



Employer Tax News

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In This Issue

- 2018 Contribution Rates
- ESSP Enhancements
- SIDES E-Response
- DC Minimum Wage Increase
- POA Deadline Expired/4th Qtr. Filing Approaching
- Unemployment Rate
- Maximum Weekly Benefit Increase
- Tipped Wages Portal Enhancements

2018 Contribution Rates

During the week of December 15th, 2017 the OUC Tax Division began issuing 2018 Contribution Rate Notices to the employer community. This disbursement is earlier than the District traditionally issues rate notices. It is DOES' hope that by issuing these notices at an earlier date, it will assist District employers in remitting contribution payments in a more timely fashion.

ESSP Enhancements

On December 8th, 2017 the Tax Division deployed a systems enhancement for the 4th quarter that will further strengthen the online portal experience for the employer community and authorized Third Party agents. These builds are designed to enhance the employer experience in fulfilling the obligations of filing wage reports and tax payments.

Enhancements includes:

- Full Address Validations
- Predecessor/successor online relationship enhancements
- Wage Submissions
- Employer Login enhancements
- Confirmation and notification emails for an expanded amount of transactions
- Easier selection of organization types
- Workflow enhancements on employer registration screens
- Increased workflow functionality for faster division approvals and service
- NAICS code selection during registration
- Employer feedback survey for better employer engagement

Where are we located:

Department of Employment Services

OUC Tax Division

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POA Deadline Expired/4th Quarter Filing Approaching

Please take notice that in order to file your 4th quarter 2017 wage reports and contributions timely each employer that has a third party agent must have an approved POA on file. A POA must be on file in order for the Agent to discuss account matters with DOES staff on behalf of the Employer.

The UI Tax Division previously extended the deadline for the upload of POA documents, for all applicable Employers & Agents, to August 14, 2017. That deadline has now passed. Fourth Quarter 2017 reports are due 01/31/2018.

SIDES E-Response

Don't wait another minute to save your business time and money! The State Information Data Exchange System Electronic Response (SIDES E-Response) provides DC employers a secure, nationally standardized, electronic method to receive and submit unemployment insurance "Request for Separation Information" forms. If you have not yet received your PIN in the mail, or you would like more information on how you or your Third Party Administrator (TPA) can use SIDES, please email SIDES.HELP@dc.gov, call 202-698-5800, or visit <https://app.does.dc.gov/>.

Unemployment Rate

The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services reported this month that the seasonally adjusted preliminary unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in December 2017 – which has decreased from the 6.4 percent reported for November 2017.

Maximum Weekly Benefit Increase

The Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount has increased effective 01/07/2018 for initial claims filed on that date and afterwards. There will not be a redetermination of any existing claims. The new MWBA is \$432.

If you have any questions concerning these changes, please visit the Unemployment Compensation section of the DOES website at www.does.dc.gov for further information.

District of Columbia Minimum Wage Increase

Beginning July 1st, 2018, the minimum wage in the District of Columbia will increase from \$1.50 per hour to \$13.25 per hour for all workers, regardless of size of the employer.

As of July 1st, 2017 the base minimum was for tipped employees will increase from \$2.77 to \$3.33.

However, if an employee's hourly tip earning (averaged weekly) added to the base minimum wage do not equal the District's full minimum wage, the employer must assume responsibility in the difference of the compensation

Tipped Wage Portal Enhancement

In December 2017 the OUC Tax Division in conjunction with the Office of Wage and Hour deployed enhancements to the Tipped Wages portal of ESSP. Some of the enhancements includes the following:

- Manual Submission and CSV file upload of tipped wages
- Email notification of files upload success or failure
- Ability to review tipped and minimum wage reports
- Dual notifications to agents and employers of account actions