

THE FEDERAL BONDING PROGRAM

What is the Federal Bonding Program?

The Federal Bonding Program provides Fidelity Bonds for anyone not eligible for commercial bonding. There is no cost to the employers or employees. It is a hiring incentive tool to help a job applicant with risk factors get and keep a job.



What is a Fidelity Bond?

It is a business insurance policy that protects the employer in case of any loss of money or property due to employee dishonesty including any type of stealing by theft, forgery, larceny, or embezzlement. It is not a bail bond or court bond for the legal system.

How does the bond help someone get a job?

Upon application, the bond is issued to the employer free-of-charge and serves as an incentive to the company to hire an applicant with a "risk" factor in their personal background. The employer is then able to get the worker's skills without taking any risk of worker dishonesty on the job. It is like a "guarantee" to the employer that the person hired will be an honest worker.

What restrictions exist in the program's bond coverage?

- ▶ The worker must meet the State's legal age for working
- ▶ Federal taxes must be automatically deducted from worker's pay
- ▶ Self-employed persons and independent contractors cannot be covered

Who does the program help?

Bond coverage is provided for any person whose background usually leads employers to question their honesty and deny them a job. The program will cover any person who is a "risk" due to their being in one or more of the following groups:

- ▶ Justice-involved individuals with a record of arrest, conviction or imprisonment; anyone who has ever been on parole or probation, or has any police record
- ▶ Individuals in substance use recovery
- ▶ Poor credit record or have declared bankruptcy
- ▶ Dishonorably discharged from the military
- ▶ Persons lacking a work history who are from low income families
- ▶ TANF recipients



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How do you get bonding services in Wisconsin?

The employer or applicant must contact a local bonding coordinator in a Wisconsin Job Center. Call (888) 258-9966 or visit JobCenterofWisconsin.com/directory to find the location nearest you.

Applicant must have a job offer, and the employer must schedule a date to start work.

There are no papers to be completed by the employer or the job applicant in order for the bond to be issued. Registration on the Job Center of Wisconsin website may be requested, connecting to additional services.



For more details on Fidelity Bonds, including a list of bonding coordinators, visit:

- ▶ dwd.wisconsin.gov/bonding
- ▶ Bonding coordinator list: dwd.wisconsin.gov/bonding/coordinatorlist.htm
- ▶ National information: bonds4jobs.com



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DWD is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need assistance with this information, please dial 7-1-1 for Wisconsin Relay Service. Please contact the Division of Employment and Training at 888-258-9966 and press 6 to request information in an alternate format, including translated to another language.