

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Employment Services

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR



DR. UNIQUE MORRIS-HUGHES
ACTING DIRECTOR

LIVING WAGE ACT FACT SHEET

The Living Wage Act of 2006, D.C. Official Code §§ 2-220.01 – 2-220.11, provides that District of Columbia government contractors and recipients of government assistance (grants, loans, tax increment financing) in the amount of \$100,000 or more shall pay affiliated employee wages at no less than the current living wage rate.

Effective January 1, 2019, the living wage rate is \$14.50 per hour.

Subcontractors of D.C. government contractors who receive \$15,000 or more from the contract and subcontractors of the recipients of government assistance who receive \$50,000 or more from the assistance are also required to pay their affiliated employees no less than the current living wage rate.

“Affiliated employee” means any individual employed by a recipient who receives compensation directly from government assistance or a contract with the District of Columbia government, including any employee of a contractor or subcontractor of a recipient who performs services pursuant to government assistance or a contract. The term “affiliated employee” does not include those individuals who perform only intermittent or incidental services with respect to the government assistance or contract, or who are otherwise employed by the contractor, recipient or subcontractor.

Exemptions – The following contracts and agreements are exempt from the Living Wage Act:

1. Contracts or other agreements that are subject to higher wage level determinations required by federal law (i.e., if a contract is subject to the Service Contract Act and certain wage rates are lower than the District’s current living wage, the contractor must pay the higher of the two rates);
2. Existing and future collective bargaining agreements, provided that the future collective bargaining agreement results in the employee being paid no less than the current living wage;
3. Contracts for electricity, telephone, water, sewer or other services provided by a regulated utility;
4. Contracts for services needed immediately to prevent or respond to a disaster or imminent threat to public health or safety declared by the Mayor;
5. Contracts or other agreements that provide trainees with additional services including, but not limited to, case management and job readiness services, provided that the trainees do not replace employees subject to the Living Wage Act;
6. An employee, under 22 years of age, employed during a school vacation period, or enrolled as full-time student, as defined by the respective institution, who is in high school or at an accredited institution of higher education and who works less than 25 hours per week; provided that he or she does not replace employees subject to the Living Wage Act;