

Sec. 10.8.2.1. Equal Benefits Ordinance.

Discrimination in the provision of employee benefits between employees with domestic partners and employees with spouses results in unequal pay for equal work. Los Angeles law prohibits entities doing business with the City from discriminating in employment practices based on marital status and/or sexual orientation. The City's departments and contracting agents are required to place in all City contracts a provision that the company choosing to do business with the City agrees to comply with the City's nondiscrimination laws.

It is the City's intent, through the contracting practices outlined in this Ordinance, to assure that those companies wanting to do business with the City will equalize the total compensation between similarly situated employees with spouses and with domestic partners. The provisions of this Ordinance are designed to ensure that the City's contractors will maintain a competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining capable employees, thereby improving the quality of the goods and services the City and its people receive, and ensuring protection of the City's property.

(c) Equal Benefits Requirements.

(1) No Awarding Authority of the City shall execute or amend any Contract with any Contractor that discriminates in the provision of Benefits between employees with spouses and employees with Domestic Partners, between spouses of employees and Domestic Partners of employees, and between dependents and family members of spouses and dependents and family members of Domestic Partners.

(2) A Contractor must permit access to, and upon request, must provide certified copies of all of its records pertaining to its Benefits policies and its employment policies and practices to the DAA, for the purpose of investigation or to ascertain compliance with the Equal Benefits Ordinance.

(3) A Contractor must post a copy of the following statement in conspicuous places at its place of business available to employees and applicants for employment: "During the performance of a Contract with the City of Los Angeles, the Contractor will provide equal benefits to its employees with spouses and its employees with domestic partners." The posted statement must also include a City contact telephone number which will be provided each Contractor when the Contract is executed.

(4) A Contractor must not set up or use its contracting entity for the purpose of evading the requirements imposed by the Equal Benefits Ordinance.

(d) Other Options for Compliance. Provided that the Contractor does not discriminate in the provision of Benefits, a Contractor may also comply with the Equal Benefits Ordinance in the following ways:

(1) A Contractor may provide an employee with the Cash Equivalent only if the DAA determines that either:

a. The Contractor has made a reasonable, yet unsuccessful effort to provide Equal Benefits; or

b. Under the circumstances, it would be unreasonable to require the Contractor to provide Benefits to the Domestic Partner (or spouse, if applicable).

(2) Allow each employee to designate a legally domiciled member of the employee's household as being eligible for spousal equivalent Benefits.

(3) Provide Benefits neither to employees' spouses nor to employees' Domestic Partners.

(e) Applicability.

(1) Unless otherwise exempt, a Contractor is subject to and shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Equal Benefits Ordinance.

(2) The requirements of the Equal Benefits Ordinance shall apply to a Contractor's operations as follows:

a. A Contractor's operations located within the City limits, regardless of whether there are employees at those locations performing work on the Contract.

b. A Contractor's operations on real property located outside of the City limits if the property is owned by the City or the City has a right to occupy the property, and if the Contractor's presence at or on that property is connected to a Contract with the City.

c. The Contractor's employees located elsewhere in the United States but outside of the City limits if those employees are performing work on the City Contract.

(3) The requirements of the Equal Benefits Ordinance do not apply to collective bargaining agreements ("CBA") in effect prior to January 1, 2000. The Contractor must agree to propose to its union that the requirements of the Equal Benefits Ordinance be incorporated into its CBA upon amendment, extension, or other modification of a CBA occurring after January 1, 2000.

(f) Mandatory Contract Provisions Pertaining to Equal Benefits. Unless otherwise exempted, every Contract shall contain language that obligates the Contractor to comply with the applicable provisions of the Equal Benefits Ordinance. The language shall include provisions for the following:

(1) During the performance of the Contract, the Contractor certifies and represents that the Contractor will comply with the Equal Benefits Ordinance.

(2) The failure of the Contractor to comply with the Equal Benefits Ordinance will be deemed to be a material breach of the Contract by the Awarding Authority.

(3) If the Contractor fails to comply with the Equal Benefits Ordinance the Awarding Authority may cancel, terminate or suspend the Contract, in whole or in part, and all monies due or to become due under the Contract may be retained by the City. The City may also pursue any and all other remedies at law or in equity for any breach.

(4) Failure to comply with the Equal Benefits Ordinance may be used as evidence against the Contractor in actions taken pursuant to the provisions of Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.40, et seq., Contractor Responsibility Ordinance.

(5) If the DAA determines that a Contractor has set up or used its Contracting entity for the purpose of evading the intent of the Equal Benefits Ordinance, the Awarding Authority may terminate the Contract on behalf of the City. Violation of this provision may be used as evidence against the Contractor in actions taken pursuant to the provisions of Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.40, et seq., Contractor Responsibility Ordinance.