

AGREEMENT

Between



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF WARREN**

and

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA
AFL-CIO LOCAL 1032**

**FOR SUPERVISORY & NON-SUPERVISORY EMPLOYEES
OF THE WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
DIVISION OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026

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PREAMBLE

This Agreement made and entered into the day of _____, by and between the Warren County Board of County Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the Employer and the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, hereinafter referred to as the Union, is the final and complete understanding between the Employer and the Union on all bargainable issues and as such will serve to promote and maintain a harmonious relationship between the Employer and those of its employees who are subject to this Agreement in order that more efficient and progressive public service be rendered.

ARTICLE 1 - RECOGNITION AND SCOPE

A. The Employer hereby recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive representative of all full-time and part-time, permanent and provisional employees under this Agreement for the purpose of collective negotiations pursuant to the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act (N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq.) concerning salary, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment in the negotiating unit as described below:

1. All Supervisory and Non-Supervisory employees employed by the County of Warren, Department of Human Services, Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Services in the classified service in any permanent position, including provisional employees, as set forth in Schedule A and Schedule B.

2. Excluded from this Agreement are all managerial executives, confidential, and police employees within the meaning of the Act, employees included in any other collective negotiations unit, and all other employees of the county.

B. Unless otherwise indicated, the terms “employee” and “employees” when used in this Agreement refer to all persons represented by Union as defined in Schedule A and Schedule B.

C. New titles may be established by the Employer and added to the bargaining unit. The Union will be notified of the initial salary at the time the new titles are established. The job descriptions of such titles shall not be negotiable and shall be the exclusive prerogative of the Employer to determine. The Union may negotiate (but not grieve) the unit placement and initial salary. However, failure of the Employer and the Union to agree on such placement and salary shall not delay the filling of the position and the payment of the employee(s) serving therein. When a position title will not be funded or filled at TASS, the County will communicate that information to the Local President within thirty days post deletion.

ARTICLE 2 - EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. It is mutually understood and agreed that the Employer retains the prerogative of management, including but not limited to the rights of hiring, suspending, disciplining or discharging for proper cause, promoting, transferring and scheduling employees; to determine the standards of service to be offered by its agencies; to take necessary actions in emergencies; to determine the standards of selection for employment; to maintain the efficiency of its operations and the technology of performing its works; to determine the methods, means and personnel by which its operations are to be conducted; to introduce new or different methods of operations; to contract or subcontract for work for services; and to determine the content of job classifications, subject however, in the entirety to Civil Service regulations and rules promulgated thereunder, and any other applicable law or provisions of this Agreement.

B. The prerogative of management concerning hiring, mentioned in Paragraph A set forth above, includes the right to hire at Step 1 and to a maximum of Step 3 in cases where the Employer has difficulty recruiting for the position or where the employer wishes to recognize prior experience of the applicant. In no case shall a new employee be hired at a salary above an existing employee in the same title and in the same division, regardless of experience.

C. It is agreed and understood that the Employer's exercise of its management rights and responsibilities shall not be grievable, except to the extent that the Employer may have yielded its exclusive authority over same by an express provision of this Agreement, and then only to the extent such specific and express provisions are in conformance with the Constitution and the laws of New Jersey and of the United States.

ARTICLE 3 - DEFINITIONS

A. All references to employees in the Agreement designate both sexes, and whenever the male gender is used, it shall be construed to include male and female employees.

B. The term "holiday" means any day so designated under the Article concerning holidays herein or a day especially designated by the Employer herein.

C. In instances where this agreement refers to limits in days, the number of days shall be business days, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Holidays.

ARTICLE 4 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, an equitable solution to the problems which may arise affecting the terms and conditions of employment under this Agreement.
2. Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with any appropriate Employer representative.

B. Definition

The term "grievance" as used herein means the alleged misinterpretation, misapplication or violation of this Agreement or written rules and regulations, and may be raised by an individual or the Union at the request of an individual or individuals. The sole remedy available to any employee for any alleged breach of this Agreement or any alleged violation of his rights hereunder shall be pursuant to the grievance and arbitration procedure provided.

C. Matters Outside the Scope of Grievance Procedure

1. When a grievance involves an alleged violation of rights specified in Civil Service laws and rules for which there are specific appeals to Civil Service, the employee shall present his complaint to Civil Service directly.
2. This grievance procedure shall not serve as an avenue of appeal for matters which must by law or Civil Service rules be decided by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission through its exclusive appeal procedure which shall include, but not be limited to, the following unless same are changed by law:
 - a. Removal.
 - b. Suspension of more than five (5) days at one time.
 - c. Demotion indicating a lowering in rank, rate or change.
 - d. Layoffs.
 - e. Letter removal at end or during working test period.
 - f. Classified reviews.
 - g. Removal of names from eligible list.
 - h. An examination review.
3. The matters which are beyond the scope of this grievance procedure include:
 - a. Matters which the Union raised or could have raised during the negotiations that

led to this Agreement.

- b. Matters reserved to the Employer's discretion by this Agreement.
- c. Disputes concerning terms and conditions of employment governed by statute or state or federal administrative regulation, incorporated by reference in this Agreement either expressly or by operation of law.

D. Steps of the Grievance Procedure

The following constitutes the sole and exclusive method for resolving grievances between the parties covered by this Agreement and shall be followed in its entirety unless any step is waived by mutual consent:

Step One: A grievance must be filed with the Division Director within twenty (20) work days from the date when the act which is the subject of the grievance occurred. Failure to act within said twenty (20) days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

Step Two: If no agreement is reached within five (5) days of receipt of the grievance by the Division Director, the employee or the Union may present the grievance in writing within five (5) days thereafter to the department head or his designee who shall answer the grievance in writing within five (5) days of receipt of the written grievance.

Step Three: If the Union wishes to appeal the decision of the department head, such appeal shall be presented in writing to the County Administrator within twenty (20) days thereafter. The County Administrator, or designee, shall respond, in writing, to the grievance within twenty (20) days of the submission.

Step Four: If the grievance is not settled through Steps 1, 2, and 3, either party shall have the right to submit the dispute to arbitration within ten (10) days pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Public Employment Relations Commission. The cost for the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the County and the Union. Any other expenses, including but not limited to the presentation of witnesses, shall be paid by the parties incurring same.

E. The time limits expressed herein shall be strictly adhered to. If any grievance has not been initiated within the time limits specified, then the grievance shall be deemed to have been abandoned. If any grievance is not processed to the next succeeding step in the grievance procedure within the time limits prescribed there under, then the disposition of the grievance at the last preceding step shall be deemed to be conclusive. If a decision is not rendered within the time limits prescribed for decision at any step in the grievance procedure, then the grievance

shall be deemed to have been denied. Nothing herein shall prevent the parties from mutually agreeing in writing to extend or contract the time limits for processing the grievance at any step in the grievance procedure.

F. Upon prior notice to and authorization of the department head, the designated Union representatives shall be permitted to confer with employees and the County on specific grievances in accordance with the grievance procedure set forth herein during work hours of the employees, without loss of pay, provided the conduct of said business does not diminish the effectiveness of the County of Warren or require the recall of off-duty employees.

G. Arbitration

Should the Union wish to move a grievance to arbitration, the parties may have the option of selecting an arbitrator as follows:

1. By selection from the panel of arbitrators maintained by the Public Employment Relations Commission, in accordance with the selection procedures of the Public Employment Relations Commission; or
2. The parties shall meet at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the arbitration hearing to frame the issues to be submitted to the arbitrator and to stipulate the facts of the matter in an effort to expedite the hearing.
 - a. The arbitrator shall hear the matter on the evidence and within the meaning of this Agreement and/or such rules and regulations as may be in effect by the Merit System Board. The arbitrator shall have the full power to hear the grievance and make a decision, which decision shall neither modify, add to, nor subtract from the terms of the Agreement and the referenced policies. He shall confine himself to the precise issue submitted for arbitration and shall have no authority to determine any other issues not so submitted to him, nor shall he submit observations or declaration of opinions, which are not essential in reaching the determination. The decision shall be rendered within thirty (30) days of the hearing.
 - b. The arbitrator may prescribe an appropriate back pay remedy when he finds a violation of this Agreement, provided such a remedy is permitted by law and is consistent with the terms of this Agreement, except that he may not make an award which exceeds the Employer authority.
 - c. The decision or award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the Employer, the Union and the grievant or grievants to the extent permitted by and

in accordance with applicable law and this Agreement.

- d. Either party shall have the right to seek judicial review of the matter as prescribed by New Jersey Statutes.
- e. Employee grievances shall be presented in writing, and to be timely and effective, shall state clearly what the grievance is, identify the contract violation(s), if any, and state what settlement is requested to resolve the grievance. If a grievance is rejected for failure to comply with the foregoing standards, the grievant shall have two (2) days to resubmit the grievance.
- f. Grievance resolutions or decision at Step 1 through Step 4 shall not constitute a precedent in any arbitration or other proceeding unless a specific agreement to that effect is made by the authorized representative of both parties. This is not to be construed as limiting the right of either party to introduce relevant evidence, including such grievance resolution, as to the prior conduct of the other party.

H. General

1. In the event a formal charge of misconduct is made by the Employer against an employee, and if he so requests, he shall be entitled to a representative of the Union only as a witness or as an advisor during any subsequent interrogation of the employee concerning such charge. No recording of such procedure shall be made without notification to the employee. There shall be no presumption of guilt. The employee and/or the Union, if present, may request and receive a copy of any recording, if made.
2. The parties agree that a shop steward or designated Union officer may be permitted to meet with an employee and the employee's immediate superior in order to adjust grievances without loss of pay, provided such activity does not interrupt the normal operation and business of the public employer.
3. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as compelling the Union to submit a grievance to arbitration or to represent an employee before the New Jersey Civil Service Commission. The Union's decision to request the movement of any grievance at any step shall be final as to the interest of the grievant and the Union.
4. Should a grievance not be satisfactorily resolved or should the Employer not respond in the time as prescribed above; either after initial receipt of the grievance or after movement of the grievance to step two or step three, the grievant may exercise the option within five (5) days to proceed to the next step.

5. The Employer representative at the last hearing shall inform the grievant of the name and position of the next higher level of management to whom the appeal should be presented.
6. If the finding or resolution of a grievance at any step in the grievance procedure is not appealed within the prescribed time, said grievance will be considered settled on the basis of the last answer provided, and there shall be no further appeal or review.

ARTICLE 5 - UNION STEWARDS

- A. The Union has the sole right and discretion to designate stewards and chief shop stewards and specify their respective responsibilities and authority to act for the Union.
- B. The Union shall furnish to the Employer, within fifteen (15) days of the signing of this Agreement, a complete list of Union representatives, including shop stewards, chief shop stewards and their respective grievance districts.
- C. The Union shall provide to the Employer in writing any changes in the aforementioned lists within fifteen (15) days of such change so that such lists are current and correct at all times.

ARTICLE 6 - VISITATION OF PREMISES

Authorized representatives of the Union may enter the premises of the Employer during working hours provided a request has been made to the appropriate Employer representative and approval has been received from such representative. The purpose of such visitation by a Union representative shall be limited to the conduct of normal duties relating to the administration of this Agreement. However, such visits shall not interfere with the work being performed or the proper service to the public.

ARTICLE 7 - WORKING HOURS AND WORK WEEK

Section 1: Any full-time employee, given prior approval for overtime by his or her supervisor, if authorized by the division head, shall be paid time and one-half the employee's regular hourly rate for each hour worked beyond thirty-five (35) hours in the employee's normal work week. Or, upon mutual written agreement approved by both employer and union, the employee may receive compensatory time off at the rate of one and one-half time their regular rate in the form of compensatory time. Overtime may be assigned in certain cases by the Employer or his designee. The refusal or failure to approve or assign overtime is not grievable.

Section 2: All full-time employees will work thirty-five (35) hours during the normal workweek, which is listed below:

8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, with one hour lunch.

Part-time employees shall be scheduled to work four days per week totaling no more than 28 hours per week. Schedule of four days subject to change by management with minimum of two weeks notice.

Section 3: Any employee who is called into work outside of a normal work week, shall be compensated for two (2) hours of pay at a minimum at the rate of one and one-half time his regular hourly rate for the actual hours worked, inclusive of travel time to the work site only. In this instance, compensation may be in the form of overtime payment or compensatory time, as provided in Section 1.

Section 4: All accumulated compensatory time shall be exhausted at the end of the calendar year within which it is earned. Arrangements shall be made with the division head or their designee to meet with the employee beginning the month of September to schedule accrued compensatory time off for the remainder of the year. If compensatory time cannot be exhausted through a mutually agreed upon scheduling or due to the pressures of work, all unscheduled compensatory time shall be paid in cash to the employee no later than December 31st of that year.

Section 5: a) Upon written request and acceptance by the employee, supervisor and Employer, an employee may schedule or be scheduled on a flexible time arrangement to work outside regular working hours. The total hours of work during the work week will not be altered by flex time, and any hours worked over the regular weekly total shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

b) Effective January 1, 2024 or the signing of this agreement, each Employee shall be eligible to utilize a cumulative annual total of no more than eight (8) hours of flexible time in no less than thirty (30) minute increments. On those days when a flexible time arrangement has been authorized, an employee will have the ability to shorten their lunch hour by no more than thirty (30) minutes. A flexible time arrangement may only be used separate and apart from all other benefit leave time. Therefore, flexible time may not be combined with, or used adjacent to vacation, sick or personal leave to extend the employee's absence from the workplace.

c) Employee requests for a flexible time arrangement shall be submitted to their supervisor not less than three days in advance except in cases of emergency. If approved by the supervisor, the request will be sent to the Division Director for authorization. The request may be granted provided there is no interference with the proper conduct of the government function involved.

d) The parties agree that the management decision to grant or deny a request for a flexible time arrangement remains under the purview of Article 2 – Employer's Rights and

Responsibilities - scheduling employees, and shall not be grievable beyond Step Two of the grievance procedure. The decision of the Department Head is final.

Section 6: The regular lunch hour for all employees shall be scheduled between 11:00 am and 2:30 pm. Any deviations from this schedule must be approved by administration but will not be unreasonably denied. However, any denial by administration will not be subject to the arbitration process in Step Four of the grievance procedure in Article 4, Section D of this agreement.

ARTICLE 8 - HOLIDAYS

Section 1: The legal paid holidays which are recognized holidays for the purpose of this Agreement are as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. New Year's Day | 9. Labor Day |
| 2. Martin Luther King's Birthday | 10. Columbus Day |
| 3. Lincoln's Birthday | 11. General Election Day |
| 4. President's Day | 12. Veteran's Day |
| 5. Good Friday | 13. Thanksgiving Day |
| 6. Memorial Day | 14. Day after Thanksgiving |
| 7. Juneteenth Day (Third Friday in June) | 15. Christmas Day |
| 8. Independence Day | |

Section 2: To be eligible for a paid holiday, an employee must have worked the last scheduled work day before, and the first scheduled work day after, the holiday unless on authorized leave with pay, excluding educational leave with stipend.

Section 3: Whenever any of the holidays enumerated above fall on a Saturday, the previous Friday shall be observed as the official holiday; and whenever any of the holidays enumerated above fall on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be observed as the official holiday.

Section 4: If an employee is required to work on any of the holidays designated under Section 1 of this Article, he/she shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half for the hours actually worked, in addition to his/her regular day's pay. Compensation may be in payment or compensatory time, as agreed to by the parties.

ARTICLE 9 - VACATIONS

Section 1: Employees may be granted vacation leave as follows:

New employees shall receive one working day for the initial month of employment if

they begin work on the 1st through the 8th day of the calendar month, and one-half working day if they begin on the 9th through the 23rd day of the month. After the initial month of employment and up to the end of the first calendar year, employees shall receive one working day for each month of service;

- After one year of service, through five years of service: Twelve (12) work days per year;
- After five years of service, through twelve years of service: Fifteen (15) work days per year;
- After twelve years of service, through twenty years of service: Twenty (20) work days per year;
- After twenty years of service: Twenty-five (25) work days per year.
- After twenty-five years of service: Twenty-six (26) work days per year.
- After thirty years of service: Twenty-seven (27) work days per year.
- After thirty-five years of service: Twenty-eight (28) work days per year.

Service includes all previously determined full-time, temporary, continuous Warren County Welfare Board service immediately prior to permanent appointment with Warren County Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Services, provided there is no break in service of more than one week.

Section 2: The vacation period for employees shall begin January 1st of each year and continue in effect until December 31st of such year. Annual leave shall be taken subject to the needs of the service during the current vacation period.

Section 3: For vacation requests totaling one (1) to three (3) days, an employee shall submit a written request to their immediate supervisor three (3) days in advance of the days requested. For requests totaling more than three (3) days but not greater than five (5) days, said request shall be submitted five (5) days in advance of the requested time off except in emergencies as approved by the employer. For vacation requests greater than five (5) days, the employee shall submit a written request at least two weeks in advance of requested time off except in emergencies as approved by the employer.

- a) In the event of inclement weather or snow preventing an employee from reporting to work, employees shall be permitted to utilize vacation leave with less notification requirements than stated in this section.

Section 4: Vacation leave is credited in advance at the beginning of the calendar year in anticipation of continued employment for the full year, and may be used on that basis and in

accordance with established policy. Vacation allowance must be taken during the current calendar year at such time as permitted or directed by the Employer unless he or she determines it cannot be taken because of pressure of work. Only one (1) year of earned vacation allowances may be carried forward to the next succeeding year.

Section 5: Employees granted a leave of absence without pay shall have annual vacation leave credits reduced at the same rate as earned during the period of absence. During the year in which a suspension for major discipline or leave without pay occurs, vacation leave shall be prorated to the nearest half-day using 260 yearly employee workdays as a constant.

Section 6: Upon separation from employment for any reason, an employee shall be entitled to vacation allowance for the current year based on using 260 yearly employee workdays as a constant and will be paid for any accumulated vacation time. If upon separation from employment the employee has taken more vacation time than earned up to that time, an amount shall be deducted from his or her final pay for each day used but not earned.

Section 7: If a permanent employee dies having vacation credits, a sum of money equal to the compensation figured on his salary rate at the time of death shall be calculated and paid to his estate or legal representative.

Section 8: Where an employee has earned vacation in excess of one (1) year allowance as of October 1st, the employee will meet with his supervisor to schedule such vacation time as may not be carried into the succeeding calendar year. If a prior year's vacation time cannot be exhausted because of the pressures of work, employees will be provided the option of relinquishing a maximum of ten (10) days of prior years vacation, in exchange for cash payment. Employees wishing to exercise this option must do so in writing to the Division Director before October 1st. Said payment shall be included in a regular pay cycle in December, shall be paid at the regular rate, and will not be included as base wages for pension purposes.

Section 9: Effective January 1, 2024 or the signing of this agreement, Employees shall be permitted to annually use no more than 21 hours of earned vacation leave in no less than one (1) hour increments under the terms, conditions and notification requirements specified in Article 9. Any earned vacation leave not used in one (1) hour increments in accordance with this section shall remain part of the employee's leave balance and available for use and accumulation as per this Article, however an employee shall not be permitted to use more than 21 hours in hourly increments in any one year.

ARTICLE 10 - SICK LEAVE

Section 1: Sick leave is hereby defined to mean absence from post of duty of an

employee because of illness, injury, accident, exposure to contagious disease, or attendance upon a member of the employee's immediate family, who is seriously ill, or requiring the care or attendance of such employee. Immediate family means (father, mother, spouse, civil union partner, child, foster child, sister, brother, stepfather, stepmother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, stepchild and grandparent or other near relatives residing in the employee's household).

With regard to maternity or paternity leave, the parties agree to abide by the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the New Jersey Family Leave Act (FLA).

Section 2:

(a) New employees shall receive one working day for the initial month of employment if they begin work on the 1st through the 8th day of the calendar month, and one-half working day if they begin on the 9th through the 23rd day of the month. After the initial month of employment and up to the end of the first calendar year, employees shall receive one working day for each month of service. If separation from employment occurs before the end of said year and the employee has used more sick leave than appropriate on a pro rata basis, he shall have an amount equal to his daily rate of pay deducted from his final pay for each day of sick leave in excess of the number to which he was entitled. Sick leave shall be prorated to the nearest half-day during the year in which a suspension for major discipline or leave without pay occurs using 260 yearly employee workdays as a constant.

(b) Each full-time employee will be credited with 15 days sick leave annually for each succeeding calendar year of full time employment, which is cumulative. Upon termination of employment supplemental compensation for accumulated unused sick time is permitted pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 below. If upon termination after a year's service an employee has used more sick leave than that to which he is entitled, he shall have deducted from his final pay an amount equal to his daily rate of pay for each day of sick leave taken in excess of the number of sick leave days to which he is entitled. Sick leave benefits shall be available to both provisional and permanent employees in accordance with law.

Section 3: Each employee is required to notify their Unit Supervisor no later than the starting time of his normal workday, giving the specific reason for the absence. Failure to give notification without valid reason as required will result in loss of sick leave for that day and may constitute cause for disciplinary action. Failure to report without approval of authorized leave from duty for five consecutive business days shall constitute a resignation pursuant to Civil

Service Rules and Regulations.

Section 4:

- a. A certificate from a licensed physician in attendance may be required as sufficient proof of need of leave of absence or the need of the employee's attendance upon a member of the employee's immediate family. Where an employee is absent from duty due to illness less than five days at one time, the Employer may require production of the physician's certificate. However, in the event of absence from duty due to illness for five consecutive work days or more at one time, the employee shall be required to submit an application for leave of absence form signed by a physician to justify payment of sick leave.
- b.
 1. Employees, absent on sick leave for periods totaling fifteen (15) days in one calendar year, consisting of periods of less than five days, shall submit acceptable medical evidence for any additional sick leave in that year, unless such illness is of a chronic or recurring nature requiring recurring absences of one day or less, in which case only one certificate shall be necessary for a period of six months.
 2. An employee who uses sick leave which is not approved by the appointing authority will suffer loss of pay for such time and may be disciplined. However, an employee who has exhausted all of their sick time will have an absence due to illness charged against any unused vacation time. Such employee may be required to submit appropriate medical evidence to substantiate the illness necessitating the use of vacation.
- c. Worker's Compensation Insurance and Sick Leave Injury Insurance:
 1. The Employer agrees to purchase and maintain in force sick leave injury insurance to cover all employees for work loss due to injuries received on the job.
 2. When an employee is absent from work as a result of a work related injury, Sick Leave Injury (SLI) will not be charged to the employee's sick leave. The employer shall supplement the employee's workers compensation disability payment by covering only the injured employee's regular pension, life insurance, healthcare contributions, and plan 1 dental contribution.
 3. Worker's Compensation and insurance accident reports must be filed with the Employer's Office in accordance with current county policy. Future changes

in reporting requirements can be made unilaterally only if required by the County's insurance carrier.

4. The insurance carrier will issue the Worker's Compensation checks to the County for disbursement. The County will ensure the timely disbursement of these checks upon receipt.

5. The Employer or the sick leave insurance carrier at their discretion may, at any time, require the employee on sick leave injury time to submit to a physical examination by a physician of the Employer's or insurance carrier's choice.

6. If the sick leave injury leave is not approved by the Employer and/or sick leave insurance carrier after examining all evidence submitted by the employee, including witnesses, if requested and all evidence required to substantiate the claim including the opinion of the examining physician then the time involved during which the employee was absent shall be charged to his sick leave credit, if any, and/or his vacation credit, if any; otherwise the employee shall suffer loss of pay for such time loss.

7. A total amount of up to one (1) year's compensation shall be paid by the sick leave injury insurance for work loss caused by an injury received on the job, provided the aforesaid requirements are complied with.

8. A doctor's certificate authorizing an employee to return to work shall be required upon returning to work from sick leave injury or after receiving Worker's Compensations.

9. It shall be the policy of the County that any employee absence qualifying under worker's compensation be considered as, and run concurrent to, an absence covered under the Federal Family Leave Act. In other words, a worker compensation injury will, going forward from the signing of this agreement, simultaneously qualify as an absence under the County's Federal Family Leave policy.

Section 5: Unused Sick Leave.

A permanent employee who enters retirement (other than deferred retirement) from the employer's service and has to his credit any earned and unused accumulated sick leave shall be entitled to receive supplemental compensation for such earned and unused accumulated sick leave, subject to the provisions of the retirement system. The supplemental compensation to be paid shall be computed at the rate of one-half of the eligible employee's daily rate of pay for

each day of earned and unused accumulated sick leave, based upon the average annual compensation received during the last year of his employment prior to the effective date of his retirement provided, however, that no such supplemental compensation payment shall exceed \$15,000. This supplemental compensation payment shall be paid in a lump sum after the effective date of retirement, or at the option of the employee, on quarterly dates: January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st, with payments beginning on the quarterly date next following the date of retirement.

The foregoing reference to the option of the employee is predicated upon the employee notifying the Employer of his intention to retire by no later than October 1st of the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which retirement shall be effected. If such notification does not occur until subsequent to said October 1st date, then the aforesaid option shall be the Employer's rather than the employee's.

Section 6: The Employer has created and maintains a Sick Leave Donation Program which is reviewed for renewal each year. The Employer agrees to continue this annual review and may continue the program as a prerogative of the Employer.

Section 7: Effective January 1, 2020, eligible full-time employees shall be permitted to annually use, no more than 20 hours of earned sick leave in two (2) hour increments under the terms, conditions, notification requirements and acceptable uses of sick leave specified within Article 10. Any earned sick leave not used in two (2) hour increments in accordance with this section shall remain part of the employee's leave balance and available for use and accumulation as per this Article, however an employee shall not be permitted to use more than 20 hours in two hour increments in any one year.

ARTICLE 11 - PERSONAL LEAVES

Section 1: Jury Duty. Each employee shall be allowed leave with differential pay, if required for jury duty. This will include part-time employees if serving jury duty on a scheduled normal workday. When granted said leave, an employee shall receive the difference between the pay received for jury duty and the employee's wages for the leave period. A written request for such leave shall be given by the employee to his supervisor at least two (2) weeks in advance. Time spent on jury duty is not chargeable to vacation. In the event an employee is excused from jury duty prior to one-half (½) the employee's workday having been concluded, such employee shall promptly report to work for the balance of the workday. The definition of one-half day recognizes the second half of the day beginning at 1:00 PM. If the jury duty is in a Warren County Court, and the employee is released by 11:30 AM or sooner, he/she shall report to work

by 1:00 PM. If the jury duty is in a Court with a driving time from the agency of up to one hour, and if the employee is released by 10:30 AM, he/she shall report to work by 1:00 PM. If the jury duty is in a Court with a driving time over one hour away from the agency, if the employee is released by 9:30 AM, he/she shall report for work by 1:00 PM. Should circumstances prevent the employee from returning to work as indicated, the employee shall notify his/her supervisor of said circumstances. Employees must obtain a certificate from the County Clerk's Office certifying the number of days the employee served on jury duty and submit the certificate to the Employer's Office.

Section 2: Military Leave: Shall be in accordance with County policy. The County Personnel Department shall be notified in advance of any assigned employee military leave.

Section 3: Personal Days

1. Full-time employees covered by this Agreement shall be entitled to three (3) days of personal leave of absence with pay beginning with the first full year of employment.
2. Personal leave may be used for emergencies, observation of religious or other days of celebration (but not holidays as defined herein), personal business, or other personal affairs such as death in the employee's immediate family, but not limited thereto.
3. Newly hired employees shall receive prorated personal leave in half-day increments in their first calendar year of employment. Prorated personal leave in half-day increments shall be calculated for an employee who has been on a leave of absence without pay, was suspended for major discipline reasons or retires within a calendar year using 260 yearly employee workdays as a constant.
4. Personal leave must be requested not less than three (3) days in advance, except in case of an emergency, and is subject to approval of the employee's supervisor. The request may be granted provided there is no interference with the proper conduct of the government function involved.
5. Such personal leave credit shall not accumulate. Unused balance in any year shall be canceled at the end of the calendar year. Upon termination of employment for any reason, if more personal leave has been exhausted than has been earned, an adjustment shall be made in the employee's final paycheck.
6. Upon the execution of this agreement, Personal leave may be utilized in no less than one (1) hour, or any multiple of one (1) hour increments. Such use remains subject to the terms, conditions and notification requirements of this Section.

Section 4: Disability leave for work-connected injury shall be provided to eligible employees, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 11:24A-1 et seq.

Section 5: Special Time Off

1. Aggregate time off of 15 days for Union activities. During any calendar year, employees who are duly authorized representatives of the Union shall be granted leave to attend conventions or meetings of the Union. All days granted under the provision of this paragraph shall be paid leave days and shall include traveling to and from and attending any state or national conventions of the Union, educational conference, or seminars conducted by the Union.

2. All requests for leave will be made in writing ten (10) days before the leave is to commence. If, in the opinion of the Employer or his designee, the employee's absence from duty on Union business will impede or unduly interfere with the conduct of normal business, then the Employer or his designee may, upon written notice to the employee, deny said leave. The denial of leave is non-grievable.

3. A reasonable number of duly authorized representatives, no more than three (3), employed by the County will be granted time with pay to attend departmental investigation meetings and hearings on behalf of a bargaining unit member, arbitration hearings and to travel to and from such meetings and hearings, upon providing ten (10) day's written notice to the Division Director. Less notice may be accepted at the Division Director's discretion for investigatory meetings.

Section 6: Bereavement Leave.

1. The Employer shall provide bereavement leave to full-time employees with pay not to exceed five (5) work days total per calendar year. A maximum of five (5) bereavement days may be utilized in case of the death of a first degree relative as defined below. Any remaining balance of unused bereavement leave days can be utilized in the case of the death of either a first degree relative or second degree relative as defined below. With regard to second degree relatives, employees shall be limited to one (1) bereavement leave day per occurrence.

2. Part-time employees are eligible for one day of paid bereavement leave per calendar year.

3. First degree relatives shall be defined as follows: an employee's spouse, domestic partner as defined in NJ P.L. 2003, c.246, civil union partner, children, foster children, brothers, sisters, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchildren,

grandparents, step-children, step-mother, step-father, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparents-in-law. Additional days may be approved by the department head and charged against other types of leave.

4. Second degree relatives shall be defined as follows: an employee's uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, cousin, sister-in-law, or brother-in-law or persons sharing the same residency, living quarters, or dwelling provided that proof of cohabitation is provided.

5. As soon as possible an employee shall notify the department head of a death in his family, and of his need for leave. Notification must be given as in the case of sick leave. Proof of death may be required by the Employer.

6. Any leave taken as bereavement under the terms of this article shall be used within 30 days of the date of death of the employee's family member. Any bereavement leave taken beyond the 30 day limit must be approved by the Division Director or designee.

Section 7: Leaves Without Pay

The grant or denial of a request for leave without pay is discretionary with the County. The request must be made in advance and must be recommended by the employee's division and department head, with the appointing authority retaining the ultimate decision-making power. A leave without pay request based upon non-job-related medical reasons where a physician has indicated that the employee cannot work, will require the employee to first exhaust accumulated sick leave. If the leave without pay request is denied, the employee is expected to report for work and the employee's absence under such circumstances will be considered "Absence Without Leave" (AWOL) which will give the County cause for discipline in accordance with the New Jersey Civil Service Commission procedures.

Section 8: Family Leave

Where applicable, the Family Medical Leave Act or the New Jersey Family Leave Act will apply to employees as such acts have been interpreted by the courts.

ARTICLE 12 - MEDICAL BENEFITS

A. All full-time employees after sixty (60) days of continuous service are eligible for hospitalization and major medical benefits, dental benefits and prescription benefits in accordance with the County's healthcare plan. Although medical benefits are paid by the employer, employees are required to make biweekly contributions toward their healthcare benefits as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement.

B. The Employer shall pay current hospital and major medical premiums under the aforesaid

healthcare plan for employees and their dependents who retire after January 1, 1975 with:

1. Twenty-five (25) years of full-time Warren County service in a New Jersey pension system, or
2. Fifteen (15) years of full-time Warren County service and age 62, or
3. Are separated from full-time Warren County service on a disability pension.

Such payment shall continue until the death of the employee.

C. The parties agree that any person who becomes employed by Warren County following August 11, 2011 shall not be eligible for retirement medical benefits. The parties also agree that any employee employed by Warren County prior to August 11, 2011 shall continue to be eligible to receive post-retirement medical benefits based upon the eligibility criteria in effect on that date. Warren County expressly acknowledges that eligible employees on the County payroll prior to August 11, 2011 are induced to continue their employment with Warren County in reliance upon receiving post-retirement medical benefits currently available to employees who satisfy eligibility criteria for such benefits.

D. Any healthcare changes that occur through future negotiations, will be adopted in future retiree plans for any employee retiring after January 1, 2007.

E. Upon the death of an active employee who is entitled to medical benefits, the surviving spouse shall continue to receive medical benefits for the period of six (6) full months following the employee's untimely death. Should the surviving spouse remarry within this six (6) month period, all coverage shall cease immediately. The County of Warren shall pay the premiums for the surviving dependents of a County employee who dies while in the employ of the County for a period of six (6) full months following the month the employee became deceased.

F. Medicare Part B. Premium Reimbursement for employees sixty-five (65) years or older shall be paid by the Employer until retirement.

G. Healthcare Contributions: Effective June 28, 2011 all active employees and prospective retired employees shall be required to contribute to the cost of their medical benefits in accordance with the State Law, Chapter 78, P.L. 2011 regardless of statutory sunset.

1. Employee Copays: The employee copay for office visits, short term therapies, emergency room visit, outpatient surgery, et. al., can be obtained by contacting the Warren County Personnel Department.
2. Employer agrees to hold employee contribution rates at the year 4 phase-in level for the term of this agreement, unless changes in State Law mandate otherwise.
3. If an employee changes medical plans or changes coverage type, the employee's

contribution will be adjusted to reflect the change. If an employee crosses salary thresholds, their contribution will be adjusted to reflect the change.

4. Rates and contributory costs for all plans will be available during the annual open enrollment period.

H. The employer reserves the right to change the insurance plan administrator or carrier provided that in the aggregate, substantially similar benefits are furnished. The employees and the union shall be notified in writing a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of any such planned changes.

I. An employee on Leave Without Pay (LWP) must pay a monthly healthcare premium, except as otherwise provided by Family Leave legislation.

J. The County will provide an eyeglass plan under which employees shall be entitled once every twelve (12) months to a \$100 reimbursement which shall be designated toward any one of the following: regular glasses, contact lenses, bifocals, or Rx safety glasses. All receipts for reimbursement must be submitted to the Personnel Department within thirty (30) days of service. Failure to submit receipts within this timeframe will result in denial of said benefit reimbursement.

K. The employer shall provide a base dental plan for its active employees which shall cover the plan minimum for preventative and diagnostic services. An employee may choose to upgrade base coverage by paying the established contribution as indicated in the County's dental plan. Effective May 1, 2018 retirees will be covered under the County's dental plan. However, after age 65 they will be required to pay the premium if they choose to stay on the plan.

ARTICLE 13 - GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Group Life Insurance benefits shall be provided in accordance with statute and the rules and regulations of the Public Employees Retirement System of New Jersey.

ARTICLE 14 - PENSIONS

Pensions and retirement benefits shall be provided to employees of the Employer covered by this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of the statutes and laws of the State of New Jersey.

ARTICLE 15 - SALARIES & WAGES

Section 1: Effective January 1, 2024, the Hiring Step and Range 8 are eliminated from the salary schedules.

Employees on Range 8 shall be moved laterally to the same step on Range 9 or to step 1 for employees on the Range 8 Hiring Step.

Section 2: Effective January 1, 2024, a new 2024 salary schedule shall represent a 2% across the board increase for all employees.

Section 3: Effective July 4, 2024, step advancement shall occur for all employees on their current salary range.

Section 4: Effective January 1, 2025, a new 2025 salary schedule shall represent a 2% across the board increase for all employees.

Section 5: Effective July 3, 2025, step advancement shall occur for all employees on their current salary range.

Section 6: Effective January 1, 2026, a new 2026 salary schedule shall represent a 2% across the board increase for all employees.

Section 7: Range 17 shall be added to the salary schedules effective January 1, 2017.

Section 8: Salary adjustments resulting from promotion, reclassification or demotion will be accomplished in the following manner:

Any employee who is promoted or reclassified to another title with a higher salary range shall have his/her salary adjusted so that it provides an increase in pay of one increment of the present salary range plus the amount (if necessary) to adjust and equalize the employee's salary to the proper step of the new salary range.

Any employee who is demoted or being appointed to another title with a lower salary range shall have his/her salary adjusted so that it provides a deduction of one increment of the present salary range less any additional amount (if necessary) to adjust and equalize the employee's salary to the proper step of the title to which he/she is being reassigned. If beneficial to the employee, an alternate procedure may be used in which the employee's salary is reconstructed on the basis of the employee's previous employment record.

ARTICLE 16 - DISCIPLINE

A. A permanent employee in the classified service may be suspended without pay or with reduced pay, fined or demoted due to inefficiency, incompetency, misconduct, negligence, insubordination or for other sufficient cause.

B. A provisional or temporary employee may be disciplined at any time at the discretion of the Employer. A provisional or temporary employee who has been disciplined shall have no right of appeal or to a disciplinary hearing unless as otherwise provided by law or by the terms of this Agreement, provided, however, that a provisional employee employed continuously for six (6) months or more may have a hearing with the Commissioners or their designee as provided below, with no right of appeal beyond that.

C. Permanent employees and employees in their working test period shall be entitled to a hearing for removal, suspension or fine, disciplinary demotion or as otherwise required by Civil Service rules and regulations. The hearing shall be conducted by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners or their designee, and pursuant to such rules and procedures which the Commissioners shall deem appropriate or as required by New Jersey Civil Service rules and regulations.

D. Union Representation: If an employee is called in for disciplinary reasons by his or her supervisor, the employee shall have the right to have one Union representative present, provided the employee so requests. The supervisor will be responsible for notifying the Union representative's supervisor in order to arrange for the representative to be present during the disciplinary conference if the employee requests union representation.

E. In cases involving fines for more than five (5) days or suspension for more than five (5) days, removal or demotion, the employee shall be provided with charges and specifications along with proposed penalty. Any employee appealing such action within ten (10) days of receipt of the Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action, shall be granted a disciplinary hearing. If the employee is not satisfied with the decision of the Commissioners or their designated hearing officer, the employee may appeal as permitted by law to the New Jersey Civil Service Commission for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

F. The Union will be advised in writing of any proposed change in the disciplinary hearing procedures.

G. At any disciplinary hearing, the employee may be represented by his steward, and/or local Union president and other local union officer and/or CWA Staff representative.

H. The Union will be provided, upon request, seven (7) days prior to the hearing, with all written documents and statements which will be used against the employee at the hearing, as well as a list of witnesses that will be carried by the Employer. The Union shall provide to the Commissioners or their representatives, five (5) days prior to the hearing, copies of all documents and written statements the Union intends to rely upon at the hearing and the names and addresses of all witnesses.

I. All such hearings shall follow the following format:

1. Reading of charges and specifications.
2. Presentation of case by the County.
3. Presentation of case by the appellant.
4. Rebuttal by County and appellant, if necessary.

5. Summation of case by appellant.
 6. Summation of case by County.
- J. Direct and cross-examination of witnesses shall be allowed. Either party may request that witnesses be sequestered. The Commissioners or their designated hearing officer, if any, may determine that witnesses be sequestered without a request from either party.
- K. Whenever written eyewitnesses accounts of incidents are used as evidence the person who prepared and/or signed such document shall be available for cross-examination or the documents cannot be used at that hearing.
- L. The Commissioners or their designated hearing officer shall render his decision within twenty (20) days of the close of the hearing. Said decision shall include discussion of testimony or evidence, specific findings of fact and conclusions based on findings of fact and applicable laws and rules and regulations.
- M. Any hearing on minor discipline conducted under this Article shall constitute the last step of the minor discipline review procedure.
- N. The Union shall be provided with a copy of all written disciplinary actions taken against employees covered by this agreement.

ARTICLE 17 - ACCESS TO PERSONNEL FOLDERS AND EVALUATION

- A. Upon prior written request to the Personnel Department, each employee shall, if he requests, be given an opportunity by appointment to review any evaluation of his work performance or conduct prepared during the term of this Agreement and included in his permanent personnel folder. An employee is permitted no more than one such request during each four (4) month period. He may file a written response to such materials within ten (10) work days after reviewing same and, if requested, such response will be attached to and retained with the particular instrument concerned. Any records concerning the performance or conduct of an employee that are passed from one supervisor to another upon the transfer of an employee or his/her supervisor will be available for review by the employee upon request.
- B. Each regular written evaluation of work performance shall be reviewed with the employee and evidence of this review shall be the required signature of the employee on the evaluation form. Such signature shall not be construed to mean agreement with the content of the evaluation unless such agreement is stated thereon. After the evaluation form has been signed by the employee, no changes shall be made on that evaluation form. A copy of the employee's evaluation shall be provided to the employee upon request.

ARTICLE 18 - LONGEVITY

Effective with the calendar year 2024, the longevity payment schedule for full-time permanent employees shall be:

1.	Completion of 5 through 10 years of service	\$600
2.	Completion of 11 through 15 years of service	\$1,000
3.	Completion of 16 through 20 years of service	\$1,400
4.	Completion of 21 through 25 years of service	\$1,800
5.	Completion of 26 through 30 years of service	\$2,200
6.	Completion of 31 years of service and more	\$2,600

All longevity payments shall be paid no later than December fifteenth in the year which they occur. Any employee who works in a calendar year and leaves the employ of the County prior to the aforementioned date of longevity disbursement shall receive a prorated longevity payment based on the number of applicable service months earned in said year prior to their date of departure.

ARTICLE 19 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties of all negotiable issues, which were or could have been the subject for collective negotiations. The parties acknowledge that during the negotiations that resulted in this Agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any subject or matter not removed by law in the area of collective negotiations, and that the understanding and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement. Therefore, the Employer and the Union, for the life of this Agreement, each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right, and each agrees that the other shall not be obligated to, bargain or negotiate with respect to any subject or matter not specifically referred to or covered in this Agreement, even though such subjects or matters may not have been within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement, subject to the provisions of Article 36.

B. This Agreement shall not be modified in whole or in part by the parties except by an instrument in writing duly executed by both parties.

C. If any provision of this Agreement or applications of this Agreement to any employee or employees covered hereunder is held invalid by operation of law, by legislative act, or by a Court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, such provisions shall be inoperative but all other

provisions contained herein shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 20 - JOB POSTING

A. The County agrees to post official New Jersey Civil Service Commission notices of promotional examinations to notify all employees of a promotional opportunity. These notices shall be posted for a minimum of seven (7) days from the date of their receipt, only in locations designated for this purpose by the County. The County will provide a copy of the notices to the President of Local 1032 upon their receipt.

B. With regard to all vacancies other than promotional vacancies, the County will, after any Commissioner meeting where action is taken pertinent to this subject matter, post in the same places as stated in paragraph A, a summary sheet of all current vacancies in classified positions, to include job title, job title code, location/department, and closing date for the application. A copy shall be provided to the President of Local 1032 upon its posting. Each notice will remain posted until the next Commissioner meeting where action is taken pertinent to this subject matter, at which time a new notice will be posted revised to reflect such Commissioner action as well as to delete positions whose application closing date has expired.

ARTICLE 21 - BREAKS

Each employee herein represented shall be entitled to one (1) 15-minute break for each day of work. Unused break time shall not be credited or accumulated in any way.

ARTICLE 22 - LABOR MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

A. A committee consisting of the Administrator or his designee and Union representatives may meet for the purposes of reviewing the administration of the Agreement and to discuss problems which may arise there from. For the purpose of this Agreement, these meetings, which shall not exceed four (4) per year except upon mutual consent, are not intended to bypass the grievance procedure nor to be considered collective negotiation meetings, but rather are intended as a means of fostering good and sound employment relations through communications between the parties.

B. Either party may request a meeting and shall submit a written agenda of topics to be discussed seven (7) days prior to such meeting.

C. A maximum of five (5) representatives of the Union may attend such meeting and if held during regular work hours, they shall be granted time to attend without loss of pay.

ARTICLE 23 - PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Section 1: For Union Dues

The employer agrees to deduct Union monthly membership dues from the pay of those employees who have authorized such deductions in writing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14 15.9E. The amounts deducted shall be forwarded to the Union with a list of all names of the employees for whom the deductions are made, by the 10th day of the succeeding month after which such deductions are made, to the following address:

CWA Dues
PO Box 79176
Baltimore, MD 21279-0176

Section 2: Dues Deductions from any employee in the bargaining Union shall be limited to Communication Workers of America, the majority representative, and the employee shall be eligible to withdraw such authorization only as of July 1st of each year, provided such notice has been timely filed. The Employer shall comply with N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1, et seq., commonly known as the Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act, and all amendments thereto.

Section 3: The Union shall notify the Employer of any change in dues structure thirty (30) days in advance of the requested date of such change. The change shall be reflected in payroll deduction at the earliest time after the receipt of the request.

Section 4: The Union will provide the necessary dues deduction forms and will secure the signatures of its members on the forms and deliver the signed forms to the Employer and/or his designee. The Union shall also provide copies of said signed forms to the proper disbursing officer of the County who shall make such dues deduction from the compensation of members and submit same to the Union, as provided above in Section 1.

Section 5: The Union agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Employer against any and all claims, demands and suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of any action taken by the Employer in reliance upon information supplied by the Union concerning the names of the employees and the amount for dues to be deducted.

ARTICLE 24 - STORM DAYS AND EMERGENCIES

A **STORM DAY OR EMERGENCY** requiring the closure of County offices shall mean only an official declaration of same made by the Board of County Commissioners or the County Administrator and shall not include those declared by the State of New Jersey or those promulgated by the Warren County Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management. For purposes of this Agreement, a **STORM DAY OR EMERGENCY** declared

by the Board of County Commissioners or County Administrator shall be memorialized by memorandum to be filed with and retained by the Finance Department, Payroll and shall include starting and ending dates and times of the closure of County offices.

A. *Non-essential Employees*

Should an employee report for work and subsequently the Employer decide to officially close the Employer's Offices for any reason, such employees that report to work shall be credited for the day's work. Should the Employer for any reason officially close the Employer's Offices before the start of the workday, all employees scheduled to work that day will be credited with a day's work.

B. *Essential Employees*

Essential employees shall be paid double time for each hour worked by them during a **STORM DAY OR EMERGENCY** when officially declared by the Board of County Commissioners or County Administrator. The double time shall be earned for all hours worked during the entire period of an officially declared **STORM DAY OR EMERGENCY**.

In the event an essential employee cannot report for work because of storm conditions or emergency conditions, the time lost from work will be charged against accumulated vacation or personal leave time. In the event that no such leave time is available, the time lost from work will be charged as time off without pay. If an essential employee is unable to report to work, the employee must report this absence no less than one and one-half (1½) hours before the starting time of their shift or the start of their normal workday.

Determinations as to which employees are essential and which are non-essential may vary given the circumstances of each event leading to the issuance of an official declaration of a **STORM DAY OR EMERGENCY**. Department/Division Heads are given authority to determine classification of essential non-essential employees. At minimum, essential employees shall always include those necessary to maintain statutory or code-mandated minimum staffing levels at Warren County's 24 hour institutions/operations.

C. *Non-essential and Essential Employees with Previously Approved Leave of Absence*

During any officially declared **STORM DAY OR EMERGENCY**, employees absent from work for a previously approved leave of absence, paid or unpaid, shall remain in such status. These may include vacation leave, personal leave, sick leave, workers compensation leave, FMLA/FLA leave, disciplinary leave. In the event that an essential employee with a previously approved leave of absence is available to report for work, is called out by their Department/Division Head and does report for work, such employee shall be paid as described in

this Agreement and the previously approved leave time shall be credited to the employee's leave time balances.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED that matters involving the decision to officially declare a **STORM DAY OR EMERGENCY** and the dates and times thereof and the determinations as to definition of essential and non-essential Employees are held to be the prerogative of management and are reserved to the Employer's discretion.

D. Employees are permitted to wear denim jeans in the office environment on inclement weather/snow days.

ARTICLE 25 - TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE

Whenever an individual employee is authorized to use his privately owned vehicle on County business, the Employer shall reimburse the employee at the rate per mile calculated in accordance with the mileage reimbursement rate as posted in the annual Internal Revenue Service Bulletin. This rate shall be updated annually and commence January 1, of the new calendar year after the rate has been promulgated.

A. Employees who do not hold a valid and current driver's license shall not drive. Authorization for such use is predicated on the individual maintaining basic automobile insurance and current registration.

B. Employees who are required to drive as part of their work duties for the County must hold and maintain a valid and current driver's license. In the event such employee has a driver's license suspended or revoked, the employee will be subject to placement in another position, if available, not requiring a driver's license or, if another position is not available, termination.

ARTICLE 26 - EMPLOYEE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

The Employer agrees to maintain in full force and effect liability insurance on all vehicles owned by the Employer. This insurance will provide for coverage to anyone driving a vehicle owned by the Employer with permission.

A. The Employer shall also provide for insurance to provide for an umbrella policy over and above the coverage of an individual employee's private automobile liability insurance coverage to cover those situations in which an individual is authorized to use his own vehicle for any business of the Employer.

B. The Employer will provide the Union with a copy of the County Automobile Insurance Policy and advise the Union in the future of any significant changes in the Policy.

ARTICLE 27 - TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

All employees covered by this Agreement shall be eligible to receive financial reimbursement for job-related, career development or required course work in the following areas:

1. Matriculating undergraduate/graduate degree.
 2. Business/Vocational/Technical courses.
 3. Career development courses such as seminars and continuing education courses which will aid the employee in his employment. The foregoing decision of job-relatedness is discretionary with the Employer.
- A. Reimbursement will be contingent upon:
1. By no later than the first day of the course, an interested employee must submit a written request for course work. The request must be presented to the employee's department head for initial approval and to the County Administrator and Personnel Department for final approval and authorization that funds are available. The employee will be notified as to the approval or disapproval of his application within two (2) weeks. Within four (4) weeks after completion of the course work, the employee shall submit to the County Administrator and Personnel Department, via the department head, certification of successful completion of the course work on the proper form. Payment will be made to the employee after approval by the County Administrator and Personnel Department and after the employee has completed and signed the proper voucher form.
 2. The student must maintain a "C" grade or better for an undergraduate course and a "B" grade or better for a graduate course to be eligible for reimbursement. In courses where only a "Pass" or "Fail" grade are given, the student must achieve a "Pass". Where the student has the option of selecting either "Pass/Fail" or a letter grade system, the student must elect the letter grade system.
 3. Courses shall be taken outside the employee's normal working hours and shall not interfere with the individual's responsibilities of employment. If leave time is needed for travel to a course, up to three (3) hours of available release time per week may be granted with the supervisor's approval, so long as said release time hours are made up with in the work week during which they occur.
 4. Reimbursement will be the lesser of the actual expenses or the current tuition rate at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Employees are responsible for their travel expenses, fees and books.

5. Priority will be given to employees attending colleges within the State of New Jersey.
6. A maximum of fifteen (15) credits per calendar year may be taken by employees.
7. An employee must be a permanent full-time employee to be entitled to financial reimbursement. As an exception to the foregoing, an employee who has been employed for more than one (1) year, even though not yet “permanent” by Civil Service standards, will be eligible for this benefit. Should any of the aforementioned employees fail to continue employment following the completion of the approved course, said employee will be required to repay the Employer. An employee’s obligation to continue in employment shall be equal to but not longer than the duration of the course.
8. The following annual amount will be appropriated by the Employer for the employees of the Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Services: \$15,000. Reimbursement to eligible employees will be on a “first come, first served” basis until such time as the appropriation is depleted. Upon written request, the Union will be advised of the tuition reimbursement funding balance within 10 days of each July 1st of this agreement.

ARTICLE 28 - SEVERANCE PAY

The Employer hereby agrees to pay severance pay in the amount of two (2) weeks salary to any permanent full-time employee whose job may be abolished on a permanent basis with the Employer because of a cutback in any particular department or program provided said employee is not transferred to or absorbed by any county, state or federal department, agency or program.

ARTICLE 29 - TEMPORARY DISABILITY BENEFITS

Section 1: Temporary Disability Insurance Coverage

The Employer will continue to implement participation in the State Temporary Disability Program.

ARTICLE 30 - OUT OF TITLE WORK

Employee or Union claims that assigned job duties do not conform with approved State Civil Service Commission job specifications for a particular title shall be processed as classification appeals in accordance with N.J.A.C. 4A: 3-3.9 et. seq.

ARTICLE 31 - SAFETY

Section 1: The County agrees to provide safe and adequate working areas and equipment. The County will discharge its responsibility for the development and enforcement of occupational safety and health standards to provide a safe and healthful environment. The

County will set up necessary job safety and health programs for all employees covered by this Agreement.

Section 2: The parties agree to cooperate in maintaining and improving safe working conditions and health protection for the employees consistent with established safety standards in the promotion of safety, safe working habits, and good housekeeping throughout the work environment. Each employee shall comply with all reasonable safety rules and regulations.

Section 3: Employee or Union complaints of unsafe or unhealthful conditions shall be reported to the Division Director or Department Director and shall be promptly investigated.

Section 4: Employees shall not be required to work under conditions of work which are unsafe or unhealthful. The County retains the right to make a determination of the safety or healthiness of the conditions of work and will be responsible for the development and enforcement of occupational safety and health standards to provide a safe and healthful environment in accordance with PEOSHA and any other applicable statutes, regulations, or guidelines.

Any employee whose work is temporarily eliminated as a result of the foregoing may be promptly assigned on an interim basis to other comparable work or work location. As soon as it is possible, management will notify the Union of any interim reassignments due to unsafe working conditions.

If other comparable work or work location is not available, employees shall be allowed to use vacation or personal leave. In no instance shall an employee be forced to take a vacation or personal leave in lieu of a temporary reassignment.

Section 5: A Joint Union-Management Safety Committee of the Department of Human Services shall be established, and will include a maximum of three (3) employees and one alternate, designated by this Union; and three members, and one alternate, designated by Management. When appropriate, other County personnel may be brought to the meeting when they have some expertise which would facilitate the work of the committee. This committee shall meet quarterly with dates and times established by mutual agreement between the parties. Issues regarding heating and cooling of County facilities may be the subject of discussion of the Committee at the request of the Union. Should an issue needing immediate attention arise both parties agree to schedule a meeting to address the issue with a minimum of seven (7) days' notice. The function of the Safety Committee shall be to advise Management concerning safety and health matters, but not to handle grievances.

ARTICLE 32 - EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION

The parties agree that the Employer has the right to make reasonable rules and regulations of standard departmental operating procedure. The Employer will give the Union advanced notice of its proposal before implementing these standard operating procedures. Proposed new rules or modifications of existing rules governing working conditions shall be subject to negotiations with the Union prior to implementation and the Union agrees to negotiate the same in good faith.

A. In the event the Employer and the Union disagree and are at impasse concerning the proposed new rule or regulation governing working conditions, the parties agree that the Employer may unilaterally implement the rules and regulations change provided the impasse procedure of mediation through the Public Employment Relations Commission has first been exhausted.

B. All rules and regulations promulgated by the Employer for the proper and efficient operation of the Public Services shall be duly and conspicuously posted and dated.

ARTICLE 33 - UNION PRIVILEGES

A. The County will make space available for bulletin boards for the exclusive use of the union on each level of the facility for a total of two (2).

1. Appropriate material in such bulletin boards shall be posted and removed by representatives of the union. The material shall not contain anything that the County, in its sole discretion, deems to be profane, obscene, or defamatory of the County or its representatives and employees, nor anything constituting election campaign material. Materials which violate the provisions of this section shall not be posted and, if posted, can be removed by the County.

2. Material to be posted will consist of the following: a) union elections and results thereof, b) union appointments, c) union meetings, d) social and recreational events of the union, e) reports of official union business and achievements, and f) any other matters or materials dealing with union business or interests.

B. Use of Facilities

1. The Employer agrees to permit the union to use a County facility with prior approval of the Employer, upon written notice given five (5) days in advance upon the conditions that the union agrees to indemnify and hold the County harmless for the use of the premises and to reimburse the County for any and all damages to County property caused by the union's activities. The facilities to be used shall include only the

conference room at Warren County Human Services/TASS and the meeting or conference rooms in the County Administration Building.

C. Use of County Email System

1. The union shall have the right to use the email systems of the Employer to communicate with negotiations unit members regarding collective negotiations, the administration of the collective bargaining agreement, investigation of grievances and other workplace related issues, as well as internal union matters involving the governance or business of the union.

D. Information and New Hires

1. On January 1st, May 1st, and September 1st of each year, the County shall provide the following information to the union for all bargaining unit employees in excel file format: name, job title, worksite location, home address, work, home, and personal cellular telephone numbers on file with the Employer, date of hire, work email address and any personal email address on file with the County.

2. Within ten (10) calendar days from the date of hire of any bargaining unit employees, the County shall provide the following contact information to the union in excel file format: name, job title, worksite location, home address, work telephone number, any home and personal cellular telephone numbers on file, date of hire, work email address and any personal email address on file with the County.

3. The union shall have the right to meet with newly hired employees, without charge to the pay or leave time of the employees, for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes and a maximum of one hundred and twenty minutes, within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of hire, during a new employee orientation held by the County, or if the County does not conduct new employee orientations, at individual or group meetings.

E. As a result of the NJ Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act – Public Law 2018, Chapter 15, see Appendix A for Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed between CWA Local 1032 and the County of Warren. The MOA addresses the sharing of employee information and the union’s use of the employer’s email messaging system.

ARTICLE 34 - NO STRIKE PLEDGE

The Union assures and pledges to the Employer that its goals and purposes are such that it does not condone strikes or threats thereof by public employees or work stoppages, slowdowns, or any other such actions which would interfere with service to the public or violate the Constitution or laws of the State of New Jersey; and the Union and the employees agree that

they will not initiate nor participate in such activities nor encourage members of the unit to initiate or participate in the same; and the Union will not support anyone acting contrary to this provision.

A. The Employer agrees that there shall be no lockout of employees during the term of this Agreement.

B. Any violation of this Article shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement and shall serve as grounds for disciplinary action including discharge. Nothing stated elsewhere in this Article shall alter the party's rights to seek judicial relief in law or in equity.

ARTICLE 35 - PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

A. All permanent part-time employees, including provisional employees awaiting examination, shall be paid wages based on the rates of pay for the appropriate classification in the County ranges. These employees shall be credited with prorated sick and vacation leave allowances, representing the only benefits to which these employees are entitled on a pro rata basis.

B. All permanent and provisional part-time employees covered by this Agreement are eligible to earn sick and vacation leave. Sick and Vacation leave will not be advanced to part-time employees at the beginning of the calendar year in anticipation of continued employment, but rather must be earned, except as otherwise modified in B(2) below. Part-time employees can earn one (1) work day of sick and vacation leave during the first calendar year of employment in accordance with the following schedule:

1. Employees in departments or divisions where regular full-time hours are 35 hours per week may earn one (1) vacation day and one (1) sick day for every 140 hours worked.

2. Part time employees shall be advanced two (2) Vacation days and two (2) Sick days at the beginning of each calendar year after completion of one full year of employment. Any vacation days earned shall be proportionate to the hours worked by the employee in the month in which the time was earned. Thereafter, should the part-time employee continue to be employed by the County, as the employee attains the years of service as delineated for full-time employees in Article 9 of this agreement, the employee may earn additional vacation time. The additional earned vacation time shall be a prorated amount of the vacation leave granted to full-time employees and with the same number of years of service with the County. The exact prorated amount of vacation leave which may be earned will be determined based upon the total number of hours of the full-time employees working in the same department.

3. See Article 11, Section 6 for bereavement leave.

C. Part-time employees will be eligible for movement up the steps of the appropriate salary guide based on the length of employment, in a manner similar to the treatment of full-time employees.

D. When a part-time employee works on a holiday, the employee is entitled to the appropriate holiday rate of pay, without consideration of a compensatory day off. Part-time employees who do not work on a holiday shall have no entitlement to pay for that day.

E. In the case of a part-time employee who becomes full-time in that position title, he shall retain his current step on the salary guide when going from part-time to full-time status. The same is also applicable in the case of a full-time employee who becomes a part-time employee in that position title.

ARTICLE 36 - DURATION

A. Except as otherwise provided herein, the terms and effects of this Agreement shall be in force commencing January 1, 2024 and shall remain in effect and full force through December 31, 2026. Any changes in salary or other economic benefits will apply only to those employees in the employ of the County as of the date of the signing of this Agreement or who retired (within the meaning of PERS) from the County or who died or were on layoff after January 1, 2024, and prior to the signing of this Agreement.

B. It shall be automatically renewed from year to year thereafter unless either party shall give written notice sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of its desire to modify this Agreement. In the event that such notice is given, negotiations shall begin no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date. This Agreement shall remain in full force and be effective during the periods of negotiations.

C. Copies of this Agreement when executed shall be distributed to all employees of the Employer. The expense for printing and distribution of the Agreement shall be shared equally by the Union and the Employer. The parties agree to use 8½ by 11 commercially Xeroxed format.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto subscribed their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

For CWA Local 1032 – Warren County Division of Temporary Assistance & Social Services:

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS
OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

James McAree

03/08/2024

Date

Miguelina Santiago

03-08-24

Date

Courtney Meixsell

3/8/24

Date

John B.

3/8/24

Date

3/11/24

For the County of Warren:

WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James Kern, Director

3/13/24

Date

ATTEST:

Alex J. Lazorisak
Alex J. Lazorisak,
Warren County Administrator

3/13/24

Date

Schedule A - Job Titles & Range Placements

<u>Title</u>	<u>Current Range</u>
Account Clerk	09
Keyboarding Clerk 1	09
Keyboarding Clerk 1 Bilingual in Spanish and English	09
Human Services Specialist I	14
Human Services Specialist II	16
Human Services Specialist II Bilingual in Spanish and English	16
Human Services Specialist III	19
Human Services Aide (formerly Income Maintenance Aide)	11
Investigator, County Welfare Agency	19
Principal Account Clerk	14
Clerk 3	14
Clerk 4	17*
Principal Data Control Clerk	18
Senior Account Clerk	11
Clerk 2	11
Clerk 2 Bilingual in Spanish and English	11
Keyboarding Clerk 2	11
Social Service Aide	11**
Social Worker	19
Social Worker Bilingual in Spanish and English	19
Senior Data Control Clerk	16
Supervising Account Clerk (Established May 12, 2021)	19
*Effective with new hires and promotions following November 26, 2019	
**Range change effective first full pay period following November 26, 2019	

Schedule B - Supervisor Job Titles & Range Placements

<u>Title</u>	<u>Range</u>
Human Services Specialist IV	22
Senior Investigator, County Welfare Agency (Established July 22, 2021)	22
Social Work Supervisor	22
Supervisor of Billing and Collecting	22

Schedule C - Salary Schedules

2024 SALARY SCHEDULE

STEP	RANGE 09	RANGE 11	RANGE 14	RANGE 16	RANGE 17	RANGE 18	RANGE 19	RANGE 22
1	29,119	32,103	37,161	40,971	43,019	45,169	47,429	54,906
2	30,575	33,708	39,019	43,019	45,169	47,429	49,803	57,651
3	32,029	35,312	40,881	45,067	47,321	49,687	52,173	60,395
4	33,485	36,919	42,735	47,118	49,471	51,949	54,543	63,142
5	34,942	38,524	44,593	49,165	51,622	54,204	56,914	65,887
6	36,398	40,128	46,456	51,214	53,773	56,463	59,289	68,631
7	37,853	41,732	48,310	53,263	55,925	58,722	61,658	71,380
8	39,309	43,338	50,171	55,311	58,076	60,980	64,028	74,123
9	40,765	44,943	52,028	57,361	60,227	63,239	66,400	76,869
10	42,222	46,549	53,889	59,411	62,378	65,497	68,772	79,614
11	43,677	48,154	55,728	61,456	64,529	67,757	71,144	82,359
12	45,132	49,758	57,599	63,506	66,681	70,016	73,517	85,087
13	46,585	51,361	59,471	65,553	68,832	72,274	75,889	87,853
14	48,038	52,965	61,342	67,604	70,984	74,533	78,263	90,599
15	49,493	54,568	63,211	69,653	73,134	76,793	80,636	93,345

2025 SALARY SCHEDULE

STEP	RANGE 09	RANGE 11	RANGE 14	RANGE 16	RANGE 17	RANGE 18	RANGE 19	RANGE 22
1	29,701	32,745	37,904	41,790	43,879	46,072	48,378	56,004
2	31,187	34,382	39,799	43,879	46,072	48,378	50,799	58,804
3	32,670	36,018	41,699	45,968	48,267	50,681	53,216	61,603
4	34,155	37,657	43,590	48,060	50,460	52,988	55,634	64,405
5	35,641	39,294	45,485	50,148	52,654	55,288	58,052	67,205
6	37,126	40,931	47,385	52,238	54,848	57,592	60,475	70,004
7	38,610	42,567	49,276	54,328	57,044	59,896	62,891	72,808
8	40,095	44,205	51,174	56,417	59,238	62,200	65,309	75,605
9	41,580	45,842	53,069	58,508	61,432	64,504	67,728	78,406
10	43,066	47,480	54,967	60,599	63,626	66,807	70,147	81,206
11	44,551	49,117	56,843	62,685	65,820	69,112	72,567	84,006
12	46,035	50,753	58,751	64,776	68,015	71,416	74,987	86,789
13	47,517	52,388	60,660	66,864	70,209	73,719	77,407	89,610
14	48,999	54,024	62,569	68,956	72,404	76,024	79,828	92,411
15	50,483	55,659	64,475	71,046	74,597	78,329	82,249	95,212

2026 SALARY SCHEDULE

STEP	RANGE 09	RANGE 11	RANGE 14	RANGE 16	RANGE 17	RANGE 18	RANGE 19	RANGE 22
1	30,295	33,400	38,662	42,626	44,757	46,993	49,346	57,124
2	31,811	35,070	40,595	44,757	46,993	49,346	51,815	59,980
3	33,323	36,738	42,533	46,887	49,232	51,695	54,280	62,835
4	34,838	38,410	44,462	49,021	51,469	54,048	56,747	65,693
5	36,354	40,080	46,395	51,151	53,707	56,394	59,213	68,549
6	37,869	41,750	48,333	53,283	55,945	58,744	61,685	71,404
7	39,382	43,418	50,262	55,415	58,185	61,094	64,149	74,264
8	40,897	45,089	52,197	57,545	60,423	63,444	66,615	77,117
9	42,412	46,759	54,130	59,678	62,661	65,794	69,083	79,974
10	43,927	48,430	56,066	61,811	64,899	68,143	71,550	82,830
11	45,442	50,099	57,980	63,939	67,136	70,494	74,018	85,686
12	46,956	51,768	59,926	66,072	69,375	72,844	76,487	88,525
13	48,467	53,436	61,873	68,201	71,613	75,193	78,955	91,402
14	49,979	55,104	63,820	70,335	73,852	77,544	81,425	94,259
15	51,493	56,772	65,765	72,467	76,089	79,896	83,894	97,116

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

THIS is an Agreement made by and between the County of Warren (“County”) and Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 1032 – Division of Temporary Assistance & Social Services (“Union”) relating to the administration of the parties’ rights and responsibilities arising out of the New Jersey Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act.

WHEREAS, the Union is the sole and exclusive representative of all full-time and part-time, permanent and provisional employees employed by the County of Warren and subject to the current collective negotiations agreement between the parties; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature enacted the Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act which, among other things, required public employers to provide to collective negotiation unit agents within ten (10) days of the hiring of a new employee and every 120 days for all negotiating unit members, information about the employee such as his/her name, job title, home address, work email address, work telephone number, worksite location and any personal email address and home and personal cellular telephone numbers on file with the public employer; and

WHEREAS, the parties acknowledge that some of this information required to be disclosed particularly as it relates to the employee’s home address, home phone and cell numbers, home email address and birth date is confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Open Public Records Act; and

WHEREAS, the Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act also grants to collective negotiation unit agents the right to use the public employer’s email systems to communicate with their members regarding labor negotiations and the administration of collective negotiation agreements, grievances and other workplace-related complaints and issues, but proscribes the use of the email systems for purposes of supporting or opposing candidates for partisan political office or distributing literature regarding partisan elections; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination also proscribes employee organizations from discriminating and harassing members on the basis of sex, race, age, disability, religion and other protected classifications; and

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and with the intent of both parties being bound hereby in the interests of the Union’s members and the County’s employees who are one and the same, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. The County agrees to provide to the President of CWA Local 1032 or his/her Union designee, within ten (10) days of the hiring of a new employee information about the new employee such as his/her name, job title, home address, work email address, work telephone number, worksite location and any personal email address and home and personal cellular telephone numbers on file with the public employer; and
2. The County agrees to provide to the President of CWA Local 1032 or his/her designee, every 120 days a list of all CWA Local 1032 negotiations unit members that includes name, job title, home address, work email address, work telephone number, worksite location and any personal email address and home and personal cellular telephone numbers on file with the public employer; and

3. The President of CWA Local 1032 and the Union agree to not disseminate the employee's home address, home phone and cell numbers, home email address and/or birth date to the public, the media or any entity not affiliated with the Union without the express written consent of the employee; and
4. The Union shall defend and hold the County harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of, or by reason of, the Union's unauthorized disclosure of an employee's home address, home phone and cell numbers, home email address and/or birth date to the public; and
5. The County shall grant the right of the President of CWA Local 1032 or his/her designee, to use the public employer's email systems to communicate with their members regarding labor negotiations and the administration of collective negotiation agreements, grievances and other workplace-related complaints and issues; and
6. The Union expressly acknowledges that per the County's E-mail Messaging Policy and its employee acknowledgement, all information stored in, transmitted or received is the property of the County of Warren and may be monitored by authorized representatives of the County; and
7. The Union shall defend and hold the County harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of, or by reason of, the Union's usage of the public employer's email systems that is proscribed by law, including but not limited to supporting or opposing candidates for partisan political office or distributing literature regarding partisan elections or engaging in acts of harassment, discrimination or retaliation.

Communications Workers of America
(CWA) Local 1032 – Division of Temporary
Assistance & Social Services

By:  _____
Senior Staff Representative

Date: 3/15/2022

County of Warren

By:  _____
Administrator

Date: 3/15/22