

Ohio Industrial Commission

OVERVIEW

The Ohio Industrial Commission (OIC) hears worker and employer appeals of workers' compensation claims decisions made by the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC). Disputed claims typically involve conflicts over medical decisions or lost time benefits. OIC operations as well as those of BWC are funded through an Administrative Cost Fund (ACF) assessment that is added to employers' workers compensation premiums. Neither OIC nor BWC receives general revenue funds.

The Commission's hearing process comprises three levels of adjudication. Claimants or employers first make appeals before district hearing officers. Second-level appeals are conducted by staff hearing officers. District and staff level hearings take place at OIC offices located throughout the state, and must occur within 52 days after a claimant or employer files an appeal with the Commission. The three-member panel of commissioners in Columbus hears unresolved cases that members believe warrant further consideration.

Between years 1996 and 2000, hearings conducted at all levels declined from 231,733 to 184,000, a twenty percent decline. Since 1996, total staffing levels at the Commission have fallen from 643 in 1996 to 571 presently. This decline was realized in part because of attrition, and also because the OIC was no longer required to retain staff at all BWC service centers.

The executive funding recommendation for the 2002-2003 biennium is \$56,980,710 in FY 2002 and \$59,999,383 in FY 2003.