

## Groups Want to Link State Aid and “Living Wage”

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With the end of the legislative session in sight, state labor, community and advocacy groups are calling on lawmakers and Gov. David Paterson to reach agreement on industrial development agency reform.

Groups such as New York Jobs with Justice and the Fiscal Policy Institute want industrial development agencies to require businesses receiving tax exemptions and other assistance to meet prevailing wage and “living wage” requirements. They also want increased accountability and transparency among the agencies.

“Research has demonstrated that prevailing wages do not raise construction costs, and living wage standards lead to higher skill levels, higher productivity and lower costs overall,” said James Parrott, deputy director and chief economist of the Fiscal Policy Institute.

The groups said the jobs created by industrial development agency projects often are low-wage, poor quality jobs, and frequently go to workers from other states.