

# PASADENA'S MINIMUM WAGE

## Frequently Asked Questions

### GENERAL WAGE INFORMATION

#### What are the effective dates and wages of the Pasadena Minimum Wage Ordinance?

On March 14, 2016, the Pasadena City Council adopted the City's Minimum Wage Ordinance and on July 1, 2016, the Pasadena Minimum Wage was increased to \$10.50 per hour, followed by an increase to \$12.00 per hour on July 1, 2017, and a third increase to \$13.25 per hour becoming effective on July 1, 2018. On February 11, 2019, the Pasadena City Council continued a course of raising the City's minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by July 1, 2020. The minimum wage increased to \$14.25 per hour on July 1, 2019, and \$15.00 per hour on July 1, 2020. Smaller businesses (25 or fewer employees) and qualifying non-profits had an additional year to comply with the law.

Effective Date	For employers with 26 or more employees	For employers with 25 or fewer employees
July 1, 2016	\$10.50	\$10.00
July 1, 2017	\$12.00	\$10.50
July 1, 2018	\$13.25	\$12.00
July 1, 2019	\$14.25	\$13.25
July 1, 2020	\$15.00	\$14.25
July 1, 2021	\$15.00	\$15.00
July 1, 2022	\$16.11	\$16.11

#### Does the Pasadena Minimum Wage apply to all employers that have employees who perform work in Pasadena?

Yes. All employers regardless of where they are located must pay the Pasadena Minimum Wage to their employees who perform at least two hours work per week in Pasadena.

#### Must an employer post an official notice of the Pasadena Minimum Wage?

Yes. Employers must prominently post in areas at the workplace where it will be seen by all employees, notice of the minimum wage. Notices must be posted in the language spoken by more than five (5) percent of the employees at the worksite.

#### Can tips be counted toward the new minimum wage?

No.

#### May commissions be counted toward payment of the Pasadena Minimum Wage?

Yes. Commissions may be counted toward payment of the Pasadena Minimum Wage. If the commissions earned and paid, together with other compensation paid to an employee, are equivalent to or greater than the

current Pasadena minimum wage, then the City's minimum wage requirement is satisfied. For each pay period, employers must pay the employee an amount that equals or exceeds the hours work multiplied by the current Pasadena minimum wage. If the employee's commission for the pay period, together with other compensation earned are less than that amount employers must pay the difference.

**Does an employer's provision of health insurance, sick leave and other benefits count towards the amount of the minimum wage paid to employees?**

No. An employer may not use fringe benefits such as health insurance, vacation, sick leave or other benefits to offset or use as a credit towards the employer's obligation to pay the City minimum wage.

**Is the Pasadena Minimum Wage the same for employees of non-profit agencies?**

The ordinance included a procedure to allow a non-profit employer with 26 or more employees to qualify for a one-year deferral. The one-year deferral is no longer in effect and "for-profit" and non-profit agencies must each pay no less than the City's official minimum wage rate.

**Does the Pasadena Minimum Wage cover employees who work in Pasadena but are not Pasadena residents?**

Yes. Any person who performs at least two hours of work in a particular week for an employer within the geographic boundaries of Pasadena is entitled to be paid the Pasadena Minimum Wage. This applies to full-time and part-time workers.

**Are part-time and employees on probation entitled to the minimum wage?**

Yes. Part time and employees on probation are entitled to the minimum wage. Employees who are "learners" as defined in California Labor Code Section 1192 and consistent with wage orders published by the California Industrial Welfare Commission and are 14-17 years of age, shall be paid not less than 85% of the minimum wage set forth in Chapter 5.02 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, rounded to the nearest nickel, during their first 160 hours of employment. After more than 160 hours of employment, learners shall be paid the applicable minimum wage.

**Does the City of Pasadena Minimum Wage apply to employees who are under the age of 18?**

Yes. There is no age limit for eligibility for the minimum wage.

**Does the Pasadena Minimum Wage Ordinance protect undocumented workers?**

Yes. All workers in the city of Pasadena, whether or not they are legally authorized to work in the United States must be paid the minimum wage as set forth in the ordinance. Claims will be processed and investigated without regard to a worker's immigration status. Workers reporting violations of the Minimum Wage Ordinance with the City of Pasadena will not be questioned about their immigration status.

**What is the difference between Federal, State and Pasadena Minimum Wage laws?**

The California state minimum wage does not preempt Pasadena's Minimum Wage Ordinance. Pasadena's Minimum Wage Ordinance increases the minimum wage at a faster rate than does the state and federal minimum wage law. Employers must follow the stricter standard; that is, the one that is the most beneficial to



For details on minimum wage visit  
[ww5.cityofpasadena.net/planning/minimum-wage-ordinance/](http://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/planning/minimum-wage-ordinance/)

employees. Since Pasadena's current law requires a higher minimum wage rate than the state and federal laws, all employers that have employees who perform work in Pasadena must pay Pasadena's minimum wage rate unless their employees are exempt under California law.

**May an employee agree to work for less than the Pasadena Minimum Wage?**

No. The Pasadena Minimum Wage is an obligation of the employer and cannot be waived by an employee.

**What can I do if my employer does not pay me at least the Pasadena Minimum Wage?**

A complaint can be filed with staff in the city of Pasadena's Planning & Community Development Department either in person or online, or by filing a complaint with the City's outreach, education and training partner; the National Day Laborer Organizing Network and speaking with Julia Aragon at (626) 440-1031. The City has the authority to inspect workplaces, interview witnesses, and request copies of important documents. The ordinance also provides employees the right to file a civil action in court against the employer.

Please go to at <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/code-compliance/minimum-wage-ordinance/#minimum-wage-complaints> to file an on-line complaint.

**What can I do if my employer retaliates against me because I question him/her about not being paid the Pasadena minimum wage?**

Under the ordinance, it is unlawful for an employer to retaliate against any employee who asserts their right to receive the Pasadena minimum wage. An employee or another person may report to the Department in writing any suspected violation of the Minimum Wage Ordinance, including retaliation.

**DEFERRALS AND EXEMPTIONS**

The Pasadena Minimum Wage Ordinance provided a one-year deferral for employers with 25 or fewer employees, and upon review and approval, a one-year delay for non-profits with 26 or more employees, "Transitional Employers," and childcare providers. The one-year deferral is reflected in the wage-rate matrix referenced above. The one-year deferral is no longer in effect.

**Do non-profits also need to comply with the law?**

Yes.

**Where can I get more information on the Pasadena Minimum Wage rate?**

Additional information is posted on the City of Pasadena website at:

[ww5.cityofpasadena.net/planning/minimum-wage-ordinance/](http://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/planning/minimum-wage-ordinance/)

You can also call:

Code Compliance Manager Jon Pollard  
(626) 744-6831



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