

## Worker Outreach Grants now available to nonprofit organizations that serve worker communities

Many workers, especially people with limited English proficiency, in lower-income positions, or who live and work in underserved communities, do not know their rights or how to exercise them. Workers may be afraid of retaliation from their employers or have fear of government. They may face language barriers that prevent them from seeking help or accessing services, or they may need assistance with completing worker rights or safety complaints, or navigating workers' compensation claims.

The result is inequitable access to worker protections and services provided under the law.

Aligned with its mission to Keep Washington Safe and Working, and its commitment to equitable access, **the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) is offering Worker Outreach Grants to nonprofit organizations that assist underserved workers**. Grants, expected to be in the range of \$30,000 to \$150,000, are available to help nonprofit organizations provide outreach and education to underserved workers about their rights, address their concerns, and assist them in connecting with L&I.

Examples of how organizations can use the grant funding include:

- Outreach such as flyers, newsletters, and social media about L&I-administered workers' rights, services, and resources.
- Community forums and group meetings to educate workers about their rights, protections, and L&I services.
- > Tabling at community events.
- Individual assistance.

Grants will be for the one-year period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Grant applications will be available March 14 and due on April 28, with award notifications in late May 2024.

For more information and resources, including a grant application, visit <u>www.Lni.wa.gov/WorkerOutreachGrants</u> or contact Celia Nightingale, 360-902-4865, <u>Celia.Nightingale@Lni.wa.gov</u>