

Ted Strickland, Governor
Gary M. DiCeglio, Chairperson
Kevin R. Abrams, Member
Jodie M. Taylor, Member
Christa D. Deegan, Executive Director

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Industrial Commission of Ohio Consolidates Bridgeport and Zanesville Offices

Merging of Two District Offices to Save More Than \$260,000 per Year

COLUMBUS -- In an effort toward greater efficiency and cost effectiveness, the Industrial Commission (IC) of Ohio is consolidating our Bridgeport and Zanesville offices into a new location in Cambridge, Ohio. The consolidation will result in the closure of the IC's Bridgeport and Zanesville office effective August 21, 2009.

This consolidation will eliminate current service and operational redundancies while reducing office lease expenses, payroll costs, travel expenses, and costs for security. **Over the next ten (10) years, the total cost savings for the consolidation of the Bridgeport and Zanesville offices to Cambridge will be \$2.62 million.**

The new Cambridge office is 23 miles from the current Zanesville office and 45 miles from the current Bridgeport office. The relocation of the Bridgeport office's five (5) employees and Zanesville's five (5) employees will be performed by Industrial Commission staff, and will require only a small additional expenditure. The Cambridge location is sufficient to house the combined ten (10) employees, who will all keep their jobs. Moving to Cambridge will also allow the IC to reduce our total office space by more than 3,000 square feet, saving more than \$700,000 in rent alone over the next ten years.

"We fully anticipate that this consolidation will be a seamless transition for our customers and staff, and at no point will customer service be interrupted or compromised," said IC Executive Director Christa Deegan.

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Accessibility and quality service to IC customers is of the utmost importance to us. After August 21, hearings previously conducted by the Industrial Commission in Bridgeport and Zanesville will be held in the IC office closest to the injured workers' residence. Employers and injured workers may also access their ICON accounts online at www.ohioic.com, or may speak to a customer service representative by calling 1-800-521-2691.

In FY 2010 alone, the consolidation of the IC's Bridgeport and Zanesville office to Cambridge will result in a savings of \$262,156. As our operations are directly funded by employer premium dollars, this significant cost savings may not be ignored.

The IC conducts hearings on disputed workers' compensation claims, determines violations of specific safety requirements, and determines if an injured worker is permanently and temporarily disabled due to a work-related injury or occupational disease. Three Governor-appointed Commissioners lead the agency -- headquartered in Columbus -- which has 5 regional and 9 district offices throughout the state.

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