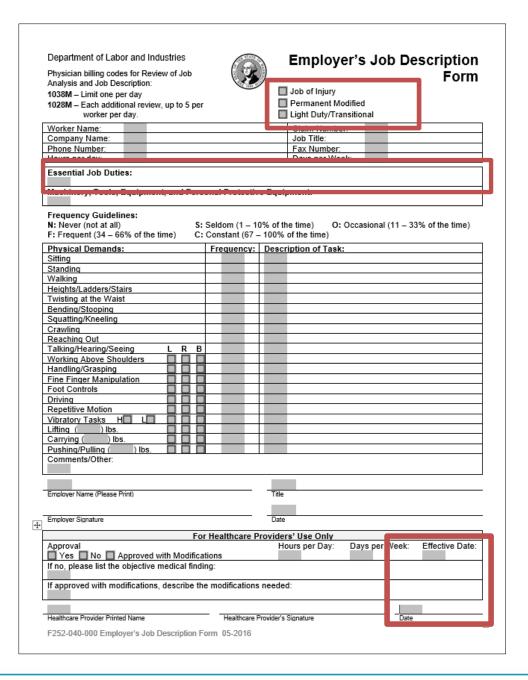


Log out



Complete the Job Description form

- Form available at www.lni.wa.gov/StayAtWork
- Include the tasks and physical requirements of the work



Get the Attending Provider's approval

- Send the light-duty job description to the Attending Provider as soon as possible
- You must receive written approval to be eligible for Stay at Work reimbursement



Offer the light-duty job to the worker

- Document the date of the verbal or written job offer
- If the worker accepts, ensure they stay within medical restrictions
- If the worker declines, contact the Claim Manager



Apply for wage and expense reimbursements

- Apply online via L&I Claim and Account Center or
- Find forms at Lni.wa.gov/StayAtWork
 - Stay at Work wage reimbursement form
 - Stay at Work expense reimbursement form





Preferred Worker Program



Which best describes your company?

- A. I'm wondering if I have a Preferred Worker working for me right now.
- B. I have an injured employee who may end up with permanent restrictions.
- C. I hired a Preferred Worker and I'm ready to apply for benefits.



What is the Preferred Worker Program?

- A financial incentive program that assists workers with permanent medical restrictions to obtain long-term jobs
- State Fund and Self-Insured employers are eligible



Who can be certified as a Preferred Worker?

An individual with a:

State Fund claim – resulting in a permanent medical restriction preventing a return to the job-of-injury.



Part A application

Request Preferred Worker status for injured worker



Preferred Worker Request

Mail or fax completed forms to: PO Box 44291 Olympia WA 98504-4291

Or fax to: 360-902-4567

Worker's Name	Claim Number
Job of Injury Title	

A. Request preferred worker status for injured worker

(Vocational providers often complete this section. Not a voc provider and need help? Call your VRC or 800-845-2634).

Requirements injured worker must meet for preferred worker* status. (State Fund workers only)

The worker's health care provider has permanently restricted the worker from returning to the work
they were doing at the time of the injury.

Attach one of the following required documents:

- A completed and signed <u>Job Analysis</u> or <u>Employer's Job Description</u> for the job of injury showing the worker's health care provider's <u>permanent</u> disapproval.
- Medical information in the claim file clearly indicating that the worker is permanently restricted from performing the job of injury and specifying which duties the worker is unable to do.
- The work restrictions given by the health care provider are supported by medical findings related to the accepted condition.

Attach this required document:

- Chart note or Independent Medical Exam (IME) containing medical findings related to accepted medical condition in claim (Large volumes of information are unnecessary.)
- Further recovery is not expected, due to the worker's permanent loss of physical or mental function related to the accepted condition.

Attach this required document:

- Chart note, Activity Prescription Form (APF), or IME indicating the worker has either:
 - Completed treatment
 - OR
 - Is at or near maximum medical improvement.

Submitted by

Print name of person submitted packet	If not worker, print job title and business or firm name
	_
VRC provider number (if applicable)	Phone number
	_
VRC ID number (if applicable)	VRC firm provider number (if applicable)
Submitter's Signature (required)	Date (required)

F280-060-000 Preferred Worker Request

The Preferred Worker certification process

Worker has an open L&I claim

Permanently restricted from job of injury

Part A application submitted to L&I

L&I certifies them as a Preferred Worker

The benefits of hiring a Preferred Worker

- Claim protection
- Premium discount
- Reimbursements
- Continuous Employment Incentive



How long are the benefits available?

A Preferred Worker's certification lasts for up to thirty six (36) consecutive months

- Benefits begin the first day after L&I receives the required documentation
- Ends no later than five (5) years after claim closure



The Preferred Worker certification period

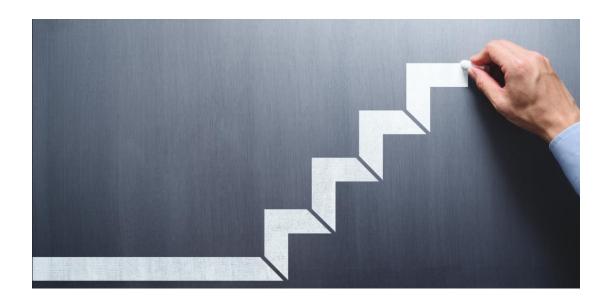








The 5 steps to hiring a Preferred Worker



1. Make sure your L&I account is in good standing

For State Fund employers:

You are current on your premiums or

 You are current on payments required under an approved payment plan ✓ L&I account in good

standing

2. Develop a job for the Preferred Worker

The proposed job must:

- Meet the worker's permanent restrictions
- Address a business need or provide economic value
- Continue to be available into the foreseeable future



3. Obtain medical approval for the job

- Send to worker's health care provider
- Indicate physical requirements of the proposed job
- Job Analysis OR
- Employer's Job Description (F252-040-000)



Employer's Job Description Form

Analysis and Job Description: 1038M – Limit one per day		_		Job of Injury	•
1028M - Each additional review	v, up to 5 per	•		Permanent Modified	
worker per day.				Light Duty/Transitional	•
Worker Name:				Claim Number:	
Company Name:				Job Title:	
Phone Number:				Fax Number:	
Hours per day:				Days per Week:	
Essential Job Duties:					
Machinery, Tools, Equipmer	nt, and Pers	onal Protecti	ve Equip	ment:	
Frequency Guidelines:					
N: Never (not at all)		Seldom (1 - 1			al (11 - 33% of the time)
F: Frequent (34 – 66% of the	time) C:	Constant (67	- 100%	of the time)	
Physical Demands:		Frequency:	Descr	iption of Task:	
Sitting					
Standing					
Walking					
Heights/Ladders/Stairs					
Twisting at the Waist					
Bending/Stooping					
Squatting/Kneeling					
Crawling Reaching Out					
Talking/Hearing/Seeing	L R B				
Working Above Shoulders		1			
Handling/Grasping	888				
Fine Finger Manipulation		i			
Foot Controls		1			
Driving					
Repetitive Motion					
Vibratory Tasks H L					
Lifting () lbs.					
Carrying () lbs.					
Pushing/Pulling () lbs.					
Comments/Other:					
Employer Name (Please Print)			Title		
Employer Signature			Date	_	
	Fo	r Healthcare			W F# D
A	uith Madifia:	stione	н	ours per Day: Days pe	er Week: Effective Date
Approval					
Yes 🔲 No 🔲 Approved i		my.			
	moulour ima				
Yes 🔲 No 🔲 Approved i		e modification	s needed	d:	

4. Offer the job to the worker

- Offer the job in writing to the worker
- The worker signs it to indicate their acceptance



5. Submit Part B application to L&I

- Complete Part B of the Preferred Worker Request application
- Attach the approved Job Analysis or the Employer's Job Description form
- Attach the job offer signed by the worker



Part B application

- Request approval of Preferred Worker job
- Attach the approved job description and signed job offer

	Worker's Name		ed Worker Reques
B. Request approval of preferred worker job (Hiring employer completes this section. Need he	lp? Call your VRC or	the phor	ne number below.)
Hiring employer's business name		L&I acc	count number
Employer's mailing address			
City		State	Zip Code
Phone number		Fax nu	mber
Norker's new job title		Date of	hire / Start date
Does this worker currently have preferred.	worker status?		
Yes No (If 'No', apply on Part	A of this form)		
 Did the worker's health care provider appr medical restrictions? 	rove the job and find	it within t	he worker's documented
Yes No			
Are you (the employer) in good standing v	vith L&I?		
Yes No (To check, go to: www.	w.Lni.wa.gov/Verify)		
 Are you (the employer) 'self-insured' for w 	orkers' compensatio	n coveraç	ge in Washington?
Yes No Not sure what self-ins	surance is? Go to <u>wv</u>	w.Lni.wa	.gov/SelfInsurance
If you answered 'yes' to the above questi State Fund claim on or after January 1, 2		ertified a	s a preferred worker under a
Yes No			
Required Attachments Job Analysis or Employer's Job Description work restrictions in the worker's I &I claim file		health ca	re provider and consistent with
Formal job offer signed by the worker and e			
Sign below to certify that the information on the information of the i	. ,	accurate	e to the best of your
rinted name of employer	Title		
Employer's signature (required of hiring employer)	Date (require	ad)	
Employer a signature (required of filling employer)	Date (require	Ju)	
Printed name of person submitting packet	Print job title	and busir	ness or firm name
Submitter's signature (required)	Date (require	ed)	Phone number

F280-060-000 Preferred Worker Request







How to take advantage of Preferred Worker benefits



Claim protection

State Fund employers

- A new claim during the certification period will not affect your experience rating or premiums
- Indicate risk class 7204 on the Employer's Report of Accident

Self-Insured employers

Ask L&I to reimburse the claim costs when the claim is ready for closure

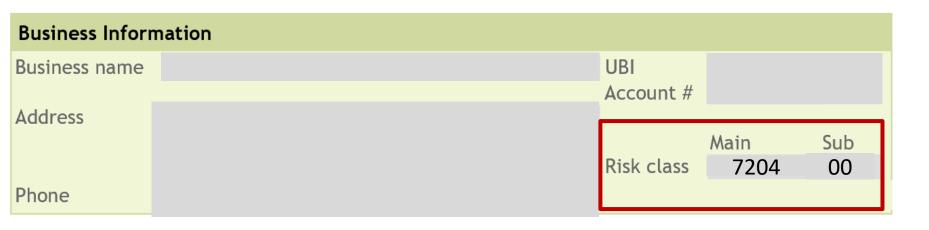


Employer Report of Accident

Claim & Account Center

Employer report of accident

Claim number
Worker name
Employer name
Attending doctor
Claim Manager
Claim Manager fax



Premium discount

State Fund employers

- The Preferred Worker's hours should be reported under risk class 7204
- Contact your L&I account manager if prior reports need to be amended

Self-Insured employers

- Deduct the amount of the claim cost reimbursements on the next self-insured quarterly report
- Supplemental pension and asbestos assessments need to be paid



Print Report

Submit Date: Confirmation Number: 7128704

Grand Total

Ouarterly Report

WA UBI:

L&I Account ID: Phone Number:

Account Manager: Worker Reporting

Class Code	Nature of Work	Gross Payroll (nearest \$)	Worker Hours (or units)	Rate Per Hour	Amount Owed
6403-06	Stores: Convenience-No Gas			0.4218	
7204-00	Preferred Workers			0.1564	
				Total of Premi	ums

Preparer's Information

Preparer:

DayTime Phone:

Email:

Payment Information

Method of Payment: eCheck
Bank account Type: Not Stored – Report Processed

Wage Reimbursement

- 50% of the base wages for up to 66 days (max \$10,000)
- Base wages
 - May include overtime or shift differential
 - Do not include tips, commissions, bonuses, or room and board
- Reimbursement only for actual days worked
 - Not for holiday pay, vacation pay, sick leave, Kept on Salary (KOS), etc.
 - -The 66 days do not have to be consecutive



Expense reimbursement – tools & equipment (max \$2,500)

- Must be items necessary for the approved job
- Not for items the employer would normally provide
- Equipment becomes the property of the employer
- Apply within 1 year of purchase and provide copy of receipts







Expense reimbursement – clothing (max \$400)

- Must be necessary for the approved job
- Not available for uniforms or clothing that the employer would normally supply its workforce
- Clothing becomes the property of the Preferred Worker



Examples: Steel-toe boots, office clothing, or outdoor clothing

Apply for wage and expense reimbursements

- Apply online via L&I Claim and Account Center or
- Find forms at Lni.wa.gov/PreferredWorker
 - Preferred Worker wage reimbursement form
 - Preferred Worker expense reimbursement form



Continuous Employment Incentive (CEI)

- After 12 months of continuous employment
- A one-time incentive payment of 10% of the wages (max \$10,000)
- Only available if the Preferred Worker maintained
 - —The same work pattern as the medically-approved job
 - —The same pay rate or higher



Continuous Employment Incentive (CEI)

- Monthly wages for the first12 months
- Include bonuses and commissions
- Apply within one year from the 12 month mark
- Manual submission (see page 2 for details)



Preferred Worker Continuous Employment Incentive Application for Employers

Insurance Services Administration PO Box 44291 Olympia WA 98504-4291

For workers granted preferred worker status on or after January 1, 2016.

Use this application for the Preferred Worker Continuous Employment Incentive. See the instructions on the next page for information about how to complete the application and for more information about this incentive.

Preferred Worker Information							
Name							
L&I Claim Number		Worker's First Date of Employment (mm/dd/yy)					
Ear Gaill Hallber	Worker's Pilist Date of Employment (minutaryy)						
Employer Information							
Business Name	L&I Account Number						
Mailing Address (Where notice of decisions regarding application and incentive payments will be sent)							
mailing Address (vinere notice of decisions regarding application and incentive payments will be sent)							
City	State Zip C			ode			
Throughout the 12 months:							
I paid the worker the same base wage (or greater) as the date of hire.							
					=		
Enter the Wages You Paid the Preferred Worker for 12 Consecutive Months							
Note:			Through		Total Monthly Wage		
	(mm/dd/yy)		(mm/dd/yy)		,		
The 12 months must be consecutive.							
Don't include tips, board, housing, fuel,							
health care benefits, etc.							
Include bonuses and commissions paid.							
Signature							

I certify that the information provided in this request is true and accurate

F280-065-000 Preferred Worker Continuous Employment Incentive Application for Employers

The Preferred Worker benefits process

Job description
approved by
health care
provider &
certified voc
professional

J**ob offer** signed by worker

Part B
application
submitted to
L&I

Wage & expense reimbursement applications

CEI application submitted after first year of employment

How to find a Preferred Worker

Employers can post jobs on <u>WorkSourceWA.com</u>



 Advertise that your company is "Preferred Worker Friendly"





Comparison of Job Modification, Stay at Work, and Preferred Worker Benefits

Question	Job Modification www.Lni.wa.gov/JobModification	Stay at Work www.Lni.wa.gov/StayAtWork	Preferred Worker www.Lni.wa.gov/PreferredWorker Per Certification Period	
	Per Job/Work Site	Per Claim		
Benefit overview	\$5,000 for tools, equipment, training, and alterations to worksite.	 \$2,500 for tools and equipment. \$1,000 for tuition, books, training materials. \$400 for special clothing. Up to \$10,000 for up to 66 days within one consecutive 24-month period. 	\$2,500 for tools and equipment. \$400 for special clothing. Up to \$10,000 for up to 66 days within one consecutive 24-month period. 10 percent of wages or \$10,000 after 12 months continuous employment, whichever is less. Reduced worker premiums.	
What types of jobs qualify?	Job of injury, modified-duty/transitional job, new job, employer of injury, new employer, self-employment.	Transitional or modified-duty job and only with the employer of injury.	Job with lasting employment that is significantly different than the job of injury. Self-employment not eligible.	
Is pre-approval required?	Van valentha lab Madification Amintana Amintana	No – Equipment must be purchased after the	Yes – For the job.	
	Yes, using the Job Modification Assistance Application (F245-346-000): www.Lni.wa.gov/go/F245-346-000.	approved job is offered to the worker.	No — Equipment must be purchased after the approved job is offered to worker.	
Is the cost of a private consultation covered?	Yes, for State Fund claims.	No	No	
How are the eligibility criteria similar?	 Request is related to the accepted cond 	fic to the worker's restrictions.		
Is the worker required to be off work to qualify?	Yes. The worker, at some point in the claim, is off work with time-loss and/or loss of earning power benefits paid or eligible to be off work and was kept on salary by employer.	No. Worker must be medically certified as unable to do the job of injury even if they have not actually missed any work.	No. Worker must be medically certified as unable to do the job of injury even if they have not actually missed any work.	
Funding source?	Second Injury Fund	Stay at Work Fund	Second Injury Fund	
Available to self-insured employers?	Yes, as a reimbursement.	No	Yes, if hiring a preferred worker certified under a State Fund claim.	
Are competitive bids required?	Yes. One bid is needed. If the cost of a single item is over \$2,500, two bids are required.	No	No	
How are tools and equipment purchased?	Either purchased from a company with an L&I provider number or worker/employer may seek reimbursement.	Purchased by the employer. Employer seeks reimbursement.	Purchased by the employer. Employer seeks reimbursement.	
Is an ownership agreement form required?	Yes. The worker and employer agree who will be the owner of the equipment upon successful return to work.	No. The employer will own the equipment, tools, and training material. The worker owns the clothing.	No. The employer will own the equipment and tools. The worker owns the clothing.	
Can all three benefits be accessed?		Yes		

Upon request, foreign language support and formats for persons with disabilities are available. Call 1-800-547-8367. TDD users, call 711. L&I is an equal opportunity employer.

Employer Incentives Outreach Team

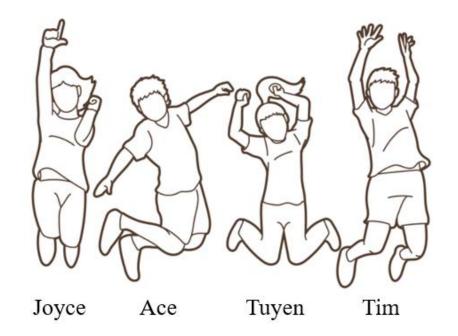
Email:

StayAtWork@Lni.wa.gov

<u>PrefWorkerProg@Lni.wa.gov</u>

call: 800-845-2634

- Ask questions about L&I's incentive programs
- Get help filling out the reimbursement application
- Request an incentives consultation for your company



Sign up for a webinar:

www.lni.wa.gov/workshop