

2012 Best Places to Work in Insurance



A record 65 insurance industry companies are recognized in this year's *Business Insurance* Best Places to Work in Insurance program. Best Places to Work is a joint effort of *Business Insurance* and the Harrisburg, Pa.-based Best Companies Group.

What earns a company a place on the list of Best Places to Work in Insurance? A company has to create a work environment in which employees can thrive and enjoy doing so.

Companies recognized this year offer traditional benefits such as bonuses and mentoring programs, and go the extra step to provide employees with less traditional benefits. Some recurrent themes are flexible hours and paternity leave. But these companies go beyond the expected, and offer such opportunities as biggest loser weight-loss challenges, raffles for charity and even on-site happy hours.

For the second year in a row, Avalon finished #12 in the rankings. Find out what it is that sets the leading insurance industry workplaces apart.

Best Small Retail Agents/Brokers (under 250 employees)

12. Avalon Risk Management



An inclusive atmosphere, generous bonus system and commitment to giving back make Avalon Risk Management one of the best places to work in insurance.

The Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based company recognizes its 118 employees monthly with an employee appreciation day hosted by the company's president. The event is intended to provide company updates, celebrate employee milestones and accomplishments, and remind employees that their efforts are appreciated.

The company also reinforces this concept through its bonus system, for which every Avalon employee is eligible. The bonus is dependent on profit margin and individual/goal performance, as well as the employee's position and tenure.

Excerpts from *Business Insurance* on line magazine dated 10/21/12 and 10/22/12.