"Our union empowers us to advocate for our libraries, our profession and our patrons. With a union, my coworkers and I have a voice in key decisions. We make sure every library in our system stays useful, safe and welcoming for our neighbors. We love our libraries. A union contract gives us the pay, benefits and respect to make careers here."



–Gerta Rehfeld, library associate, building representative, Worthington (Ohio) Public Libraries United, Local 06066

"We provide high-quality public services to every Montana family. Whether it's plowing our roads, keeping our drinking water safe, or administering our laws, we provide the labor and expertise to keep our government and society functioning. That's what our state workforce is all about. This work is more than a job, it is a calling. Having a union gives us not only good pay and benefits, but also a way to maximize the common good. We fight for a decent life for every Montanan every single day."



–Ben Kuiper, corporate income tax auditor with the Montana Department of Revenue, Montana Federation of Public Employees, Local 4993

"Keeping the public safe is our top priority. When we have high caseloads with not enough staff to do the work, everybody suffers—employees, parolees and the community. Our union fights for adequate staffing so we can keep New Yorkers safe by supporting parolees and making sure they can access the services they need to rejoin society."



–Gina Lopez, New York state parole officer, Public Employees Federation, Local 4053

Don't go it alone! Join the AFT today.

The AFT is 1.8 million public employees, educators and healthcare workers strong. That's a lot of people fighting shoulder to shoulder for working families! Our union advocates for the essentials for a better life for all, from retirement security to high-quality healthcare. We organize and mobilize for change.









Alone, an individual doesn't have the resources or power to bargain, advocate or lobby. Together, our local unions fight for fairness and funding—and win. If you're proud of the work you do and want a voice in that work and the power to fight for the people and communities you serve, organize a union with the AFT!

Interested in organizing with the AFT? Connect with us at formaftunion@aft.org.

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Why organize with the AFT?

Why belong to the AFT?



Education | Healthcare | Public Services

AFT Public Employees

Our union, the AFT, fights to secure a better life for those we serve and those we represent. Our members make a difference every day: educating students, caring for patients and strengthening communities—work that touches nearly every family in America.

The 1.8 million-strong AFT fights for good wages and benefits, a real voice at work, strong public schools and services, and accessible, affordable healthcare and higher education. We fight for a democracy that works for the people—not just the powerful—and we fight for the opportunities and pathways that allow all our students, families and members to thrive.



That mission is even more urgent today. Families are being squeezed by rising costs, new technologies are reshaping work and learning, and divisions are deepening across our country.

You are a vital part of this work. When members like you are involved, we build the power to achieve together what no one can accomplish alone.

Thank you for being part of your union—the AFT.

–Randi Weingarten, AFT president

Why join the AFT? To win a voice for the work we do and the communities we serve.

We chose our professions for a reason: We want to make a difference. As public employees, we make sure our communities thrive. Because of our work, families across America are safe, healthy, housed, employed, rehabilitated and educated. We steward public financial resources. We help ensure a strong, safe transportation system. We work toward a clean environment. We maintain our public infrastructure and protect our public lands.



Because the work we do matters so much, we need the strength to advocate for our professions and for a better life for all. So, our union is all about one thing: using collective action to build a respected public workforce with a powerful voice in decision-making.

Fighting together for high-quality public services and a voice on the job

Our union represents over 3,000 job titles in our public employees division—the people on the frontlines of public service. Together, we fight to:

- Protect our democracy from political attacks;
- Ensure that our professional voice is heard and respected;
- Win funding for high-quality public services at every level;
- Pool our collective ideas and strategies to strengthen our public work;
- Stop privatization and service cuts;
- Defend union rights, representation and due process at work; and
- Create safer workplaces, free from injury, bullying and violence.





The AFT is a grassroots union led by members. Join us!

In AFT local unions, we negotiate our own contracts, determine our own priorities and vote for leaders from our ranks (who seek assistance, when needed, from the national AFT's legal, strategic and organizing experts). Local control by members is protected in the AFT constitution.





The benefits of union solidarity—in every part of our lives

Trauma Counseling: The AFT offers a trauma counseling program for members who have faced covered personal or workplace trauma. Covered incidents include a range of personal and workplace incidents, from experiencing a major disaster to bullying, harassment or violence at work. It's a free confidential benefit for all active working AFT members, providing up to 21 free sessions of confidential help and healing from a master's-level or higher professional therapist.

Consumer Empowerment: To help you deal with the increasingly high cost of living, our Fight for Affordability campaign offers a suite of new consumer empowerment tools and expanded debt and financial literacy clinics—including proven strategies to avoid debt pitfalls like payday loans and to prevent or navigate medical debt.

Simplifying Student Debt: The AFT offers members assistance in managing student loan debt. Summer is a trusted online platform that is free for AFT members and specializes in enrolling borrowers in income-driven repayment plans and keeping them on track for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

The Tax Relief Working Families Need: From groceries to gas to rent to healthcare, people are being squeezed in so many different directions today. That's why the AFT is backing the Working Americans' Tax Cut Act. This bill will put real money back into the pockets of working families, resulting in thousands of dollars more in take-home pay for working families each year. And with the rising prices of groceries, gas, rent, healthcare and everything else, it's never been more necessary! For more, go to **www.aftvotes.org/TaxCutAct**.

Other AFT + benefits
AFT + Member Benefits gives you access to a wide range of discounts and services.

Collective action brings groundbreaking wins

To serve their patrons better and win fair treatment, library workers in six Ohio public library systems recently organized with the Ohio Federation of Teachers. Four systems have already won first contracts with major gains, including significant wage increases, protection against unfair discipline, additional paid leave and a greater voice on the job.

