

# \$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 **Lehigh County** who would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage?

**22%**  
of the workforce

**43,000** workers

**30%**  
are over age 40

only **17%** are 19 or younger

**44%**  
are people of color

**60%**  
are women

**49%**  
work full time

**36%**  
have at least some  
college education

**29%**  
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.