

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



For Local 8 Members at YouthCare

November 15, 2023

YouthCare Members Speak Up!

Several of our union siblings submitted written comment at the Seattle City Council final budget hearing of year on Monday November 13, 2023. They spoke in favor of several amendments that would allocate more money in the City's budget toward homeless and human services work.

Our work has been underpaid for years. It is high time that Seattle City Council listened to us and honored the work we do with adequate compensation! With many of our strongest advocates on the council leaving and new representatives coming in, it is all the more important that we don't let them forget we're here and our work is vital.

Labor Management Committee

Welcome to Aaron Shay and Claudia Esplugas! Aaron and Claudia join Mayra Alamo as our representatives at Labor-Management Committee meetings.

Our labor management committee is a quarterly meeting between our fellow union workers and management representatives. It is an opportunity for us to address issues that are coming up for union members, like payroll issues, policy issues, or even issues with our contract language. We met with management on Tuesday November 14, 2023 and talked about inclement weather language and bilingual pay.

Members experienced issues with our current inclement weather language in 2022, particularly those that live outside of the Seattle area. We're talking with management

about how we can rework the language in Section 20.7 of our contract to work better for us.

You can find Section 20.7 on page 35 of our contract, linked here:

<https://opeiu8.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/YOUTH-CARE-OPEIU8-2022-2025-rev-6.09.23.pdf>

Casa Program Update

In 2023, YouthCare lost funding to support from the Office of Refugee and Resettlement for the Casa program. We negotiated to continue bilingual pay for the employees impacted by this closure, and advocated at our wage opener earlier this year to expand this differential to all staff who are multilingual. We recognize that this is a skill which deserves compensation and is a huge benefit to YouthCare. While management supports this expansion and agrees with us that this skill deserves compensation, it was not feasible in this current budget.

YouthCare is advocating to their grant administrators to include additional money to expand this differential. We will partner with management in this advocacy effort. We are working to advocate at the city level for these grants to be adjusted to include differentials for this important work. As the Casa program's status remains uncertain, many staff who are bilingual have their skills utilized in other programs.

Multilingual staff offer a huge benefit to clients, other staff, and YouthCare. We continue to push for the expansion of this differential to any staff that are multilingual.

Questions? Contact your Union Representative, Phoebe Feldsher, at phoebe@opeiu8.org.



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

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