

When Outsourcing Payroll Isn't Enough: How to Know It's Time for a PEO

**Justworks** 

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## The Evolution of Your Business Needs

As your business expands, so do the complexities of managing it. What started as a simple operation in one state can quickly evolve into a multi-state organization with employees scattered across different regions. While growth is exciting, it brings a host of new challenges — especially when it comes to compliance, payroll, and employee management. Suddenly, the solutions that once worked for your small, local team may no longer be enough.

## **Growing Pains of a Multi-State Business**

For many companies, payroll outsourcing is the first step toward streamlining operations. It's a simple, effective solution when your team is relatively small and centralized. Payroll providers can handle the basics — calculating wages, processing payments, and filing basic tax forms — so you don't have to worry about those administrative details.

When businesses move across state lines, the administrative load increases dramatically. Each state has its own set of wage and hour laws, tax requirements, and compliance regulations. As these demands increase, managing them through payroll outsourcing alone can quickly become overwhelming.

This is often when businesses realize they've outgrown their existing payroll services and need a more comprehensive solution like a <u>PEO</u> (Professional Employer Organization).

## The Need for a Comprehensive Solution

As your team grows, your HR needs will evolve, and relying on a simple payroll solution may hold your business back. A PEO like Justworks PEO provides more than payroll — it offers a holistic approach to managing compliance, HR, and employee benefits, all while reducing administrative burdens.

By partnering with a PEO, you gain access to an expert team that not only helps you process payroll but also ensures your business stays compliant in every state where you operate, providing top-notch benefits and giving expert HR support.

#### THE EVOLUTION OF YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS

Let's dive into the signs that it's time to make the switch from payroll outsourcing to a PEO — and how doing so helps your business thrive in the long run.

# What is a PEO and How Does It Differ from Payroll Outsourcing?

A PEO is a comprehensive HR solution that partners with businesses to manage payroll, employee benefits, compliance, and human resources administration. When you partner with a PEO, you enter into a co-employment relationship, meaning the PEO becomes the employer of record for tax and compliance purposes, while you retain full control over your employees' day-to-day tasks and management.

#### A Full-Service HR Partner for Your Business

What makes a PEO stand out is their full-service approach. It provides access to expert HR support, ensures compliance with local and federal laws, manages employee benefits, and offers workforce management solutions.

Think of a PEO as an extension of your HR team, providing the guidance and resources you need to navigate the increasingly complex world of workforce administration.

## The Core Functions of Payroll Outsourcing vs. a PEO

At first glance, payroll outsourcing and a PEO may seem similar. With a PEO, you not only get payroll processing but also:

Compliance Management	Ensuring adherence to labor laws, tax regulations, and wage requirements in every state where you operate.
Employee Benefits	Access to large-group health plans, wellness programs, retirement savings plans like 401(k), and other perks that help attract and retain top talent.
Expert HR Support	From onboarding to employee relations and terminations, a PEO like Justworks provides 24/7 access to HR experts and legal guidance to support your business as it grows.
Risk Mitigation	PEOs take a proactive approach to keeping your business compliant, mitigating the risk of potential lawsuits, fines, and regulatory changes.

With a PEO, businesses gain peace of mind knowing they are compliant across all aspects of their workforce management, allowing them to focus on growth without getting bogged down by the complexities of HR administration.

## Signs Your Business is Outgrowing Payroll Outsourcing

As your business grows and becomes more complex, relying on payroll outsourcing alone can feel inadequate. Here are the signs your business may be outgrowing a basic payroll provider.

## Struggling to Keep Up with Multi-State Payroll Compliance

**Complex State** Each state has different wage, overtime, and leave laws, making

**Regulations** compliance difficult as you expand.

Risk of Missing a tax filing deadline or labor regulation can result in

**Fines** costly penalties.

PEO A PEO manages multi-state payroll compliance for you,

**Solution** ensuring your business follows all regulations, no matter where

your employees work.

### **Limited HR Support**

Payroll Many payroll providers only handle payroll-related questions,

**Focused** leaving HR concerns unmet.

**Lack of** When complex HR issues or legal questions arise, you need

**Expertise** expert guidance, not just basic answers.

PEO A PEO offers comprehensive HR services, giving you access to

**Support** experts to navigate employment laws and employee issues.

#### **Administrative Tasks Have Become Overwhelming**

**Growing** As your business grows, so do administrative tasks like

**Workload** onboarding, tracking PTO, and managing benefits.

**Lack of**Basic payroll outsourcing doesn't handle detailed tasks like

**Expertise** compliance audits and benefits enrollment.

## **Difficulty Offering Competitive Benefits**

**Limited** Some payroll providers often can't offer large-group health

**Options** plans or specialized benefits.

**Competitive** Attracting top talent requires comprehensive benefits across

**Edge** states.

**PEO** A PEO like Justworks PEO provides access to large-scale health

**Advantage** plans and wellness programs, giving your business the benefits

usually reserved for larger companies.

## Why Small Businesses Benefit Most from a PEO

Let's explore why a PEO may be your next best step when you need more than payroll support, and how Justworks stands out.



#### **Simplifies State Unemployment Insurance**

State Unemployment Insurance (SUI) administration can be complex, with <u>each state</u> having its own requirements and tax rates. PEOs consistently monitor labor laws in every state, providing expert guidance to remove the guesswork from compliance and ensure you're always up-to-date on changes, no matter where your employees are based.

## Stays Ahead of Ever-Changing HR and Regulatory Updates

Labor laws and HR regulations are constantly changing, and staying on top of them can be overwhelming. A PEO offers proactive support, keeping your business informed of regulatory updates before they affect your operations.

## **PEOs Help Limit HR and Employment Liability Risks**

Running a business across multiple states increases the risk of HR-related liabilities, such as wrongful termination claims or wage disputes. A PEO helps mitigate these risks by ensuring your HR policies align with local and federal regulations.

#### Why PEOs Handle Multi-State Compliance Better

Standalone payroll services often focus solely on processing payments and filing basic tax forms, leaving compliance challenges up to you. PEOs, however, take a comprehensive approach to multi-state compliance. They manage everything from payroll to labor laws and benefits administration, providing an all-in-one solution that payroll providers simply can't match.

This integrated support ensures that you remain compliant, no matter how many states you operate in.

#### **Justworks: The PEO That Stands Out**

Justworks distinguishes itself by offering more than just payroll and compliance solutions. We provide proactive, hands-on support to help your business navigate multi-state compliance challenges effortlessly.

With 24/7 customer service, a user-friendly platform, and HR experts who are always available to guide you, Justworks ensures that your business stays compliant while saving you both time and money. We simplify the complexities of multi-state operations, giving you peace of mind so you can focus on what matters most — growing your business.

## **PEO Benefits Support**

By promoting both physical and mental wellbeing, PEOs contribute to higher job satisfaction and longterm retention. Let's discover how.

## **Employee Wellbeing to Reduces Turnover**

**Focus on** PEOs provide benefits that prioritize mental health, wellness,

**Employee** and flexible work options. Companies that prioritize employee

**Wellbeing** wellbeing show a 12% increase in productivity.

**Comprehensive** Mental health resources, wellness programs, and work-life

**Health Support** balance initiatives help employees feel supported in every

aspect of their wellbeing.

**Reduced** When employees feel valued and cared for, they are less likely

**Turnover** to leave, leading to a more loyal and motivated workforce.

## **Wellness Programs and Mental Health Support**

Payroll PEOs offer employees perks like gym memberships, fitness

**Access to** discounts, and mental health support.

Wellness Perks

**Boost Employee** Wellness programs and mental health resources are crucial for

**Satisfaction** maintaining a happy, motivated team that sticks around.

## Making the Transition: How to Switch to a PEO Seamlessly

Switching to a PEO may sound like a big move, but with the right steps, you can make the transition smooth and painless. Let's break it down.

## Step 1: Can Your Current Payroll Provider Offer PEO Services?

The first step is to see if your current payroll provider has PEO capabilities. Some payroll providers offer basic HR services, but they may not be equipped to handle the full-service solutions that a PEO provides, like compliance, benefits, and expert HR consulting. If you're using a payroll provider that doesn't offer these services, it's time to explore your options and consider switching to a provider that does.

## **Step 2: Assess Your Business Needs**

Before making the move to a PEO, take a moment to assess where your business is headed. Are you expanding into new states? Struggling to manage compliance across different regions? Need better HR support? A PEO can tackle all of these challenges and more.

## **Step 3: Choose the Right PEO Partner**

Not all PEOs are created equal, so it's important to choose one that fits your business. Look for a PEO that aligns with your goals, offers the services you need, and provides the best value. Justworks, for example, offers transparent pricing, full-service HR, and easy onboarding, making it an ideal choice for businesses ready to scale up without the headaches.

## **Step 4: Transitioning Without the Hassle**

Making the switch to a PEO doesn't have to be disruptive! Most PEOs have a simple onboarding process that keeps everything running smoothly, so you can focus on what you do best—running your business. The best part?

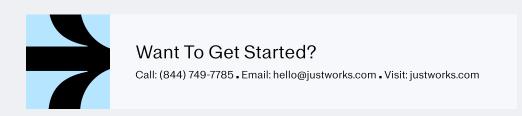
Your employees likely won't even notice the change, aside from the extra benefits!

## **Step 5: How Justworks Makes the Switch Easy**

If you're switching to Justworks, the process couldn't be simpler. You'll have a dedicated account manager guiding you every step of the way. From answering your questions to handling the nitty-gritty details of the transition, we make sure everything goes off without a hitch. Personalized support, user-friendly tools, and seamless integration mean you won't lose any time — or sleep — during the switch.

## Ready to simplify your HR, benefits, and compliance?

Justworks makes it easy to manage your growing business with personalized support on an all-in-one platform.



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