



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth - Communications Office

411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-730-5230 | www.duluthmn.gov | Emily Larson, Mayor

For more information contact Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator 218-730-5309

DATE: 2/13/2017

SUBJECT: Duluth Earned Safe and Sick Time Taskforce Seeking Public Input, Public Engagement Opportunities Planned

BY: Pakou Ly, Communications Office

Duluth Earned Safe and Sick Time Taskforce Seeking Public Input
Public Engagement Opportunities Planned

[Duluth, MN] – The Duluth City Council established an Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) task force on July 18, 2016 for the purpose of gathering information, collecting public input, proposing the best options for implementing ESST policies and bringing forward policy recommendations. The Taskforce has been meeting regularly and as part of their objectives, are starting a public engagement process. The Taskforce has created an online survey tool and scheduled 8 public meetings to gather input from employers and employees on this topic.

The ESST is following a three phase approach with their initial work focused on research and compiling information. The Taskforce has studied other communities and employer policies and practices. Public input will enable the ESST members to further understand employee and employer issues, concerns or ideas. The series of public engagement opportunities are listed below and open to the public (March 2 and April 10 meetings offer childcare):

February 17th

12:00pm – 2:00pm

Council Chambers

City Hall- Room 300

411 West First Street

Duluth, Minnesota 55802

February 22nd

4:30pm – 6:30pm

Portman Community Center

4601 McCulloch St

Duluth, MN 55804

March 2nd

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Community Action Duluth

2424 W 5th St

Duluth, MN 55806

*Child Care Available

March 15th

3:00pm – 5:00pm

City Center West

5830 Grand Ave

Duluth, MN 55807

The online survey is available using these weblinks:

Employee survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3CZS8YB>

Employer survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3CMQY68>

Paper copies of the employee surveys will also be available at all of the Duluth Public Libraries, Community Action Duluth, and Duluth Workforce Center.

The Taskforce arose from concerns in the community about workers in Duluth, of which 54 percent have access to paid sick time and 46 percent, or about 19,500 workers, who lack access. This disparity spans across the broad spectrum of occupations in Duluth. Access to paid sick time varies from a high of 76 percent for management, business, financial, computer, engineering, and science occupations, to only 30 percent for those employed in service occupations. Those who don't have the benefit of earned sick and safe time are concentrated in low-paid occupations and are disproportionately workers of color.

Details about the ESST's work can be found at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/city-council/earned-sick-and-safe-time-task-force/>

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March 22nd

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Morgan Park Community Center

1242 88th Avenue West

Duluth, MN 55808

April 6th

3:00pm – 5:00pm

Duluth Heights Community Center

33 W Mulberry St

Duluth, MN 55811

April 10th

5:30pm – 7:30pm

1Roof

12 E 4th St

Duluth, MN 55805

*Child Care Available

April 19th

7:30am – 10:00am

The Sports Garden

425 S Lake Ave

Duluth, MN 55802