

# Getting Back to Work after a Job-Related Injury in Wisconsin

Research indicates that most workers want to return to work as soon as possible after an injury. The longer you remain off the job, the less likely you will be able to return to suitable employment.

If you have been injured at work, and now have a permanent disability or work restriction that keeps you from returning to your former job, you may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services. The purpose of vocational rehabilitation is to provide comprehensive, coordinated, effective, efficient and accountable programs to provide services that attempt to restore you, as nearly as possible to your pre-injury earning capacity. The State of Wisconsin, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) provides these vocational rehabilitation services.

## Questions about Worker's Compensation should be directed to:

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development  
Worker's Compensation Division  
201 E. Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 7901  
Madison, WI 53707

(608) 266-1340

Website: [dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc)

*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 Worker's Compensation Division at (608) 266-1340 to request information in an alternate format, including translated to another language.*

# Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Law

## GETTING BACK TO WORK

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
  
Department of Workforce Development

Worker's Compensation



## Individualized Plan for Employment

A vocational counselor in the DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) will perform an assessment to determine your eligibility for services. If you qualify, your DVR counselor will develop an individualized plan for employment (IPE) that helps you return to gainful employment. The IPE may include job placement assistance, on-the-job-training, education, retraining, and follow-up services. If you do not qualify for a program through DVR, you might still be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services through a certified private vocational rehabilitation counselor. Your DVR or private vocational counselor will take your strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, interests and abilities into consideration as your IPE is developed.



If your IPE recommends retraining, a specialist in the DWD Worker's Compensation Division (WCD) will help to determine if your program can be covered by your employer's worker's compensation insurance carrier. If you qualify, the covered benefit will typically cover tuition, fees, books, travel and meal expenses, and a maintenance benefit which pays you at your temporary total disability rate during your retraining program. The WCD specialist will oversee the process to ensure that required payments are made to you. If the worker's compensation insurance carrier or self-insured employer denies payment for vocational services or recommended training, you may contest their denial by filing an application for hearing with the WCD. Please contact the WCD to obtain an application.

To learn more about DVR or to apply for services, visit:

[dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/job-seekers](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/job-seekers)

or call DVR's Administrative Office:

### **DWD - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Administrative Office**

201 East Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 7852

Madison, WI 53707

(608) 261-0050

(800) 442-3477 (toll free)



## Unemployment Benefits

If your worker's compensation benefits are suspended during your job search and/or retraining period, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. You should contact the DWD Unemployment Insurance Division (UI) to determine if you qualify for benefits. For more information about UI, please visit:

[dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui)

