

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

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

AND

THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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 Illinois Department of Labor (hereinafter referred to as "IDOL"), 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 coordinated 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 Illinois. The agencies are forming this partnership to more effectively and efficiently communicate and cooperate on areas of common interest, including sharing training materials, providing employers and employees with compliance assistance information, conducting coordinated investigations, and sharing information as appropriate.

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.

IDOL is responsible for the administration and enforcement of more than twenty (20) different labor and safety laws, including, among others: the Minimum Wage/Overtime Law, Wage Payment and Collection Act, Child Labor Law, Day and Temporary Labor Services Act, Equal Pay Act, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, Personnel Records Review Act, Prevailing Wage Act, Employee Classification Act, Safety Inspection and Education Act, and Carnival & Amusement Rides Safety Act. Nothing in this agreement limits the IDOL's enforcement of these and other statutes it administers.

Contacts

- The agencies will designate a contact person or persons 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 coordinated investigations periodically in the State of Illinois, if opportunity provides.
- The agencies will coordinate their respective enforcement activities and assist each other with enforcement, as appropriate.
- The agencies will make referrals of potential violations of each other's statutes, as appropriate.

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. No other understandings, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this agreement shall be deemed to exist or be binding upon the parties. 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 Illinois 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.
- When confidential information is exchanged it shall be used and accessed only for the limited purposes of carrying out activities pursuant to this agreement as described herein. The information shall not be duplicated or redisclosed without the written authority of the other party.
- Confidential information means information that may be exempt from disclosure to the public or other unauthorized persons under state and federal statutes. Confidential information includes, but is not necessarily limited to: the identities of persons who have given information to the parties in confidence or under circumstances in which confidentiality can be implied; any employee statements in WHD's enforcement files 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; personal information on living persons; individually identifiable health information; and confidential business information and trade secrets.
- In the event that there is a public proceeding, such as a hearing or trial, in which confidential information may be used or testimony of WHD's or IDOL's employees sought, the WHD and IDOL require that IDOL notify WHD, and WHD notify IDOL, as the case may be.

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. All materials bearing the Illinois Department of Labor (“IDOL”) name, logo, or seal must be approved in advance by IDOL.

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 three (3) years from the effective date. This agreement may be modified 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 28 day of September, 2011.

United States Department of Labor
Wage and Hour Division

Illinois Department of Labor

By: 
Nancy J. Leppink
Deputy Administrator

By: 
Joseph Costigan
Director