

2018-2021 Union Contract Tentative Agreement Summary Children's Social Workers BU 723



10.75% Pay Increase, Plus a \$1000 Bonus!
Additional Salary Improvements and Guaranteed, Fully-Paid Medical & Dental Coverage.

We did it! After hard-fought contract negotiations, we've reached a Tentative Agreement (TA) on our 2018-2021 L.A. County contract. Thanks to the organization, determination and unity of you and your fellow Union Strong co-workers, our TA offers us a wage increase that is more than TRIPLE what management originally proposed and a \$1,000 one-time bonus!



Together, we secured guaranteed fully-paid health and dental coverage, which is practically unheard of anywhere else. Our agreement also provides an increase each year to our Options healthcare plan contributions – an increase that we fought for in order to help offset a new Flex Earnings cap.

Your SEIU Local 721 Bargaining Policy Committee (BPC) recommends at YES vote on this Tentative Agreement so that we can start to enjoy these milestone wins – and continue to stand united for LA County.

Tentative Agreement Overview

Term

Three years. October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2021.

General Salaries

Effective Date	Salary Increase
October 1, 2018	2%
October 1, 2019	2.5%
January 1, 2020	1%*
October 1, 2020	2.5%
January 1, 2021	2.75% Additional Half Step*
TOTAL	10.75%

* These January increases are for Options eligible (full-time, permanent) employees only.

All salary improvements are pensionable and increase base pay.

\$1,000 Bonus

\$1,000 Bonus effective October 1, 2018, to be issued to all bargaining unit members upon ratification and approval of the Tentative Agreement.

Fringe Benefits Agreement

Article 5 Retirement

Incorporate employee contribution rates based on the June 30, 2017, Actuarial Valuation. These contribution rates had previously been made effective by Amendment No. 2 (June 13, 2017) to the 2015-18 Fringe Benefits Agreement.

Article 8 Options

Health Benefit Improved

Effective January 1, 2019, the Kaiser HMO plan includes all consumer protections provided by the Affordable Care Act, including \$0 copays for preventative health services.

Options Contribution Increased – Options Plan Safeguarded

Beginning January 1, 2019, the County monthly Options contribution will increase annually and beginning with the 2020 plan year there will be a cap on the monthly flexible earnings (taxable cash back) in order to maintain the Options flexible benefit program as a bona fide plan pursuant to the Flores vs. City of San Gabriel Court Decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

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Tentative Agreement Overview (Cont.)

Options Contribution Increased – Options Plan Safeguarded (Cont.)

	2019	2020	2021
Employee Only	\$967.76	\$987.12	\$1,011.80
Employee + 1	\$1,765.73	\$1,801.05	\$1,846.08
Employee + 2	\$2,085.88	\$2,127.59	\$2,180.78

Monthly Cap	None	\$325	\$244
Taxable Cash Back			

Health Insurance for Temporary and Recurrent Employees

The County monthly contribution for health insurance for temporary and recurrent workers meeting the 20-hour eligibility threshold is increased 5.5% on January 1, 2019, increases 6.0% on January 1, 2020, and then increased 6.0% on January 1, 2021. (Note: Temporary and Recurrent Employees are not Options participants and do not receive cash back flex earnings, so they are not impacted by the Flores court decision.)

Article 16 Bereavement Leave

Employee will be allowed up to five (5) days, three (3) of which shall be bereavement leave and two (2) shall be from the employee's accrued vacation, overtime, personal leave, holiday pay, or taken without pay, as elected by the employee.

Article 17 Holidays

The Columbus Day Holiday is changed to Indigenous Peoples Day Holiday to reflect recent similar action by the Board of Supervisors.

Article 18 Deferred Compensation and Thrift Plan

The County agreed to study the feasibility of offering a Roth 457 option for the Horizons Deferred Compensation and Thrift Plan. The County is to present its findings to the Plan Administrative Committee (PAC) by October 1, 2020, and then the PAC will present its recommendation to the County Chief Executive Office for implementation.

Article 27 Commuting Problems

Increase by \$100,000 the County's contribution to Green@Work Joint Labor Management Committee for a total of \$300,000. Increased funding will allow Green@Work to continue public transportation subsidy program.

Article 31 Mileage Reimbursement

The article is amended to incorporate the current mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.515 per mile effective January 1, 2018.

Bargaining Unit 723 Agreement

Article 11 Grievance Procedure

County must notify the Union with reason for delay if monetary awards are not paid within 90 days.

Article 15 Payroll Deduction and Dues

New language requires Union to obtain authorization for dues deduction; revised security clause to protect Union membership; new transparency language; updated data received from County.

Article 20 Contracting Out and Transfer of Functions

New language requires the County to implement pilot project to bring back in house contracted out work and provide the Union with regular updates.

Article 27 Personnel Files

New provision permits an employee to attach his/her statement to a notice of discipline in the personnel file; County agrees to discuss in the Personnel Practices Committee the removal of prior suspensions.

Article 33 Workplace Retraining

\$1.5 million available for training programs in each year of the Agreement.

Article 37 Safety and Health

All work facilities must maintain fully stocked disposable gloves and disposable protective vehicle seat covers.

Safety and Health committee may recommend training including Active Shooter and personal self-care strategies to enhance the Peer Support Program.

Additional issues that may be addressed include protective gear, personal and vehicle child safety devices (e.g. panic buttons, updated car seats), field safety including Partner Response and safety protocols in Regional offices including parking lot lighting (includes security guard contracts, wandering, metal detectors, etc).

Article 39 Personnel Practices

County and Union to explore the possibility of expanding Education-Based Discipline (to replace unpaid suspensions) into all Departments.

Article 40 Stewards

New provision creates a bank of 1200 hours release time per year for stewards to participate in training.

Article 43 Training

County to now make efforts to provide regionalized training, when reassigned from one function to another a CSW must be in training status for 45 days before given a full caseload, and Mentorship program that includes a 20% caseload reduction for Mentors.

Article 51 Continuing Education

Compensation to employees who provide licensure supervision increased based on weekly average hours of licensure supervision:

- \$12.50 increased to \$20.00 per pay period for at least 1 hour
- \$25.00 increased to \$40.00 per pay period for at least 2 hours
- \$37.50 increased to \$60.00 per pay period for at least 3 hours
- \$50.00 increased to \$80.00 per pay period for at least 4 hours

Budgetary allocation extended through fiscal year 2021.

Article 52 Transfers

Transfer Match now includes the following Specialized Programs: Medical Case Management Services, Resource Family Approval, Emergency Response Command Post, and Runaway Outreach/CSEC.

Eligibility for Transfer Match updated to clarify that completion of Probationary period, is the initial Social

Worker probationary period.

Executive Management may exceed the 10% threshold of transfers out of a Regional Office to staff Specialized Programs based on operational needs.

Article 53 Overtime

New language adds that travel time when providing direct services to be included in assignment of overtime.

Article 44 Caseloads

New section establishes the following CSW caseloads:

	Continuing Services	Emergency Response
CAP	27	20
Yardstick/Goal	24	18

Appendix D Caseload Goals

The department agrees to explore strategies to achieve caseload reductions:

Continuing Services	15
Emergency Response	15
Dependency Investigators	8

The following Specialized Programs will be included on the agenda at the Caseload Accountability Panel (CAP) and may consider the establishment of interim yardstick goals.

- Resource Family Approval
- Resource Family Support Permanency

The interim caseload goals decided by CAP will be added to the contract via side letter.



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