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To our Agency Budget Officers, Human Resources and Payroll Managers,

Subject: Update of Agency Compensation Data for 27-29 for Collective Bargaining and Budget Development

With the start of a new biennium, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) State Human Resources and Budget divisions are gearing up to collect compensation data for the 2027-29 collective bargaining process that begins in March 2026 and for budget development later that year.

We are writing to ask you to update your compensation data for submittal to OFM. General government agencies should use the Salary Projection System (SPS), while higher education agencies should use the Compensation Impact Model-Agency Interface (CIM-AI). You will have an opportunity in May 2026 to adjust your data for any changes made in the 2026 supplemental budget.

SPS users must release data to OFM by **Friday, January 30, 2026**. CIM-AI users are asked to please notify us by email when your data is ready to be loaded (**no later than January 30, 2026**). This data will be used immediately to begin cost projections for changes to salaries, health care and pensions.

General reminders regarding data preparation

- Please remember that operating budget FTEs and salaries should be based on your best approximation of your 2027-29 maintenance level salary base. Please note that salary increases and step progressions scheduled to occur between your file preparation and the end of the biennium will be applied systematically by OFM, not by agencies submitting data. This includes general wage increases scheduled but not yet in effect for both exempt and classified employees.
- In the past, we have seen some agencies with FTEs much higher or lower than we would expect. It is very important that you run a projection and related reports to ensure your position file reflects **anticipated** FTE and salary levels before you submit data to OFM. This should include appropriated, non-appropriated and non-budgeted positions.
- Double-check your **bargaining unit coding** to ensure all represented staff are coded to bargaining units and their corresponding pay scale types. Ensure all non-represented bargaining unit coding is accurate (both classified and exempt).
- Check to make sure you have retirement system codes for all employees. For employees who are not members of a retirement system, and for positions that are not eligible for retirement, including students, use the code NE.
- Check to ensure only the positions requiring relief have the backfill indicator checked. This applies to positions where if an incumbent is absent or the position is vacant, another employee must provide coverage

for the vacant position's scheduled shift. Only apply this indicator to the position that requires the backfill/relief, not to the position that may provide relief for a vacant or absent backfill/relief position.

- Ensure the *Work County Code* and the *Work City Name* are accurate for each position. Among other uses, this data will be used to determine position eligibility to apply the 5 percent King County premium pay systematically.
- Ensure that hourly employees have an accurate work period percent to reflect an annual average percentage for time they are paid.
- If you have seasonal employees or part-time employees, please determine the average annual percent of time worked and indicate that figure in the *% Full Time* field. Please note that the Variable Part-Time field in SPS does NOT translate to OFM's Compensation Impact Model.
 - ✚ **Example:** You have staff who work only April through September — they work 5 months at full time, 1 month at 88 hours, and 6 months at 0% time. Calculate the average this way: $5 \times 176 = 880$ hours + 88 hours + 0 hours = 968 hours. Divide $968/2088$ (# of work hours in a year) = 46%. Enter 46% into the % Full Time field.
 - ✚ If you need help, please contact [Labor Relations](#) or your [Budget Advisor](#).
- Correct the account code, if necessary. Do not use Account 03K Industrial Insurance Premium Refund Account or 290 Savings Incentive Account as a funding source for compensation data.
- If your agency averages fund splits, be aware this method could result in incorrect funding if salary increases are implemented for targeted job classifications.

General Government Dos and Don'ts

- **Do** select a current HRMS payroll file in SPS, "HR Data Load," to work from as you build your compensation data submittal.
- **Do** check to make sure you have an appropriation index (AI) for all employees as SPS uses the AI to identify the account and expenditure authority type for each employee on the release to CIM.
- **Do not** create multiple positions in SPS to mimic step increases by ending one position and creating a second position at the higher step. Step increases are handled automatically when the data is loaded from SPS to CIM for classified staff. For exempt staff, use the average biennial salary for each person. Any duplicative records will have to be deleted from the data.
- **Do not** include extra positions to cover funding increases for overtime pay as this distorts the agency's base pay.
- **Do not** check the "Special Pay" box in order to adjust for assignment and/or premium pay such as dual language, IT Supervisor, King County premium, etc. Position pay information for assignment pay, standby, call back, shift differential and other types of premium pay are loaded from another data source. Specific types of position pay are combined with base pay, when appropriate, using wage type level business and projection rules within CIM. This includes matching payroll data based on HRMS assigned position number. Agencies that use agency assigned positions numbers within their SPS file will likely not have a complete payroll data by position match.

For questions about SPS or to sign up as a user, submit a ticket to the OFM Help Desk at HereToHelp@ofm.wa.gov. Here is a link to the [SPS Tutorial](#).

Higher Education Dos and Don'ts

- **Do** select a new payroll file in CIM-AI to work from as you build your compensation data submittal.
- **Do** your best to provide accurate account coding by position, with the understanding that higher education account splits for General Fund-State and tuition will be determined later and updated systematically.
- **Do not** provide health insurance funding splits. OFM is no longer using this information.
- Mass updates can be applied for the following fields: Appointment end date, work period percent, scheduled work months and the three salary fields. To arrange for a mass update, submit a ticket to the OFM Help Desk emailing HereToHelp@ofm.wa.gov. If your institution has many positions with appointment end dates related to the quarter or semester, you will want to request a mass update. Positions that end before 7/1/2027 will not be loaded into CIM.
- If your institution has a substantial number of Fund codes to update a manual update can be done by sending a request to HereToHelp@ofm.wa.gov.
- For questions regarding CIMA-AI or to sign up as a user, please contact the OFM Help Desk at HereToHelp@ofm.wa.gov. Here is a link to the [CIM-AI Instructions](#).

We greatly appreciate your efforts to provide the best possible data to ensure we get the most accurate funding in your budget. For questions regarding collective bargaining details, contact [Labor Relations](#). For questions regarding budget details, contact your [Budget Advisor](#). For questions regarding Classified Salary Schedules contact [Class and Compensation](#).

If you experience technical issues with SPS or CIM-AI applications, please contact the OFM Help Desk by email at HereToHelp@ofm.wa.gov.

Thank you,

Compensation Policy Team & Budget Team
Office of Financial Management
