

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

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **The Industrial Commission of Ohio Consolidates Hamilton and Cincinnati Offices**

*Merging of Two District Offices to Save More Than \$278,000 Per Year*

COLUMBUS -- The Industrial Commission (IC) of Ohio is consolidating our Hamilton and Cincinnati offices in an effort toward greater efficiency and cost effectiveness. The consolidation will result in the closure of the IC's Hamilton office effective November 6, 2009.

This consolidation will eliminate current service and operational redundancies, and result in reduced office lease expense, payroll cost, and reduced cost for security. **Over the next 10 years, the total cost savings for the consolidation of the Hamilton and Cincinnati offices will be \$2.78 million.**

The Hamilton office is located just 30 miles from the Cincinnati office. Since the Cincinnati office space is more than adequate to house the combined 36 employees of both offices, and the relocation will require only a small additional expenditure, the decision was made to consolidate. The relocation of the Hamilton office's 5 employees will be performed by Industrial Commission staff, and all IC employees will keep their jobs.

Accessibility and quality service to IC customers is of the utmost importance to us. After November 6, hearings previously conducted by the Industrial Commission in Hamilton will be held in the IC office closest to the injured worker's residence. Employers and injured workers may also access their ICON accounts online at [www.ohioic.com](http://www.ohioic.com), or may speak to a customer service representative by calling 1-800-521-2691.

"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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In FY 2010 alone, the consolidation of the IC Hamilton office with the Cincinnati office will result in a savings of \$149,815. The eventual savings per year will total \$278,658. 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 8 district offices throughout the state.

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