

NYC Living Wage Expanded Commercial Tenants of Subsidized Developments Now Covered

On September 30, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed an executive order extending New York City's 2012 living wage law to the commercial tenants of private developments that receive City subsidies exceeding \$1 million. The law as enacted previously applied only to companies directly receiving a City subsidy.

The living wage has also been increased under the order. For workers who do not receive benefits such as health insurance, the hourly rate will now be \$13.13, compared to \$11.90 previously. Workers who do receive benefits will see their hourly rate increase from \$10.30 to \$11.50. Future increases will be tied to the Consumer Price Index.

According to the City, the order could affect approximately 18,000 employees over the next five years in sectors such as fast-food restaurants and retail. It will not apply to any business with a gross income below \$3 million, manufacturers, or certain affordable housing developments. However, an exemption for future development at Hudson Yards in Manhattan has now been eliminated.

This New York City living wage law is separate from the one covering home attendants under the HRA program. The latter was enacted in 2002 and calls for home attendants to be paid \$10 per hour and provided health benefits of \$1.50 per hour if no benefits are provided.

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