

Union 
Update

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Local 

Fall Opportunities to Advocate for Improving Wages for Housing and Social Services Workers

We advocate daily for our clients, program participants, and guests so that they have access to services and housing that will lead them to stability. To make our work sustainable and to continue to make Seattle a city we can be proud of, now is the time we must advocate to make our work sustainable.

Without qualified staff to operate supportive services, Seattle can't create more affordable housing, quality shelters, and access to supportive services. We, the essential workers who run supportive housing, healthcare, and outreach, must stand together and tell the Seattle City Council and King County Council to adequately fund our wages.

Recently, Mayor Harrell released his proposed 2024 budget. His proposed budget includes 7.5% inflation adjustments (as required by Seattle law), and 2% provider wage increases to Human Services Department contracts. Currently it does not include inflation adjustments to King County Regional Homeless Authority's Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care contracts. We must fight to ensure that these proposed wage increases are not removed or reduced before the final budget is signed.

As essential workers we deserve more than just the basics, but we need at least to be able to pay rent and utilities and put food on the table. Keeping up with the rise of inflation is the bare minimum that is necessary to keep our work going long term.

How we can help:

Whether we live and/or work in the City of Seattle we can still advocate. **We must keep the pressure on!** Between now and mid-November, the Seattle City Council will make budgetary decisions that will impact housing and human services workers and our clients too.

We also want to work with the city to identify a more sustainable funding source for this and future wage investments. The mayor's budget has not cut on-going human service funding, which we must defend. **Please take two minutes to [email Seattle City Council](#) and urge them to maintain their investments in the workers like us, who provide these crucial services.**

The Seattle City Council is having budget hearings on **October 18 at 5 pm, October 27 at 10 am, November 13 at 10 am and 5 pm** where we are encouraged to provide public testimony about our lives as human services workers in Seattle/King County. If you are interested in participating (**in person or virtually**) please contact your Union Representative. We can provide testimony support and helpful tips to provide testimony.



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

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