



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Workers' Compensation Administration

ONE TEAM | ONE GOAL

A Better New Mexico for Workers and Employers

WCA Accomplishments



GOOD
GOVERNANCE

Making Government More Efficient

- Agency workforce reduced by **16.39 percent** between FY 2010 and FY 2018 (122 FTEs in FY 18 compared to 142 FTEs in FY 10)
- The WCA has worked to simplify and eliminate unnecessary or confusing requirements on businesses, individuals, and attorneys (total printed pages of WCA regulations reduced from **149** in 2010 to **110** in 2015).
- In 2011, the WCA paid off the bonds issued for the construction of its Albuquerque building early, saving state taxpayers \$1,750,000.

- The WCA is resolving and closing more disputed cases yearly than are opened. Clearance rate up 8 percentage points since 2010.
- “Lump Sum Tuesday” and “Settlement Week” allow parties the option of having expedited settlement approval process with walk-in hearings before a judge. Backlogged cases closed.
- The New Mexico Uninsured Employer Fund (UEF) claim expenses are down 49 percent, while reimbursement collections are up 205 percent since 2011.



Cutting Through Red Tape

- “Fowler Fix” (2015) – new law reestablished 700 week maximum payment period after NM Supreme Court decision held that indemnity payments could be paid indefinitely
- Drug & Alcohol Penalty Clarification (2016) – new law reestablished and clarified the penalties for employees who injure themselves on-the-job through their own alcohol or drug use; responded to series of NM Court of Appeals decisions that stated law was unworkable
- Employee Misconduct/Return to Work (2017) – new law reestablished incentives for employees to return to work following an injury; clarified that post-injury misconduct may result in forfeiture of indemnity benefits; established penalties to employers who terminate injured employees for pre-textual reasons; responded to series of NM Court of Appeals decisions that had weakened law

Protecting New Mexico's Workers

- Accident and claim frequency are decreasing — from 33,396 accident notices filed with the WCA in 2010 to 25,912 filed in 2015. Quite simply, this means that less people are getting seriously hurt on-the-job than before.