

# Washington's Paid Family and Medical Leave program is here.

## Let's all get ready to be there for care.

**In January 2019**, Washington employees and many employers began investing in a statewide program to provide paid leave to give or receive care. The benefit began in 2020.

Paid Family and Medical Leave supports Washingtonians, whether they are recovering from a serious illness or injury, caring for a new child or helping an aging parent. It means workers won't have to choose between a paycheck and caring for their health and their family.

### What it is:

The program is mandatory because the spirit behind this benefit is one of understanding that at some time we all need—or need to give—extra care and attention.

### Who's eligible:

Nearly every Washington employee who works at least 820 hours (approximately 16 hours weekly) qualifies for the program. All paid work counts toward the 820 hours, including part-time, seasonal and temporary work. To learn more, visit [paidleave.wa.gov](https://paidleave.wa.gov).

### Benefit details (2024):

- Allows up to 12 weeks of paid leave, or up to 18 weeks in certain circumstances.
- Workers receive between \$100 and \$1,456 per week, depending on income.

### Your contribution (2024):

You may have seen a premium set aside from your paycheck, like you see for Medicare. The total premium is **0.74%** of your wages and may be shared between an employee and employer.

Visit [paidleave.wa.gov](https://paidleave.wa.gov) to calculate your contribution and learn more about how you can take time for care.

Washington  
**Paid Family &  
Medical Leave**

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# Paid time off. Peace of mind.

Paid Family and Medical Leave provides paid time off when a serious health condition prevents you from working, when you need to care for a family member or a new child, or for certain military-related events. It's here for you when you need it most, so you can focus on what matters.

## How it works



**Nearly every Washington worker—whether you work full time or part time in a small to large business—is eligible for up to 12 weeks of Paid Family and Medical Leave.** You need to work 820 hours in Washington, or about 16 hours per week, over the course of about a year. You can get up to 16 weeks if you have family and medical events in the same year, or up to 18 weeks in some cases. Leave doesn't have to be taken all at once. You can use these weeks within your "claim year," which starts when you apply and then runs for the next 52 weeks. When that claim year expires you can then be eligible for leave again.

You apply for leave with the Employment Security Department and will get partial wage replacement, up to 90 percent of your typical pay, capped at **\$1,456** per week.

## Your rights



**If you meet the requirements, you have the right to take paid time off using Paid Family and Medical Leave.**

If you qualify for Paid Family and Medical Leave, your employer cannot prevent you from taking it. Your employer also cannot require you to use other types of leave, such as sick or vacation days, before or after taking Paid Family and Medical Leave. The program is funded by premiums shared between workers and many employers. The premium is **0.74%** of your wage. You may pay about **71%** of that total, and your employer (if they have 50 or more employees) pays the rest. A calculator to estimate premiums is available on our website.

To file a complaint against your employer about Paid Family and Medical Leave, email or call our Customer Care Team at [paidleave@esd.wa.gov](mailto:paidleave@esd.wa.gov) or (833) 717-2273.

You may also contact the Office of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Ombuds. The Ombuds is appointed by the governor and serves as a neutral, independent third party to help workers and employers in their dealings with the Department. The Office of the Ombuds investigates, reports on and helps settle complaints about service deficiencies and concerns with the Paid Family and Medical Leave program. Learn more at [www.paidleaveombuds.wa.gov](http://www.paidleaveombuds.wa.gov) or call the Ombuds' office at 844-395-6697.

Learn more and apply at  
[paidleave.wa.gov](http://paidleave.wa.gov)

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