

Hire a preferred worker. Help your bottom line.



Preferred Worker Program

*Financial incentives available to both
State Fund and self-insured employers.*



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

Add value at work with a preferred worker.

Some workers are not able to go back to their old jobs because of permanent medical restrictions caused by a workplace injury or illness. They've healed but are limited from doing certain tasks.

L&I certifies these workers through the Preferred Worker Program and provides financial incentives and premium discount to eligible employers who create medically-appropriate, long-term jobs for preferred workers.

Contact the worker's vocational provider, claim manager or the Preferred Worker Program staff with questions or for help.





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When you create an approved job for a preferred worker, you will:

- Retain or add a valuable worker.
- Improve productivity and staff morale.
- Reduce workers' compensation costs.
- Reduce training costs.
- Improve your branding as an employer.

Applying is easy.

If you think your worker may qualify for preferred worker certification, go to **[Lni.wa.gov/PreferredWorker](https://lni.wa.gov/PreferredWorker)** for a Preferred Worker Request form and then carefully follow the instructions.

We want to pay you! Make sure you:

- Read all eligibility requirements.
- Fill all forms out completely.*
- Provide all required documentation.

*Incomplete forms will cause delays.

What does your business get?

If you create a safe, long-term, medically-appropriate job for a preferred worker, reimbursements include:

Preferred Worker Program	Date of injury prior to 1/1/2025	Date of injury on or after 1/1/2025
50% of the worker's wages	Up to 66 working days (max \$10,000)	Up to 120 working days (max \$25,000)
Tools and equipment	Up to \$2,500	Up to \$5,000
Clothing	Up to \$400	Up to \$1,000
Continuous Employment Incentive (CEI)	10% of the worker's wages for the first 12 months (max \$10,000)	\$25,000

Limits are per worker certification period.

Claim protection and premium discount

L&I also will pay the cost of a new claim during the certification period with no penalty to your business. Plus:

- No charges for Accident Fund or Medical Aid Fund premiums or a new claim for the preferred worker during the 3-year certification period if you're a State Fund employer.
- Reimbursement for the costs of any future claim during the 3-year certification period for self-insured employers.

Preferred workers may fall under the state and federal definitions for a person living with disabilities.

Learn more about the Preferred Worker Program:

Website: **[Lni.wa.gov/PreferredWorker](https://lni.wa.gov/PreferredWorker)**

Webinar calendar: **[Lni.wa.gov/RTWwebinars](https://lni.wa.gov/RTWwebinars)**

Questions:

Phone: 1-800-845-2634

Email: PrefWorkerProg@Lni.wa.gov

Grant money is available to help employers develop return-to-work policies and programs. For more information, go to **[Lni.wa.gov/SafetyGrants](https://lni.wa.gov/SafetyGrants)**.

Upon request, 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.