
Chapter 9. Return-to-Work Supplement Program



For information on the SJDB, see Chapter 8.

The Return-to-Work Supplement Program (RTWSP), administered by the Department of Industrial Relations, was created in April 2015 for the purpose of making a one-time supplemental payment to workers who experience a disproportionate loss of earnings.

Who is eligible for a Return-to-Work Supplement?

You may be eligible for a Return-to-Work Supplement if you have a date of injury on or after January 1, 2013, and have received a Supplemental Job Displacement Benefit (SJDB) voucher for that injury.

What is the deadline for applying?

The application for the supplemental benefit must be received by the RTWSP within one year of the date the SJDB voucher was served on the applicant or within one year from April 13, 2015, the implementation date of the regulations, whichever is later.

What is the dollar amount of the Return-to-Work Supplement?

A one-time \$5,000 Return-to-Work supplement is issued to an injured worker who meets the eligibility criteria.

How do I apply for the supplement?

The RTWSP application is only available online at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/RTWSP/RTWSPApplication.html>.

If you do not have access to a computer, every DWC district office has a kiosk near the Information and Assistance office, equipped with a computer, scanner, and printer for your use.

What information will I need to complete an application (other than name, address, and phone number)?

- Social Security or tax ID number.
- SJDB voucher or SJDB voucher proof of service.
 - The SJDB voucher must be in pdf or tiff format for uploading and attaching to the online application.
- Adjudication number (sometimes called “ADJ number”).
 - The ADJ number can be found on most documents filed with the DWC. You can also look up your ADJ number by using the EAMS search function (<https://eams.dwc.ca.gov/WebEnhancement/>) or you can contact the nearest Information and Assistance office for help.
- Workers’ compensation claim number
 - The claim number can be found on any document received from your claims adjuster or insurance carrier.
- Instructions for completing the application, available in English and Spanish at www.dir.ca.gov/RTWSP/RTWSP.html.

What happens after I submit my application?

The RTWSP will review completed applications within 60 days from the date of filing. If you are deemed eligible for the supplement, payment will be issued within 25 days of the eligibility determination.

What if I disagree with the RTWSP’s eligibility decision?

If you disagree with the final eligibility decision, you may appeal to the WCAB within 20 days of the service of the eligibility decision by filing a Petition for Reconsideration and serving a copy of the petition on the RTWSP at 1515 Clay St., 17th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612.

For further assistance, you may contact the RTWSP staff at rtwsp@dir.ca.gov or by calling 510-286-0787, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. PST.