



NEW JERSEY MECHANICAL ALLIED CRAFTS COUNCIL

670 WHITEHEAD ROAD, LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648 (609) 226-6648 • WWW.MACCNJ.COM



International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers



United Association
Union Plumbers, Pipefitters,
Welders and Service Techs



International Association of
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and
Transportation Workers



International Association of
Heat and Frost Insulators and
Allied Workers



International Union
of Elevator
Constructors



Painters and Allied Trades
International Union

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Project Labor Agreements: Good For NJ Workers, Good For NJ Taxpayers

May 28, 2024, TRENTON, NJ - In response to recent misinformation regarding Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), it is important to set the record straight. PLAs have been used successfully on publicly funded construction projects since the 1930s and in the private sector for over 100 years.

PLAs are pre-hire collective bargaining agreements between project owners and labor organizations that support equitable workforce development and improve workers' health and safety on the job, ensure timely completion of projects at or under budget, and provide employers with a reliable source of highly skilled workers.

Since 1963, New Jersey has established prevailing rate laws to guarantee all workers on publicly funded projects are provided livable wages and fair conditions. This legislation mandates that workers on public projects be paid the prevailing wage rate, with or without a PLA. In 2002, New Jersey adopted legislation to apply PLAs on state-funded projects.

So, why use a PLA on a construction project?

For starters, it ensures all workers on site are paid the correct wage rate for their craft. Workers without representation might not know if their pay rate is correct, this is especially true for individuals who are part of groups that have been traditionally marginalized by employers. One of the additional benefits of PLAs is their role in promoting diversity and equitable workforce development. By establishing fair wages and working conditions, PLAs help ensure that minority, women, and veteran workers receive the recognition and compensation they deserve.

Additionally, PLAs protect taxpayer money by standardizing job site conditions, providing safety training for all employees, enforcing drug testing, preventing work stoppages and strikes, and ensuring a trained workforce for specific craft specialties. PLAs also allow for registered apprenticeship programs, which can help lower project costs.

Projects in New Jersey that have utilized PLAs include:



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- New Jersey State House in Trenton
- Mercer County Court House
- Jersey Shore Premium Outlets
- Monmouth County Sheriff's Office
- Pineland Schools in Tuckerton
- Ocean County Vehicle Maintenance Projects
- College of New Jersey Campus Center
- Capital Health Medical Center, Hopewell Twp.
- Trenton Central High School
- New Jersey State House Complex Renovation

These are just a few examples; the list of successful PLA projects is extensive.



International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers

PLAs support diversity by creating inclusive work environments and offering pathways to careers through structured apprenticeship programs. This leads to a more skilled and diverse workforce, which benefits the entire community.



International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers

For example, an exemplary program that benefits from PLAs is Helmets to Hardhats (H2H). H2H helps transition our military heroes into successful civilian careers in the building trades. H2H is a nonprofit joint labor-management entity that connects transitioning active-duty military service members, veterans, National Guard, and Reservists with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry. PLAs support programs like H2H by providing structured, supportive environments where veterans can apply their skills and continue their service to the community in a new capacity. This not only benefits the veterans but also addresses the industry's need for skilled labor.



International Union of Elevator Constructors

Project Labor Agreements are a proven necessity to move construction projects along smoothly, on time, and under budget. They safeguard taxpayer money by standardizing labor costs, closing loopholes, and ensuring compliance with safety and wage standards. When labor costs are standardized, and loopholes are closed, the workers win, the taxpayer wins.

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Painters and Allied Trades
International Union

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