

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

AND

CALIFORNIA LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between The United States Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (hereinafter referred to as "WHD" or "Department") and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as "LWDA"), together collectively referred to as "the agencies" or "the parties."

With the specific and mutual goals of providing clear, accurate, and easy-to-access outreach to employers, employees, and other stakeholders, and of sharing resources and enhancing enforcement by conducting joint investigations and sharing information consistent with applicable law, the parties agree to enter into this partnership.

THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT:

Purpose

The agencies recognize the value of establishing a collaborative relationship to promote compliance with laws of common concern in the State of California. The agencies are forming this partnership to more effectively and efficiently communicate and cooperate on areas of common interest, to share training materials, to provide employers and employees with compliance assistance information, to conduct joint investigations and share information as appropriate towards the goal of protecting the wages, safety, and health of America's workforce.

Agency Responsibilities

WHD is responsible for administering and enforcing a wide range of labor laws, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, worker protections provided in several temporary visa programs, and the prevailing wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts and the Service Contract Act. Nothing in this agreement limits the WHD's enforcement of these and other statutes.

LWDA is the California executive branch Agency charged with ensuring that California businesses and workers have a level playing field in which to compete and prosper and that Californians have access to employment and training programs. LWDA includes the Department of Industrial Relations (which oversees the California Labor Commissioner and Division of Occupational Safety and Health, among others) and Employment Development Department. Nothing in this agreement limits the LWDA's enforcement authority.

Contacts

- The agencies will designate a contact person responsible for coordinating the partnership activities.
- The agencies will designate a representative to meet annually to review areas of mutual concern and the terms and conditions of the partnership.

Enforcement

Where appropriate and to the extent allowable under law,

- The agencies may conduct joint investigations periodically in the State of California, if opportunity provides.
- The agencies may coordinate their respective enforcement activities and assist each other with enforcement.
- The agencies may make referrals of potential violations of each other's statutes.

Effect of Agreement

- This agreement does not authorize the expenditure or reimbursement of any funds. Nothing in this agreement obligates the parties to expend appropriations or enter into any contract or other obligation.
- By entering into this partnership, the agencies do not imply an endorsement or promotion by either party of the policies, programs, or services of the other.
- Nothing in this agreement is intended to diminish or otherwise affect the authority of either agency to implement its respective statutory functions.
- This agreement contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties. Upon execution of this agreement, no other understandings regarding the subject matter of this agreement, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist. This agreement is not intended to confer any right upon any private person or other third party.
- Nothing in this agreement will be interpreted as limiting, superseding, or otherwise affecting the parties' normal operations. This agreement also does not limit or restrict the parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities.
- This agreement will be executed in full compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974, and any other applicable federal and California state laws.

Exchange of Information

- It is the policy of WHD to cooperate with other government agencies to the fullest extent possible under the law, subject to the general limitation that any such cooperation must be consistent with the WHD's own statutory obligations and enforcement efforts. It is WHD's view that an exchange of information in cases in which both entities are proceeding on basically the same matter is to our mutual benefit. There is a need for WHD to provide information to other law enforcement bodies without making a public disclosure.

- Exchange of such information pursuant to this agreement is not a public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.
- Confidential Information means information that may be exempt from disclosure to the public or other unauthorized persons under state and federal statutes. *See, e.g.*, 18 U.S.C. 1905 (Trade Secrets Act) and 5 U.S.C. 552a (Privacy Act of 1974). Examples of Confidential Information that may be shared under this agreement includes, but is not limited to: the identities or statements of persons who have given information to the parties in confidence or under circumstances in which confidentiality can be implied; any information identifying specific individuals in statements from employees that were obtained under these conditions; internal opinions and recommendations of federal or state personnel, including (but not limited to) investigators and supervisors; information or records covered by the attorney-client privilege and the attorney-work-product privilege; information that identifies or describes a specific individual; individually identifiable health information; and confidential business information and trade secrets.
- Confidential Unemployment Compensation (UC) information, as defined in 20 CFR 603.2(b), means any unemployment compensation information, as defined in 20 CFR 603.2(j), required to be kept confidential under 20 CFR 603.4 or its successor law or regulation.
- When Confidential Information is exchanged it shall be accessed and used by the recipient party solely for the limited purposes of carrying out specific activities pursuant to this agreement as described herein, and in no event shall such information be disclosed by the recipient party without the written authority of the other party or a court order.
- In addition to the requirements above, Confidential Unemployment Compensation Information may be exchanged only subject to the confidentiality requirements of 20 CFR 603.4, the California Unemployment Insurance Code (e.g., Sections 322, 1094, and 1095) and related regulations, and any other applicable laws.
- In addition to the requirements above, Confidential Information shared under this agreement may be exchanged only subject to (a) the applicable provisions of California law, including but not limited to, the Information Practices Act (Civil Code Section 1798 et seq.), the Evidence Code (e.g., Sections 950 and 1040), the Labor Code (e.g., Sections 6209, 6314 and 6322), and the Unemployment Insurance Code (e.g., Sections 322, 1094, and 1095) and (b) the terms and conditions of any confidentiality agreements that may exist under which Confidential Information has been obtained by LWDA or by an agency within LWDA.
- The exchange of Confidential Information and Confidential Unemployment Compensation Information under this agreement is purely voluntary, and no obligation to exchange such information is created by this agreement.
- In the event that there is a public proceeding such as a trial, in which Confidential Information provided to LWDA by WHD may be used or testimony of WHD's employees sought, the WHD requires that LWDA notify WHD. Similarly, in the event that there is a public proceeding such as a trial, in which Confidential Information or Confidential Unemployment Compensation Information provided to WHD by LWDA may be used or testimony of LWDA's employees sought, the LWDA requires that WHD notify LWDA.

Subject to the foregoing constraints:

- The agencies agree to exchange information on laws and regulations of common concern to the agencies, to the extent practicable.
- The agencies will establish a methodology for exchanging investigative leads, complaints, and referrals of possible violations, to the extent allowable by law and policy.
- The agencies will exchange information (statistical data) on the incidence of violations in specific industries and geographic areas, if possible.

Outreach and Education

- When appropriate and feasible, the agencies agree to coordinate, conduct joint outreach presentations, and prepare and distribute publications of common concern for the regulated community.
- The agencies agree to provide a hyperlink on each agency's website linking users directly to the outreach materials in areas of mutual jurisdiction and concern.
- The agencies agree to jointly disseminate outreach materials to the regulated community, when appropriate.
- All materials bearing the United States Department of Labor ("DOL") or WHD name, logo, or seal must be approved in advance by DOL.

Resolution of Disagreements

Disputes arising under this Agreement will be resolved informally by discussions between Agency Points of Contact, or other officials designated by each agency.


Period of Agreement

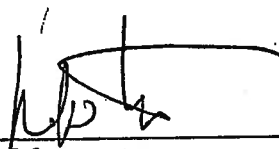
This agreement becomes effective upon the signing of both parties, and will expire 3 years from the effective date. This agreement may be modified or added to in writing by mutual consent of both agencies. The agreement may be cancelled by either party by giving thirty (30) days advance written notice prior to the date of cancellation. Renewal of the agreement may be accomplished by written agreement of the parties.

This agreement is effective as of the 21 day of December, 2011.

United States Department of Labor
Wage and Hour Division

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency

By: 
Nancy J. Leppink
Acting Administrator

By: 
Marty Morgenstern
Labor Secretary

