

New Report: SEIU Spends Estimated \$20 Million on Fight for \$15 in 2015, Loses Almost 6,000 Members

SEIU Has Spent Nearly \$45 Million on Fast Food Campaign Organizing and PR Services Since 2012

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) released its 2015 financial disclosures with the Department of Labor. An analysis by the Center for Union Facts (CUF) of the union's most recent LM-2 document suggests the SEIU spent at least \$20 million on the Fight for \$15 in 2015. That calculation includes approximately \$16.4 million that went to Workers Organizing Committees (WOCs) which help run the SEIU's campaign, \$1.9 million that went Working Washington, and another \$1.7 million that went to PR firm Berlin Rosen.

The \$20 million figure is likely much higher, as it excludes some staff salaries, expenses paid for legal services, as well as money paid to minimum wage advocacy groups such as the National Employment Law Project (NELP) and the Economic Policy Institute (EcPI).

You can view the SEIU's 2015 financial disclosures [here](#). Some of the recipients include:

- Workers Organizing Committees (WOCs): \$16,448,702
- Working Washington: \$1,975,777
- BerlinRosen Public Affairs: \$1,710,493
- National Employment Law Project (NELP) and NELP Action Fund: \$195,000
- Economic Policy Institute (EcPI): \$150,000

On PR services and WOCs alone, the union has spent \$44.6 million from 2012 through 2015. While there's some uncertainty in assigning additional expenses to the campaign, CUF estimates the total cost of the "Fight for \$15" could exceed \$70 million over that same period, if key worker centers and law firms that have been linked to the campaign are included in the total. (Even this estimate could be low, as it excludes support for advocacy organizations such as NELP and EcPI.)

The newly released LM-2 filing shows the SEIU's membership dropped from 1,893,775 employees in 2014 to 1,887,941 in 2015. The union's membership has generally declined over the past five years: The SEIU claimed 1,921,786 union members in 2011, the year prior to the start of the Fight for \$15--almost 34,000 more than it had in 2015.

"While the SEIU has made some headway in its push for a job-killing \$15 minimum wage, working Americans appear to be sending a clear message to SEIU big spenders: 'Find a way to create jobs rather than diminishing them.'" said CUF Executive Director Richard Berman. "The \$15 campaign may generate some legislative wins, but even former SEIU boss Andy Stern has acknowledged that this big-spending strategy isn't sustainable."

To schedule an interview, contact Luka Ladan at [\(202\) 463-7106](tel:2024637106) or ladan@unionfacts.com.

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