

Workload fight adds 110 new DI positions

Local 1000's ongoing fight against out-of-control workloads has resulted in EDD's commitment to hire an additional 110 permanent intermittent Disability Insurance Program Representatives.

"This is a big win for Local 1000 and the DI staff," said Margaret Wilson, an EDD Task Force member. "We have fought long and hard to reduce workloads at EDD, especially in the DI branch, and adding more than 100 new positions is an important step in the right direction."

The battle over workloads – which will continue – included a survey of affected members, numerous union meetings at EDD offices, and a series of meetings between the Local 1000 EDD Task Force and EDD management.

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Margaret Wilson
EDD Task Force Member



Hiring for the new positions is taking place currently in DI offices up and down the state. Even with the addition of 110 permanent intermittent employees, EDD remains in compliance with our contract, and Local 1000 will continue to monitor the ratio of PI positions to full-time positions.

Fight continues to improve working conditions

As hiring continues at EDD, Local 1000 continues to press for improvements on a range of health and safety issues affecting members across the state.

Local 1000 is conducting walkthroughs of training facilities and call centers in Rancho Cordova, Anaheim, Alameda, Oakland and San Diego. Initial reports are that working conditions in these facilities vary widely and are often substandard. Ergonomic reviews are backlogged – EDD has only four qualified evaluators statewide – and Local 1000 is insisting that EDD hire more.

The evaluations came as a result of a Local 1000 grievance filed last September after the addition of 1,300 new employees overwhelmed EDD offices and resulted in numerous violations of the health and safety article in the contract.

EDD management has pledged to work with Local 1000 to resolve these issues – the next meeting is scheduled for April 13th. Office space allocation cannot be taken to arbitration. If management stops working with us, Local 1000 is prepared to move the fight to the State Personnel Board to keep the pressure up and ensure resolution.

Bill to allow in-person UI assistance

Members back effort to improve service during tough times

Local 1000 is sponsoring new legislation which would allow out-of-work Californians much needed, in-person assistance with their unemployment claims.

AB 1827 addresses gaps in current law, and would require the Employment Development Department (EDD) to assign one UI representative to each of at least 50 one-stop and career centers.

Most people apply for unemployment insurance benefits on the Internet or over the phone. But if an unemployed worker has problems or unanswered questions, it is nearly impossible to get through to a representative by phone – millions of calls have gone unanswered. In addition, the offices housing UI representatives are not open to the public.

Frustrated by the lack of response on the phone, people are streaming into the one-stop centers seeking help – only to be told, in some instances, to go to the lobby and make yet another call. Currently, employees staffing one-stop centers have little UI training, nor do they have computer access to EDD's UI database.

"We recognize that we need to provide better services to unemployed workers," said Margarita Maldonado, Unit 1 bargaining chair. "This bill shows our commitment to working people during tough economic times, and we believe that it will save the state money in the long run and make EDD more efficient."



"This bill shows our commitment to working people during tough economic times."

Margarita Maldonado,
Unit 1 Bargaining Chair

AB 1827 is being carried by Assemblymember Juan Arambula (I-Fresno). The bill's first committee hearing will happen this month; no date had been announced as of press time.

Members are needed to lobby, write letters and submit their stories to pass this critical legislation. To join the fight, contact Stephanie Burri in the Local 1000 Legislative department via e-mail at sburri@seiu1000.org



Local 1000 Resource Center

visit our website seiu1000.org

866-471-SEIU (7348)

Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Efforts to convert PIs to full-time positions continue

Local 1000's EDD Task Force will meet with management April 6 and 7 to continue efforts to bring the department into compliance with contract language stipulating a ratio of 20 permanent intermittent employees for every 80 full-time workers.

Through 2009, Local 1000 has successfully converted more than 600 PIs to full-time status.

New positions added in response to workloads

"As the ranks of California's unemployed continues to swell, Local 1000 will continue to push EDD to hire additional employees to alleviate workloads," said Jim Hard, Local 1000 vice president for organizing and representation. EDD has announced it will be hiring hundreds of new staff throughout the state:

- 295 limited-term employees being hired in Job Services division for the "Welcome Home" program.
- 270 new permanent intermittent positions are being filled in the Unemployment Insurance division, along with 40 full-time Employment Program Representatives.
- 70 full-time accounting positions are being added to the Integrity and Accounting division of UI. An additional 120 accounting positions are proposed for IAD as part of electronic benefit payments, should it be authorized.

SEIU pushes Congress for state job training funds

Local 1000 is working with SEIU International to lobby Congress for full funding of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) – which will increase resources available to unemployed workers through EDD's Job Services Division.

The lobbying effort also seeks to strengthen compliance with the Wagner/Peysner Act, to ensure that state employees perform more Job Services work.

When full funding is secured, EDD will likely add more Job Services positions in order to help re-train unemployed workers. SEIU is leading a nationwide coalition to make training available so that jobless workers can contribute to the economic recovery.

"The mission of the WIA is to prepare workers by enhancing their skills," said Sheila Holmes, EDD Task Force member. "We see the need for expanded training in the people we serve every day."

New safety concerns at public offices

Responding to growing concerns about worker safety at EDD offices that are open to the public, Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker sent a letter to EDD management calling for immediate remedies.

"The inability of California's jobless to get through the antiquated and crippled UI system has increased the number of frustrated UI customers coming to the offices and creating serious safety issues," wrote Walker. "It has become obvious that something needs to change."

"There have been increasing threats to EDD employees, law enforcement has been called to sites regularly, and there have been very serious situations at EDD offices in the past."



"The antiquated and crippled UI system is creating serious safety issues ... something needs to change."


**– Yvonne Walker,
President, Local 1000**

"As you are aware, employees have been killed and injured at EDD worksites. The possibility of these types of situations occurring again is great. We see the threat advisory notices frequently and our members talk about safety daily."

"Local 1000 is putting the department on notice that this is a problem and it can not be ignored."

A second meeting with EDD management - covering all branches of EDD - is scheduled for April 15th to discuss security enhancements including installation of panic buttons, and creating emergency evacuation plans.

Local 1000 is also co-sponsoring AB 1827, a bill calling for representatives to be assigned in each of at least 50 one-stop and career centers in order to alleviate public frustration when no EDD employees are available. (See our story on AB 1827, front page)

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PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Number and Street		City	ZIP Code	
Employed by	Department or Campus - work location		Room No.	
Classification	Monthly Salary \$ ()	Business Phone ()	Home Phone	
E-mail:	Recruiter Name	Recruiter S.S.#		

I hereby apply for membership in SEIU Local 1000 and hereby agree to abide by the SEIU Local 1000 policy file. In becoming a member I authorize SEIU Local 1000 to establish with the appropriate agency the withholding from my pay of SEIU Local 1000 dues and any benefit deductions. I understand that my membership rights are set forth in the SEIU Local 1000 policy file, which is subject to amendment by the union and any applicable memorandum of understanding between SEIU Local 1000 and the state of California, and that a copy of the policy file and applicable memoranda of understanding are always available for my review.

Contributions, gifts or dues paid to SEIU Local 1000 are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, they may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. Please consult your tax advisor.

Unless instructed to the contrary below, SEIU Local 1000 is hereby authorized to withhold from my pay an additional \$2.00 per month to support SEIU Local 1000's political activity in California.

Return this application to your union steward or fax to Adrienne Suffin at 510-452-1917

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