

# Brookline Living Wage

Effective July 1, 2023, the living wage is:

## \$17.51 per hour

Brookline has voted to lead town businesses and contractors by example to engage in and support fair wage practices in Brookline. The Town of Brookline will pay each of its employees no less than the living wage amount listed above with the following exceptions: seasonal employees who work less than six months in any twelve-month cycle; employees participating in a work-study or cooperative educational program; employees whose positions are funded, in full or in part, by Community Development Block Grant or State Elder Services Grant monies; library Junior Pages; Putterham Meadows Golf Course rangers; town junior, part-time positions funded by a recreation revolving fund, specifically, Jr. Swim Coach, Jr. Skate Guard, Jr. Referee, Jr. Assistant Recreation Leader, Jr. Camp Counselor, Jr. Camp Instructor, Jr. Skate Concessions and volunteers and all persons appointed or elected to town committees; or elected officers of the town. The living wage will be adjusted annually by the same percentage and on the same wage adjustment schedule given to full-time, non-union town employees.

EXEMPT positions will be paid no less than one dollar more than the State Minimum Wage. Employees exempt from the Living Wage will be paid an hourly wage of no less than:

## \$16.00 per hour Effective Jan. 1, 2023

The guidelines outlined in the Living Wage By-Law, shall apply to all service contracts of the Town of Brookline. *Covered Employee* means any employee who performs direct services for the purpose of fulfilling the covered employer's contractual obligations, provided however, employees who perform services that are incidental to the execution of the contract are not covered employees. *Services* means the furnishing of labor, time, or effort by a contractor and/or covered employer. *Service contract* means a contract for services awarded to a vendor by the town for no less than the following amounts: (i) \$25,000.00 for contracts commencing in fiscal year 2006, (ii) \$10,000.00 for contracts commencing in fiscal year 2007 (iii) \$5,000.00 for contracts commencing in fiscal year 2008 and thereafter.

The employer shall not discharge, reduce the compensation of, or otherwise discriminate against any employee for making a complaint to the Town or otherwise asserting his or her rights under this article. A Person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this By-Law may file a grievance with the Town or School Human Resources Department. Upon exhaustion of this administrative remedy, a person may seek appropriate legal relief.

Go to [www.brooklinema.gov](http://www.brooklinema.gov) for more information

**ARTICLE 4.8**  
**LIVING WAGE BY-LAW**

SECTION 4.8.1                    TITLE

This By-Law shall be known as the "Living Wage By-Law."

SECTION 4.8.2                    LIVING WAGE

- (a)    The town of Brookline ("town") shall pay each of its employees no less than \$10.30 an hour except as provided in Section 4.8.5 and in collective bargaining agreements with the town under G.L. c. 150E, section 7.
- (b)    The wage prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Section 4.8.2 shall be known as the "living wage" and shall be adjusted annually by the same percentage and on the same schedule relative to wage adjustments given to full-time, nonunion town employees on the town's general pay schedule, beginning in the year 2003.
- (c)    The living wage shall also be adjusted annually at the time of and after the adjustment set forth in paragraph (b) of this Section 4.8.2 if necessary to insure that as so adjusted, it is at least one dollar more than the state minimum wage in effect under G.L. c.151 at the time of such adjustment.
- (d)    Should the adjusted "living wage" fall below the "Brookline minimum wage" as defined in Section 4.8.3, the Town shall adjust the living wage to be one dollar (\$1.00) more than the minimum wage.

SECTION 4.8.3                    BROOKLINE MINIMUM WAGE

The compensation of employees exempted from the living wage under paragraphs (a), (b), (c) (d) and (f) of Section 4.8.5 shall be adjusted annually at the same time as the adjustment referred to in paragraph (b) of Section 4.8.2 if necessary to insure that the hourly wage is at least one dollar more than the state minimum wage in effect under G.L. c.151 at the time of such adjustment.

SECTION 4.8.4                    NOTICE

The town shall provide each employee with a fact sheet about this By-Law and shall post current notices about the By-Law in conspicuous locations in town buildings and link such notices conspicuously on the home web pages of the town's Human Resources and Purchasing Departments as well as those of the Human Resources and Administration and Finance Offices of the Public Schools of Brookline (PSB). These fact sheets and postings shall include:

- (a)    notice of the living wage amount;
- (b)    notice of the town minimum wage amount under Section 4.8.3;
- (c)    a summary of the By-Law provisions;
- (d)    notice that a person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this By-Law may file a grievance under the town's Human Resources By-Law (Section 3.15.11) or, if a PSB employee, a complaint with the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources or such other person with similar authority and duties or, if a covered employee under Section 4.8.6(a), a complaint with the town's Chief Procurement Officer or the Board of Selectmen as provided under Section 4.8.6(c); notice that upon exhaustion of this administrative remedy, such person may seek appropriate legal relief.

SECTION 4.8.5

EXCEPTIONS

The town shall not be required to pay the living wage to the following persons:

- (a) seasonal employees who work less than six months in any twelve-month cycle;
- (b) employees participating in a work-study or cooperative educational program;
- (c) employees whose positions are funded, in full or in part, by Community Development Block Grant or State Elder Services Grant monies;
- (d) town library Junior Library Pages;
- (e) Putterham Meadows Golf Course rangers;
- (f) town junior, part-time positions funded by a Recreation revolving fund, specifically, Jr. Swim Coach, Jr. Swim Instructor, Jr. Lifeguard, Jr. Skate Guard, Jr. Referee, Jr. Assistant Recreation Leader, Jr. Camp Counselor, Jr. Camp Instructor, Jr. Skate Concessions;
- (g) volunteers and all persons appointed or elected to town committees;
- (h) elected officers of the town.

SECTION 4.8.6

a. Definitions:

In construing SECTION 4.8.6, the following words shall have the meanings herein given, unless a contrary intention clearly applies.

*Covered employer* means anyone who has been awarded a service contract or subcontract with the Town after the effective date of the By-law.

*Covered Employee* means any employee who performs direct services for the purpose of fulfilling the covered employer's contractual obligations, provided however, employees who perform services that are incidental to the execution of the contract are not covered employees.

*Person* means one or more of the following or their agents, employees, servants, representatives, and legal representatives: individuals, corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, associations, labor organizations, educational institutions, mutual companies, joint-stock companies, trusts, unincorporated organizations, trustees, trustees in bankruptcy, receivers, fiduciaries, and all other entities recognized at law by this commonwealth,

*Services* means the furnishing of labor, time, or effort by a contractor and/or covered employer.

*Service contract* means a contract for services awarded to a vendor by the town for no less than the following amounts: (i) \$25,000.00 for contracts commencing in fiscal year 2006, (ii) \$10,000.00 for contracts commencing in fiscal year 2007 (iii) \$5,000.00 for contracts commencing in fiscal year 2008 and thereafter. Any bids opened prior to fiscal year 2006 shall not be subject to this article.

b. Application of Living Wage By-Law to Contracts

After the applicable date of this By-Law, the guidelines outlined in the Living Wage By-Law, Section 4.8.2 Living Wage, shall apply to all service contracts of the Town of Brookline.

These guidelines shall be followed to ensure that all covered employers shall pay their covered employees (both as defined above) providing services to the Town of Brookline and any of its Departments a Living Wage as defined in Article 4.8 Section 2.

c. Enforcement

*Grievance procedures and nondiscrimination.* Any covered employee who believes that his or her employer is not complying with requirements of this article applicable to the employer has the right to file a complaint with the town's Chief Procurement Officer or Board of Selectmen. Complaints of alleged violations may also be filed by concerned citizens or by a town official or employee. Complaints of alleged violations may be made at any time and shall be investigated promptly by or for the officer or board that received the Complaint. To the extent allowed under the Public Records Law, G.L.c.66, statements, written or oral, made by a covered employee, shall be treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed to the covered employer without the consent of the covered employee.

*Investigations.* The Chief Procurement Officer or Board of Selectmen who received a complaint, as aforesaid, shall investigate or have the complaint investigated and may, in conjunction with the Town Counsel, require the production by the covered employer of such evidence as required. The covered employer shall submit payroll records (meaning records that relate to wages paid) upon request, and the failure to comply with the request may be a basis for terminating any contract between the parties. Upon receipt by the town of information of possible noncompliance with the provisions of this article, the covered employer shall permit representatives of the Chief Procurement Officer or Board of Selectmen to observe work being performed upon the work site, to interview employees and to examine payroll records, the books and records relating to the payrolls being investigated, to determine whether or not the relevant payment of wages complies with this By-Law.

*Retaliation and Discrimination Barred.* A covered employer shall not discharge, reduce the compensation of, or otherwise discriminate against any employee for making a complaint to the Town or otherwise asserting his or her rights under this article, participating in any of its proceedings or using any civil remedies to enforce his or her rights under the article. The Town shall investigate allegations of retaliation or discrimination and may, in conjunction with Town Counsel, and in accordance with the powers herein granted, require the production by the employer of such evidence as may be deemed necessary or desirable during such investigation.

d. Remedies

In the event that the town shall determine, after notice and hearing, that any covered employer has failed to pay the living wage or has otherwise violated the provisions of this article:

(1) The town may pursue the following remedies and relief:

a. Fines not to exceed \$300.00 for each week, for each employee found to have not been paid in accordance with this article; and

b. Suspension of ongoing contract and subcontract payments.

- (2) If the covered employer has failed to pay the living wage, the town may terminate all service contracts with the covered employer unless appropriate relief, including restitution to each affected covered employee, is made within a specified time.
- (3) If the covered employer has discharged, reduced the compensation or otherwise discriminated against any covered employee for making a complaint to the town, otherwise asserting his or her rights under this article, participating in any of its proceedings or using any civil remedies to enforce his or her rights under the ordinance, the town may terminate all service contracts with the covered employer unless appropriate relief, including restitution to each affected covered employee and reinstatement of each discharged covered employee, is made within a specified time.

#### SECTION 4.8.7

#### SEVERABILITY

If any portion or provision of this By-Law is declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Office of the Attorney General, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Updated DRAFT 1.1.2023 HR



# Town of Brookline

## Massachusetts

Ben Kaufman, Town Clerk

Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
333 Washington Street  
Brookline, MA 02445-6899  
(617) 730-2010 Fax (617) 730-2043

### ARTICLE 9 – SUBMISSION #3

June 9, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Ben Kaufman, Town Clerk of the Town of Brookline, duly qualified and acting as such and having custody of the records, hereby certify that the following is a True Attested Copy of SECTION 4.8 of the General By-laws of the Town of Brookline, as amended by the actions taken under Article #9 at the Annual Town Meeting called for Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7:00 P.M., adjourned to Wednesday, May 25, 2022, Tuesday, May 31, 2022, Wednesday, June 1, 2022, Thursday, June 2, 2022, Tuesday, June 7, 2022, Wednesday, June 8, 2022, and dissolved on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

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SECTION 4.8.7

SEVERABILITY

If any portion or provision of this By-Law is declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Office of the Attorney General, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

(Seal)

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST:

Ben Kaufman  
Town Clerk

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