

RETAIN WORKS

Retaining
Employment
and Talent After
Injury/Illness
Network

Been affected by a summer injury or recent illness?



retainworks.org

With summer around the corner, the weather change brings about a new set of injuries. Many of us might be affected by heat exhaustion or sports injuries. Being sick, injured, or effected by the summer elements can be hard enough. But when it interferes with work, your whole life can be effected. The team behind RETAINWORKS are here to help you get back to full productivity.

You may be eligible to participate in RETAINWORKS if:

- You have suffered an injury in the last 12 weeks, on or off the job.
- You have been diagnosed with an illness or an exacerbation of a chronic illness (including a mental or behavioral health diagnosis) within the last 12 weeks.
- You are experiencing long COVID symptoms.

Eligible participants that are selected for the treatment group will receive:

- Care from healthcare professionals trained in Stay-at-Work and Return-to-Work best practices.
- An assigned nurse navigator to support you during recovery and assist with care coordination.
- Training, employment services, assistance with job modifications or accommodations, and supportive services necessary to retain or change jobs.
- Monetary incentives for participating in some of the study activities.

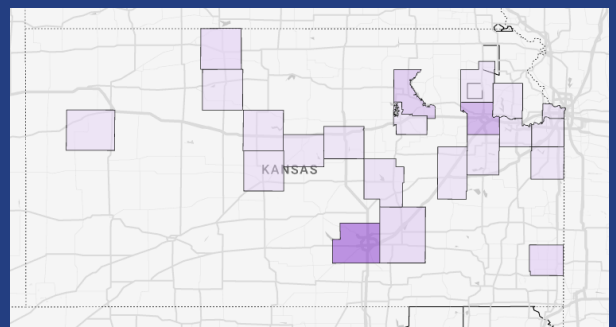
Based on this criteria, do you believe that you may qualify for RETAINWORKS? We encourage you to visit us at retainworks.org to complete a self-referral form and be pre-screened for eligibility by a nurse navigator.

RETAIN WORKS Numbers:

Total Number of Participants: 303

Control Group: 126

Treatment Group: 177



Number of participants per county in Kansas



ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF - ABILENE, KS

JEREMY STUCK

Success Story - Jeremy Stuck

Jeremy is a fire fighter for the City of Abilene who underwent surgery for an ankle fixation in January of 2023 following an accident where he fell from a tractor and experienced an open fracture. He went to the ER in Salina, and was then transferred to Stormont Vail Health in Topeka where an external fixator was placed. Jeremy was sent home non-weightbearing and therefore, unable to perform his job duties as a firefighter. Jeremy worked with RETAINWORKS Nurse Navigator, Susie Mirowski, RN, to get back to performing his job at his pre-injury levels.

Health System Solution: Stormont was fortunate to work with WorkforceONE coordinators, Micaela Madrid-Calvillo and Tagan Brown who were able to identify some needs that Jeremy had in the workplace. Upon finding out that the entrance to Jeremy's workplace was challenging for him to open, they coordinated the purchase and installation of an automatic door opener to make entering the building as simple as pushing a button. Susie was able to work with Jeremy's medical team to get a written order for a knee scooter to make getting around a little easier for Jeremy. The WorkforceONE team were able to fund the purchase of the knee scooter through the grant.

Outcomes/Benefits: Jeremy was able to participate in the workplace more than would have been possible had he not received the coordination of Stormont's Nurse Navigator and the WorkforceONE Navigators. They were able to arrange the purchase of equipment for him that made it possible to engage in his job to the best of his abilities while recovering from his traumatic injury.

Jeremy's employer was also very supportive and happy to accommodate him during his rehabilitation. They also cooperated with WorkforceONE on the placement of the automatic door opener, as the City Hall building that houses the Fire Department is on the National Register of Historic Places. This required special permission to be allowed to make physical changes to the exterior of the building. The City of Abilene gained the permissions needed, and WorkforceONE facilitated the purchase and installation of the device. Now future fire fighters and visitors will be able to utilize the automatic door long after Jeremy recovers from his injury.

Click on the video above to hear testimony from Jeremy, his employer, and his nurse navigator about their experience working with RETAINWORKS!

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