Elgibility Workers Stand up for stress-free environment, fair work load

After a Santa Cruz County Eligibility Worker was rushed to the hospital for work-related stress, co-workers held a solidarity action March 8 to support their colleague and to shine the light on an ongoing issue: Overburdened workloads and extreme work stress that are pushing employees to the breaking point.

On March 2, the Eligibility Worker at the Watsonville Call Center was taken to the hospital because of the stress of having to complete 1000 tasks.



Thirty co-coworkers came to a last-minute solidarity unity break March 8.

"We felt it necessary to show support for our co-worker and to bring to management's attention the need for a real conversation with real solutions that will improve working conditions and still meet the needs of the community," said Dianne Medina, an Eligibility Worker. "We became Eligibility Workers to help people."

Currently, Eligibility Workers in Watsonville and Santa Cruz are faced with managing unrealistic workloads. Call Center Eligibility Workers must perform up to 1,200 tasks. Eligibility Workers III must manage up to 80 cases and also perform up to 1,200 tasks.

Workers are timed on phone calls and questioned why they took so long on the phone to help a client.

Vital public services are impacted when workers are overwhelmed with workloads and placed under extreme stress. To provide quality community services, it's time management address this issue.

What's Next?

Join the Eligibility Worker Industry Counci

Our SEIU Local 521 Executive Board has officially recognized the Eligibility Worker Industry Council. This makes Eligibility Workers eligible to have a delegate and alternate delegate on our 521 Executive Board.

The Eligibility Worker Industry Council is open to all account clerks, job specialists, office assistants, eligibility workers and all members who help provide these essential services to the public who needs them.



Next Meeting Monday, March 19 5:45 p.m.

Call your local office to RSVP