



Seattle Office for Civil Rights, Office of Labor Standards

Dylan Orr, Division Director

For Immediate Release: July 1, 2015

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Public Information Officer

Office of Labor Standards announces \$1 million Outreach and Education Fund

Today Seattle's newly established Office of Labor Standards (OLS) announced the availability of \$1 million to expand outreach, education, and technical assistance to Seattle's workers about their rights under Seattle's new Minimum Wage, Wage Theft and other labor standards.

The Community Outreach and Education Fund will support community-based organizations to contract with the City to educate workers, provide technical assistance and intake services, and deepen partnerships with other community organizations and OLS to reach a diverse range of workers. Funding will support groups that work with low-wage working communities who experience the highest rates of workplace violations, including female workers, workers of color, immigrant and refugee workers, LGBTQ workers and youth workers.

"Every worker must understand their rights under all of Seattle's progressive labor standards ordinances," said Mayor Ed Murray. "People must know when they are eligible for wage increases on the road to \$15 an hour, as well as how much sick leave they are entitled to accrue. Our community partners will be especially helpful as we reach out to immigrants and those who are not served by traditional English-language news sources."

OLS, charged with enforcing Seattle's minimum wage ordinance, administrative wage theft ordinance, paid sick and safe time ordinance, and job assistance ordinance, views the expansion of worker outreach and community based partnerships as critical to implementation of Seattle's labor standards.

"These contracts will ensure that workers in Seattle learn about their rights and know who to call to protect those rights, with a focus on those communities most likely to experience violations," said Dylan Orr, Director of the Seattle Office of Labor Standards. "Every worker in Seattle deserves to get the wages and benefits that they're entitled to."

Organizations can apply to the Labor Standards Community Outreach and Education Fund under one or both of the following categories:

- **Community Connector:** Focus on community outreach and education through events and other ways to connect with workers (maximum funds available: \$175,000).
- **Capacity Builder:** In addition to community outreach and education, focus on technical assistance, including labor rights counseling, intake and referral and direct training to workers and service providers (maximum funds available: \$525,000).

- Funds for the first 12-month contract cycle (September 2015 – August 2016) will total approximately \$700,000; an additional \$300,000 in funding will be available in September 2016.

The deadline for organizations to submit written submissions and request oral presentation is Friday, July 31 at 5 pm. For more information and the full RFP package, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights/labor-standards/community-fund>.

July 9 workshop for potential applicants

A workshop for potential applicants is scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 9 am to 12 noon at Van Asselt Community Center, 2820 S. Myrtle St. The workshop will include training on labor standards, guidelines on the goals of the grant and group sessions to encourage partnerships and joint proposals. The Office of Labor Standards will provide technical assistance on request throughout the application process. To RSVP, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5Q77B7Z>.

For more information about the workshop, contract process and Seattle's labor standards, or to report a labor standards violation, call 206-684-4500 or visit <http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights/file-complaint>.