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Stronger Together

S T A T E O F O H I O N E W S L E T T E R

The Value of Your Union

Your current contract is in effect through 2027, but the work to protect and strengthen our rights starts now! In the coming months, we'll begin building our next contract campaign, and the most powerful way to show support is simple: be an active part of your Union.

Every benefit you have was negotiated, fought for, and is protected. From wages to healthcare, paid time off, and workplace protections, these victories exist because workers stood together. The truth is, during every round of bargaining, management tries to steal some of these hard-earned benefits away from you. That's why so much of our work isn't just about winning more, it's about protecting what we already have.



Tuition Reimbursement & Employee Development Fund (EDF)

Did you know your tuition reimbursement benefit is part of the SEIU/1199 Employee Development Fund (EDF)? This fund supports your professional growth by covering costs for classes, training, and career development opportunities. The State allocated almost \$870,000 this fiscal year to the fund, and Members are eligible for up to \$4,000 annually. The new fiscal year began on July 1st, and as of April 3rd, approximately 76.43% of the budget has been used, with \$204,950.09 remaining in the SEIU/1199 Employee Development Fund.

Recent contract updates expanded how you can use these funds. In addition to classes, seminars, workshops, and conferences, the fund can now also be used for professional licenses, certifications, and renewals. That means more flexibility to invest in your career and long-term goals. To access the fund, visit das.ohio.gov and navigate to: Resources for State Employees → Talent Management → Learning and Talent Development. There is a step-by-step guide that walks you through submitting a reimbursement request - from logging in through MyOhio, completing the form, uploading documents, and submitting your reimbursement request.

The end of the 2026 Fiscal Year is approaching, and the deadline for SEIU/1199 employees to submit EDF request for FY 26 is May 29th, 2026. Requests for FY 27 can be submitted beginning Monday, June 15th. Any claims submitted between May 30th and June 14th will be denied, and the employee will need to resubmit the claim after June.

View the full guide here:

https://www.seiu1199.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/EDF_Job_Aid-1.pdf



May Day: A Day of Worker Power

May 1, known as May Day, is an International Day of Action that honors the history, struggles, and victories of working people around the world. Its roots trace back to labor movements in Europe; when workers demanded better, they won more. May Day is not just about the past, it's about our present and the future of unity among working people. From fair wages and safe staffing, to affordable healthcare and respect on the job, the issues we face today are a continuation of the same fight that established in May of 1889. When we fight, we win!

Organizing Unions for All

Do you want to help build power for working people in facilities who don't have a Union?

If you have friends or family that work in the hospital, nursing home, or other service industries who are interested in joining the Union, SEIU is continually growing and working to organize workers in our fight for worker and social justice. We have an organizing department ready to support workers who want to stand up for the treatment they deserve. If you have organizing leads, send them to Samara Knight at sknight@seiu1199.org or call the MRC at 877-419-7348.

Check Your Membership Benefits

Did you know you can access exclusive benefits as a Member of our Union? SEIU 1199 would like to invite you to take advantage of all three of your Member Benefit Programs: your Membership card, the SEIU Member Benefits Program, and savings with Union Plus.

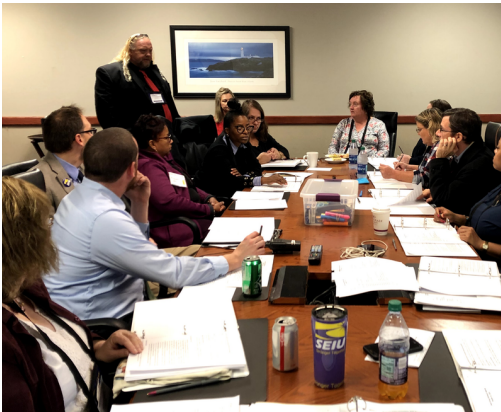
Contact the Member Resource Center or visit our website: <https://www.seiu1199.org/> to learn more.



Understanding your Contract – Appendix C (Occupational Injury Leave)

If you're injured on the job, you must see an approved physician within 7 days to qualify for Occupational Injury Leave (OIL) and Workers' Compensation benefits. If you can't get an appointment within 48 hours, notify your Workers' Comp representative right away. Emergency room visits are allowed, but you must follow up with an approved provider.

Tip: If you're injured, report it immediately and contact HR now for an injury packet so you know your next steps for future reference.



Get Involved

The Union is always looking for Members to become more involved as active leaders in their chapter. Luckily, if you are interested in becoming a Leader in the Union, there are plenty of roles you can fill! If you are interested in becoming a Delegate, Member Strength Coordinator, or any Leadership Role within your chapter, please reach out the Member Resource Center so you can get the training you need to start being an active leader.

Save The Date

Mark your calendar for some of our upcoming events.

Upcoming APC Dates

BWC/APC - Apr. 30
DYS - May 19

DODD - June 1
JFS/DCY - June 8

OOD - June 18
Medicaid - June 23