

Enforce Living Wage and Prevailing Wage Requirements for City Contracts

The Living Wage initiative expands the oversight authority of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services to ensure enforcement of prevailing wage and living wage laws for City contracts.

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Number Served per year</i>	<i>CEO Budget (City FY 08)</i>	<i>Total Budget (City FY 08)</i>
The Mayor's Office of Contract Services	July 2007	70,000	\$0	\$0

Problem Statement

Employers of low-wage workers do not always comply with laws to protect worker rights, ensure payment of legal wages and required taxes, and observe health and safety regulations. Low-income and immigrant workers may often feel they have little recourse against unfair or discriminatory practices.

Program Description

New York City is ensuring that its contractors comply with prevailing and living wage laws. On July 18, 2007, Mayor Bloomberg signed Executive Order no. 102, entitled, "Prevailing Wage and Living Wage Requirements in City Contracts." The new law expands the oversight responsibility of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS), to ensure that all businesses which contract work with the city are in compliance with prevailing wage and living wage laws.

Awards for public works (e.g., construction projects) or building services are covered by prevailing wage laws established by the state. Contracts for homecare, daycare, and other services are covered by New York City's living wage law. The new Executive Order gives MOCS the authority to require City agencies to provide documentation that low bidders will pay employees prevailing wages, and, for large contracts, guarantee that workers are paid by check, with specific information printed on the check stubs to alert the employee as to how much he/she is legally entitled to be paid.

Target Population

The Living Wage initiative serves the working poor citywide within the job sectors covered by prevailing wage and living wage laws. These sectors include: homecare services, building services, day care services, Head Start services, services to persons with cerebral palsy, and food services.

Expected Outcomes

- All City contracts and subcontracts for services covered under the City's Living Wage Law will pay workers the living wage as set by the law.
- All City contracts and subcontracts for services covered under the state's prevailing wage laws will pay workers the prevailing wage as set by the law.
- City agencies will eliminate all bids that are out of compliance with prevailing wage and Living Wage laws, before submitting to MOCS.