

\$15 by 2026: Raising the Wage in Pennsylvania

A higher minimum wage will lift family incomes, help working people afford necessities, restore local economies to health, and save tax dollars.

Who are the workers in **Lackawanna County** who would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage?

24%
of the workforce

25,000 workers

32%
are over age 40

only **16%** are 19 or younger

20%
are people of color

62%
are women

48%
work full time

36%
have at least some
college education

28%
are parents

It's Long Past Time to Raise the Minimum Wage

All six states bordering PA have raised their minimum wages. Because of a higher minimum wage, low-wage workers in NY, NJ, and MD earn \$3,000 more per year than in PA. The last minimum wage increase in PA was in 2009, and it has remained the same for 14 years even as the cost of necessities has increased.

A low minimum wage suppresses the wages of over a million other PA workers. If the minimum wage is raised to \$15 per hour by 2026, more than 21% of PA workers—1.35 million people—will see their incomes grow.

A minimum wage of \$15 per hour would put money in the pockets of working families and boost the overall economy. It would also reduce safety net expenditures. Raising the minimum wage rewards hard work and saves tax dollars.