

2021 Seattle Labor Standards Ordinances

The mission of the Office of Labor Standards is to advance labor standards through thoughtful community and business engagement, strategic enforcement and innovative policy development, with a commitment to race and social justice.



This poster must be displayed in a noticeable area at the workplace, in English and the language(s) spoken by employees.

The Office of Labor Standards provides translations, interpretations, and accommodations for people with disabilities.

SMC 14.19

Minimum Wage

SETS MINIMUM WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES

Large Employers (501 OR MORE EMPLOYEES)

\$16.69
PER HOUR

Small Employers (500 OR FEWER EMPLOYEES)

Does the employer pay at least \$1.69 per hour toward the individual employee's medical benefits and/or does the employee earn at least \$1.69 per hour in tips?

NO

\$16.69
PER HOUR

YES

\$15.00
PER HOUR

Employer Size
Count the employer's total number of all employees worldwide. For franchises, count all employees in the franchise network.

Medical Benefits - Small Employers
To pay the lower hourly rate, a small employer's payments must be for a silver-level or higher medical benefits program as defined by the federal Affordable Care Act.

» A small employer cannot pay the lower rate if the employee declines or is not eligible for medical benefits.

SMC 14.16

Paid Sick & Safe Time

REQUIRES PAID LEAVE FOR MEDICAL OR SAFETY ISSUES

Employers must provide employees with paid leave to care for themselves or a family member.
(Child, Parent, Spouse, Registered Domestic Partner, Grandparent, Grandchild, Sibling)

Sick Time: A physical or mental health condition, including a medical appointment

Safe Time: Reasons related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or public health issues*

Paid Sick & Safe Time (PSST) Rates

	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
Employer Size FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTEs) WORLDWIDE	Up to 49 FTEs	50 - 249 FTEs	250+ FTEs
Accrual of PSST PER HOURS WORKED	1 hour PER 40 HOURS	1 hour PER 40 HOURS	1 hour PER 30 HOURS
Carry over of unused PSST PER YEAR	40 hours	56 hours	72 hours**

*SAFE TIME CAN ALSO BE USED TO CARE FOR A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER

**108 HOURS FOR TIER 3 EMPLOYERS WITH A PAID TIME OFF (PTO) POLICY

SMC 14.17

Fair Chance Employment

LIMITS USE OF CONVICTION AND ARREST RECORDS

Prohibited:

- Job ads that exclude applicants with conviction or arrest records
- Job applications with questions about conviction or arrest records, unless the employer has already screened the applicant for minimum qualifications
- Job denial (or other adverse employment actions) based solely on an arrest record

Some exceptions apply, including jobs with unsupervised access to children under 16, people with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults.

Employers are required to:
Delay criminal background checks until after screening applicants for minimum qualifications

Follow procedures before taking an adverse action based solely on a criminal background check:

- » Provide an opportunity to explain or correct criminal background check information
- » Hold the position open for at least two business days
- » Have a legitimate business reason that employing the person will harm the business or impact the employee's ability to perform the job

SMC 14.20

Wage Theft

PROVIDES PROTECTIONS AGAINST WAGE THEFT

Employers must pay all compensation owed on a regular pay day and give employees written information about their job and pay.

Written information must include:

- Employer's name and contact information
- Employee's rate of pay, eligibility to earn overtime, pay basis (hour, shift, day, week, commission), and regular pay day
- Explanation of employer's tip policy
- Itemized statement of pay information on pay days

Examples of pay requirements:

- Pay minimum wage
- Pay overtime
- Pay for rest breaks
- Pay amount promised
- Pay for work off the clock
- Pay tips
- Pay service charges (unless listed on receipt or menu as not payable to the employee(s) serving the customer)
- Reimburse employer expenses
- No misclassification of employees

SMC 14.30

Commuter Benefits

Employers with 20 or more employees must offer employees, who work an average of ten hours or more per week, the ability to deduct transit or vanpool expenses from an employee's taxable wages up to the maximum level allowed by federal tax law. To meet this requirement, employers may instead provide a transit pass that is fully or partially subsidized. Employers must offer this benefit within 60 calendar days of the employee's start date.

OFFICE OF LABOR STANDARDS

Contact

Employees

File a complaint with OLS or file a lawsuit in court

206-256-5297

www.seattle.gov/laborstandards

Employers

Obtain compliance assistance and/or receive training

810 THIRD AVE, SUITE 375
SEATTLE, WA 98104

HOURS: 8 AM-5 PM (MON-FRI)
LABORSTANDARDS@SEATTLE.GOV