

Proposal from SEIU 521 to Kern County

SEIU reserves the right to add, modify, and delete to the following proposal.

Telework

a) Telework Program

The County of Kern recognizes that flexible work arrangements and reduced commutes may benefit the employee, the department and the public by making the most efficient use of staff time.

The County shall maintain a teleworking program for workers in SEIU 521 represented classifications. The County shall provide training for supervisors and workers who meet the criteria for participating in the program.

The Union shall have the right to meet and confer over any proposed changes to the telework program.

a) Eligibility for telework

Eligibility is based on many criteria, and many job classifications and associated job responsibilities may not be conducive to teleworking. The following requirements are presented to help the employee and supervisor determine if teleworking is feasible. Additionally, a change in job duties and assignments, such as being assigned to work out of class, being assigned to a new project, or covering for coworkers who are out on vacation or leave, may affect eligibility. For this reason, it is the supervisor's responsibility to periodically assess the teleworking arrangement with the employee to address any change in eligibility.

Meeting any eligibility requirement does not guarantee approval to telework. Approval is given on a case by case basis; however, for approval to be given, an employee must meet all requirements.

Criteria for an employee to telework include:

- Full or part time status
- Permanent status (no original probationary status); others on exception basis only, subject to approval by department head
- Employee is in compliance with County merit system rules, regulations or policies, and/or department rules and policies

- Demonstrated job performance to be able to work independently as determined by the immediate supervisor
- Job performance meets or exceeds expectations
- Employee's telework consists of the employee's regular work responsibilities, including call-back and on-call duties
- Employee's job duties allow him/her to be away from the County work site for a period of time during the work week
- Teleworking does not impede other workers from performing their job duties
- No reduction of service to internal and external customers and clients
- Employee and supervisor agree in writing on a teleworking arrangement, which is approved in writing by the department head or designee.
- Employee has access to required supplies and equipment to telework and has an acceptable workspace and environment to effectively work at home.
- In addition to meeting these eligibility requirements, the following items are required before allowing an employee to telework:
 - Telework Request and Approval Form is completed and approved
 - Telework Agreement/Assignment Form is completed and approved