LIVING WAGE ACT FACT SHEET

The "Living Wage Act of 2006," Title I of D.C. Law 16-18, (D.C. Official Code §§2-220.01-.11) became effective June 9, 2006. It 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 employees wages no less than the current living wage rate.

Effective January 1, 2008, the living wage rate is $12.10 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 eminent 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;

7. Tenants or retail establishments that occupy property constructed or improved by receipt of government assistance from the District of Columbia; provided, that the tenant or retail establishment did not receive direct government assistance from the District of Columbia;

8. Employees of nonprofit organizations that employ not more than 50 individuals and qualify for taxation exemption pursuant to Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, approved August 16, 1954 (68A Stat. 163; 26. U.S.C. §501(c)(3);

9. Medicaid provider agreements for direct care services to Medicaid recipients, provided, that the direct care service is not provided through a home care agency, a community residence facility, or a group home for mentally retarded persons as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Health-Care and Community Residence Facility, Hospice, and Home Care Licensure Act of 1983, effective February 24, 1984 (D.C. Law 5-48; D.C. Official Code §44-501); and

10. Contracts or other agreements between managed care organizations and the Health Care Safety Net Administration or the Medicaid Assistance Administration to provide health services.

Enforcement

The Department of Employment Services (DOES) and the D.C. Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) share monitoring responsibilities.

If you learn that a contractor subject to this law is not paying at least the current living wage you should report it to the Contracting Officer.

If you believe that your employer is subject to this law and is not paying you at least the current living wage, you may file a complaint with the DOES Office of Wage – Hour, located at 64 New York Ave., NE, Room 3105, (202) 671-1880.

For questions and additional information, contact the Office of Contracting and Procurement at (202) 727-0252 or the Department of Employment Services on (202) 671-1880.

Please note: *This fact sheet is for informational purposes only as required by Section 106 of the Living Wage Act. It should not be relied on as a definitive statement of the Living Wage Act or any regulations adopted pursuant to the law.*