

Many Washington parents are eligible for paid time off

to welcome a new child into your family through Washington's new Paid Family and Medical Leave program.

What is Paid Family and Medical Leave?

Paid Family and Medical Leave is a state insurance program that allows you to take paid time off to bond with a newborn, adopted or foster child. The state program also provides paid leave to care for yourself or a family member with a serious medical condition such as your baby being born prematurely and spending their first weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

This state program allows you to care for your new child or family member, and still pay your bills. While you wait to hear back from us you can visit [the state's website and learn more about the program](#).

How do I qualify?

You've already earned the benefit by contributing a small amount each paycheck to the new state insurance program since January 2019. You can apply for paid leave if you've worked at least 820 hours in Washington (about 16 hours a week) during the last year, and have what's called a "qualifying event," such as the birth of your baby, adopting a child, or becoming a foster parent. You can also qualify if a family member in your home needs care.

Who is considered my "family member?"

Mothers, fathers, partners, foster and adoptive parents, are all eligible for bonding leave, and families come in all shapes and sizes. Washington's Paid Family and Medical Leave program is available even when your loved ones aren't related to you. If you're caring for someone who lives with you, and needs your support, you may be eligible for paid leave. Learn more about it on our website.

Do I qualify if I don't work full time?

Part-time, seasonal, and temporary workers qualify. You are also eligible if you work for multiple employers or are undocumented. If you worked fewer hours or were unable to work because of COVID-19, you may still qualify. [Find out if you qualify in a few quick steps.](#)

How much time can I take?

- Parents and caregivers qualify for up to 12 weeks of paid leave to bond with a new baby or child. Bonding during the first weeks is important for your child's development and your wellbeing.
- If you give birth to a baby, you qualify for up to 16 weeks of combined medical and family leave. An additional two weeks is possible if you have serious medical issues because of your pregnancy.
- You can take the benefit at any point during the first year of the child's life, and you do not have to take it all at once. You can also spread the benefit throughout the child's first year.

How do I apply?

Applying for government benefits can be confusing. Trained community-based partners are here to help. These partners offer safe, private help so you can apply for paid leave. They will help you complete the application and make sure you have the forms you need to prove the birth, adoption, or placement. To apply for the program directly, go to: paidleave.wa.gov/apply-now/.

When should I apply?

You must wait until after the child is born, adopted, or placed in your home to apply for paid leave. Our community partners listed below can help you plan to apply and start your application for paid leave. If you qualify, your payments will include pay starting from the date you became eligible. It takes about two to three weeks to get your first payment.

For help or for more information, contact organizations in Pierce County:

Answers Counseling

Karla Cain,
Karlacain@answerscounseling.org

Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC)

Faaluaina Pritchard,
faaluaina@asiapacificculturalcenter.org;
Lupe Talamoni,
lupe@asiapacificculturalcenter.org

Children's Home Society of Washington

Gina Cabiddu,
Gina.cabiddu@chs-wa.org

Greater Destiny Church

Joi Taylor,
Greaterdestinychurch@outlook.com

Greentrike

Rod Nash,
rnash@playtacoma.org

Korean Women's Association

Suzanne Park,
SPak@kwacares.org

MultiCultural Child Family & Hope Center

Gail Neal,
Gneal@mcfhc.org

Multicultural Self-Sufficient Movement

Mandy Ma;
hmamandy@yahoo.com

Greater Destiny Church

Joi Taylor,
Greaterdestinychurch@outlook.com

Step by Step Family Support Center

Krista Linden, kristalinden@
stepbystepfamily.org

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Maternal and Child Health Programs, Black Infant Health Team and Perinatal Collaborative of Pierce County

Susan Pfeifer,
spfeifer@tpchd.org

Tacoma Recovery Café

Roxy Magno;
rmagno@mcfhc.org

United Way of Pierce County

Taylor Rowell,
taylorr@uwpc.org

In Yakima County:

Asian Pacific Islander Coalition-Yakima

Dori Peralta Baker,
doribaker2020@gmail.com;
Paul Tabayoyon,
pjtabayoyon@gmail.com

Easterseals Washington

Cathy Bisailon,
cathyb@wa.easterseals.com

Tomi Barragan,
tbarragan@wa.easterseals.com

Lynette Gutierrez,
LGutierrez@wa.easterseals.com

Dena Adkins,
Dadkins@wa.easterseals.com

EPIC Early Learning Programs

Celia Nava, celias@epicnet.org
mariab@epicnet.org

La Casa Hogar

Enriqueta Flores,
Enriqueta@lacasahogar.org

Angelica Reyes Mejia,
angelica@lacasahogar.org

Cristina Arellano,
cristina@lacasahogar.org

Andrea Hernandez Romero,
andrea@lacasahogar.org

Maria Ines Lozano,
mariaines@lacasahogar.org

Nuestra Casa

Caty Padilla, caty@nuestracasawa.org

Opportunities Industrialization Center

Adrienne Garner, A.G@YVOIC.org

People For People

Stacy Kellogg, skellogg@pfp.org

Save the Children

Faviola Ochoa,
fochoa@savechildren.org

United Way of Central Washington

Neiri Carrasco, neiri@uwcw.org
Suzy Diaz, Diaz_S@heritage.edu

West Valley School District

Minerva Pardo, pardom@wvwsd208.org

Yakima Neighborhood Health Center

Rhonda Hauff,
Rhonda.hauff@ynhs.org
Michelle Sullivan,
Michelle.sullivan@ynhs.org
Blanca Arroyo,
Blanca.arroyo@ynhs.or

Who decides if I am eligible?

The state of Washington decides if you are eligible and approves your application, not your employer or any community organization. Moments You've Earned is a group of nonprofit organizations in Yakima and Pierce county here to help you apply. All your personal information is kept completely private and is not shared with any other government agency.

Are undocumented Washingtonians eligible for paid leave?

Undocumented workers are eligible if you have paid into the program through paycheck contributions. Taking paid leave is not considered a public charge, so it won't affect your citizenship application. You earn paid leave by paying into the state insurance program.

Can Moments You've Earned, or community-based partners tell me the status of my application?

No. Only the Washington State's Employment Security Department can tell you the status of your application or access any of your personal information. Community-based partner organizations can help you apply but are not connected to the state of Washington.

How much will I receive?

When you take paid leave, you will receive up to 90 percent of your weekly pay, up to a maximum of \$1,206 a week, depending on your wages.

Can I lose my job for taking paid leave?

If your company has 50 or more employees, your job is protected if you have worked for the company for 12 months or longer and have worked 1,250 hours in the year before the first day you take paid leave.