



\$15 by 2026

Raising the Minimum 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?

17%

of the workforce

31,000 workers

25%

are 40 or older

only **21%** are 19 or younger

41% work full time



61%

are women



47%

are people of color



35%

have at least some
college education



21%

are parents



It's long past time to Raise the Minimum Wage.

There are 30 states that pay higher than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. Every state that borders PA has a higher minimum wage. Low-wage workers in NY, NJ, and MD earn over \$2,000 more per year than in PA. The last minimum wage increase in PA was in 2009, and it has remained the same for 16 years even as the cost of necessities has increased.

A low minimum wage suppresses the wages of nearly one million other PA workers. If the minimum wage is raised to \$15 per hour by 2026, more than 15% of PA workers — 866,000 — will see their incomes grow.

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