

Frequently Asked Questions

General POP Information

GENERAL

Q: Why is an intergovernmental contract waiver (POP-4) required if the Executive Order states these are not covered contracts?

A: The waiver is initiated by the contracting department and sent to the POP Contract Administrator for final determination of intergovernmental Contract waiver status.

Q: Why do we need to know how many hours an employee worked?

A: The number of hours an employee works assist in determining how much the contractors who have chosen the “Pay Option” are responsible for paying to the Contractor’s Responsibility Fund.

Q: What happens with POP when the new Health Care Reform bill goes into effect in 2014?

A: While we know the Health Care Reform will affect the POP Program, it is too early to determine the impact at this time. OBO will keep all Departments abreast of any new

Q: How should the responsibility for reporting requirements be determined for multi-department contracts (not city wide)?

A: The Department with the majority of the contract typically takes the lead however, reporting responsibilities should be determined by the Departments involved with reporting.

Q: How does the POP Program benefit the contractor’s employees?

A: The POP Program has implemented a Contractors Responsibility Fund. This fund is not set up to benefit the employee specifically but it benefits uninsured citizens of the Houston and Harris County area.

Q: How much money is typically contributed to the Contractors

Responsibility Funds in a year?

A: Typically the funds contributed range from \$400,000.00 to 1,000,000.00 per year. It depends on how many contracts are subject to POP and how many contractors choose the “Pay Option”.

Q: Are we suppose to count only 40 hours per week for the “Pay Option”?

A: Yes, only regular hours worked on the City project should be counted anything over 40 hours a week is not subject to the “Pay Option”.

Q: If an employee works less than 30 hours a week with their employer are they subject to the POP Program?

A: An employee must work at least 30 hours per week with their employer in order to be considered a covered employee under the POP Program.

Q: Does POP apply to a contractor that has a City contract but, is out of State?

A: Yes, the POP Program applies all covered contractors who are on the City of Houston Project.