



**Bureau of Workers'
Compensation**

Safety Council Program

Ohio Safety Council Rebate Program

**External training guide for
employers**

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION ONLY

I. Safety Council Rebate Program rebate & credits

Employers enrolled in a safety council may qualify for a 3% rebate on their workers' compensation premium by meeting all program requirements. To be eligible, employers must earn a total of ten (10) credits during the fiscal year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). One credit per month may be earned by attending monthly safety council meetings.

II. External training credits overview

Employers may earn up to **two** external training credits per fiscal year toward the ten-credit requirement for the Safety Council Program. Employers may earn up to **two** external training credits per fiscal year through qualifying attendance of:

- a. Select BWC safety training courses
- b. Training from other approved external sources
- c. BWC's Ohio Safety Congress & Expo® (OSC26®)

Employers are encouraged to submit certificates to their sponsors promptly after completion to ensure timely rebate credit is applied.

III. External training content and criteria

Employers may earn up to **two** external training credits per fiscal year through qualifying participation in:

- a. BWC *in-person* training and virtual training courses (VTC) only
- b. *In-person* training, seminars, or workshops from approved external sources
- c. BWC's Ohio Safety Congress & Expo® (OSC26®)

To qualify for rebate credit, external training content must align with the intent of monthly safety council programming. Appropriate content areas include:

- Occupational safety and health
- Risk management
- Workers' compensation
- Health and wellness
- Safety-related business topics (e.g., environmental, social, or behavioral workplace issues)
- Total Worker Health®

IV. BWC safety training

BWC offers a variety of safety courses covering topics such as industrial safety and hygiene, safety management, construction safety, ergonomics, and risk management. These trainings are available to employers at no additional cost beyond their workers' compensation premiums. Visit [BWC's safety training website](#) for more information on training. To participate in BWC safety training courses, employers must enroll through the [BWC Learning Center](#). Please note that in January 2026, the BWC Learning Center will migrate to Ohio Learn. You will need an [OHID](#) to access Ohio Learn.

- a. Qualifying and non-qualifying BWC safety training
 - Only select formats of BWC training are eligible for external training credit:
 - Qualifying:
 - BWC in-person courses
 - BWC virtual training courses (VTC)
 - Non-qualifying:
 - BWC Online e-Courses
 - BWC webinars

V. Training from other external sources

Employers may earn external training credit for attending qualified *in-person* training events offered by non-BWC providers. Eligible events may include conferences, seminars, or workshops that align with safety council training standards.

Qualified providers may include:

- a. Industry-specific associations
- b. Chambers of commerce
- c. Authorized training organizations
- d. Third-party administrators (TPA)
- e. Managed care organizations (MCO)
- f. Safety equipment manufacturers
- g. Certified First Aid, CPR, and AED instructors

VI. Ohio Safety Congress & Expo® - March 11-13, 2026

Employers may earn up to **two** external training credits through *in-person* attendance at BWC's annual Ohio Safety Congress & Expo® (OSC26®).

- a. Safety Council members attending OSC26® may earn one credit per day of attendance to OSC26®, with a **maximum of two credits** over the three-day event regardless of the number of sessions attended or employer representatives in attendance.
- b. To qualify for credit:
 - 1. Members must attend at least one hour of educational content (equivalent to 0.1 IACET CEU) to earn one external training credit per day.
 - 2. Members must be scanned at each breakout session they attend to verify participation and receive credit.
 - 3. Only *in-person* attendance at OSC® qualifies for credit; virtual sessions do not.
- c. Document requirements:
 - 1. The Safety Council member must obtain a copy of their OSC26® attendance certificate and provide a copy of the certificate to their safety council sponsor.

2. The member may receive only one certificate of attendance to OSC26®, with the date(s) and sessions they attended noted on the certificate.
3. The sponsor must upload the certificate to the **Ohio BWC Grant & Program Management Portal** for credit to be applied.
4. If the certificate reflects attendance on multiple days, and the employer is seeking the full two credits, the sponsor must upload the same certificate **twice** into the **Ohio BWC Grant & Program Management Portal**, once for each eligible day.

VII. BWC onsite safety consultation

Employers may earn up to **two** external credits by completing a comprehensive onsite safety consultation conducted by a BWC Field Safety Services Consultant. This credit is limited to **once every three years**.

To qualify:

- The consultation must include a full hazard assessment and a claims review.
- The employer must submit a copy of their official BWC Assessment Report to their safety council sponsor.
- The sponsor must upload the BWC Assessment Report into **the Ohio BWC Grant & Program Management Portal** for the credit to be applied.

VIII. Seminars, workshops, and conferences hosted by your safety council

When a safety council hosts a seminar, workshop, or conference and intends to promote it as an external training credit for members or neighboring safety council members, the following requirements apply:

Pre-event requirements:

- Prior authorization must be obtained from BWC Safety Council Administration (SCA) before promoting the event for external training credit.
- Promotional materials must include the name, logo, or branding of all safety councils involved if the event is sponsored or co-sponsored.

Post-event requirements:

- A certificate of attendance must be provided to **all** attendees. This includes members of the hosting safety council as well as members of neighboring safety councils.
 - Neighboring safety council members may earn one external training credit by attending, provided a certificate is issued by the hosting council. **This does not apply to regularly scheduled monthly meetings of neighboring safety councils.**

To be considered a qualifying seminar, workshop, or conference, the event must:

- Be a minimum of two hours in length
- Deliver in-depth content specific to an industry or high-risk workplace factor
- Feature content suitable for continuing education credit

IX. Exclusions

The following types of trainings **do not qualify** for external training credit:

- a. Safety training conducted at an employer's own workplace
- b. Virtual or online webinars and training, **except** for BWC Virtual Training Classes (VTC)
- c. Supervisor training required by BWC's Drug-Free Safety Program or Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Program
- d. Train-the-trainer or Instructor certification courses (e.g., American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor course).

BWC will not accept any training used to satisfy the requirements of another BWC program, e.g. Risk Management Essentials; or Substance Use Prevention & Recovery, to count towards the ten credits required by the safety council program.

X. Certificate Submission

Employers must complete eligible training and submit an official certificate of attendance to their safety council sponsor, by **June 30, 2026. There are no exceptions to this deadline.**

Sponsors must upload all certificates and documents for the FY26 program year into the **Ohio BWC Grant & Program Management Portal** by the **July 15, 2026 deadline**, for member credits to be applied. Certificates submitted in the portal after the deadline will not be accepted.

Please direct any questions about external training credit to your safety council sponsor.