

PREVAILING WAGE AND SKILLED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Prevailing wage standards apply on state-funded and locally-owned public works projects through the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, on federal construction projects through the Davis-Bacon Act, and on most wind and solar developments and electric vehicle charging stations through the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

PREVAILING WAGE LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD AND STRENGTHENS THE ECONOMY

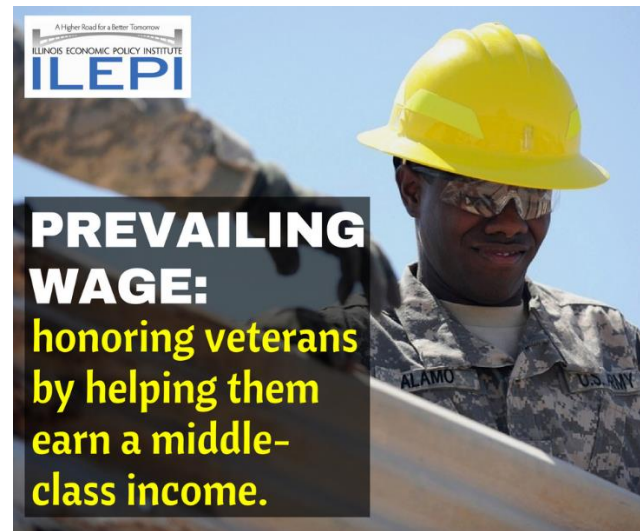
- Prevailing wages are local minimum wages for different types of skilled construction work on public projects, ensuring that taxpayer dollars reflect local standards of compensation and craftsmanship.
- Prevailing wage increases hiring of local contractors by 8%.
- Prevailing wages keep more tax dollars and more income in the community where a project is being built, creating additional jobs across all sectors of the economy.

PREVAILING WAGE BOOSTS PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVES SAFETY

- Prevailing wages promote the hiring, development, and retention of higher-skilled workers.
- Prevailing wages prevent skilled construction worker shortages by boosting investment in apprenticeship training programs and increasing enrollment by 8%.
- Worksite productivity is 14% higher and injury rates are 14% lower in states with prevailing wage standards.

PREVAILING WAGE PROMOTES LADDERS INTO THE MIDDLE CLASS

- By stabilizing the wage floor, prevailing wages boost blue-collar construction worker incomes, expand health insurance coverage, increase homeownership, and reduce poverty.
- Prevailing wages deliver pathways into the middle class for veterans, who are more likely to work in construction than non-veterans.
- Prevailing wages promote equal pay for equal work, regardless of racial background or gender identification.



PREVAILING WAGE IS THE BEST DEAL FOR TAXPAYERS

- 85% of peer-reviewed research shows that that prevailing wages do not increase total construction costs.
- Construction wages and benefits account for a small share of total construction costs (25% in Illinois).
- Prevailing wage standards decrease spending on government assistance programs and increase state, federal, and local tax revenues.

The research is clear and consistent: A strong Illinois is built locally with highly-trained workers.

Scan for related ILEPI reports and for more information:



Prevailing Wage and the American Dream: Impacts on Homeownership, Housing Wealth, and Property Tax Revenues

Focus Area
Prevailing Wage

