Employment Security Department WASHINGTON STATE

### Paid Family & Medical Leave

#### Financial Managers Advisory Council June 28, 2018



## WHAT WE WILL COVER TODAY

### What to expect from today

Paid Family and Medical Leave Project Timeline

### What is Paid Family and Medical Leave?

Key Details

Voluntary Plans

### Product Overview

Discussion: How can we help?

### WHAT WE WON'T COVER TODAY



### What the technology looks like

### Future rulemaking phase details

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### What is Paid Family and Medical Leave?

Paid Family and Medical Leave is a statewide insurance program.

This program will be funded by premiums paid by both employers and employees. Premium assessment begins Jan. 1, 2019.

Benefits begin in 2020. All eligible employees will receive up to 12 weeks as needed for family or medical leave.

Up to 16 weeks may be taken for a combination of family and medical leave.

Up to 18 weeks may be taken if a condition in pregnancy results in incapacity.

## BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY

Benefits are portable between jobs.

Employees covered by the state program qualify after working 820 hours in the qualifying period.

Employees covered by voluntary plans have the same criteria but must work 340 hours with the current employer.

Employees who have worked 820 hours but don't yet have 340 hours with their employer in the voluntary plan may still take leave under the state program.

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### Paid Family & Medical Leave

### ► What is it?



Far



#### Family Leave



Caring for family members Birth or Certain placement militaryof a child related events

#### Medical Leave



Helps reduce the gender pay gap by giving everyone access to the same leave.





Boosts employee retention and saves businesses money.

Helps achieve better health outcomes for new parents, babies and the elderly.





Provides increased economic stability in times of illness or crisis for a larger proportion of the workforce.

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## **Covered Events: Examples**



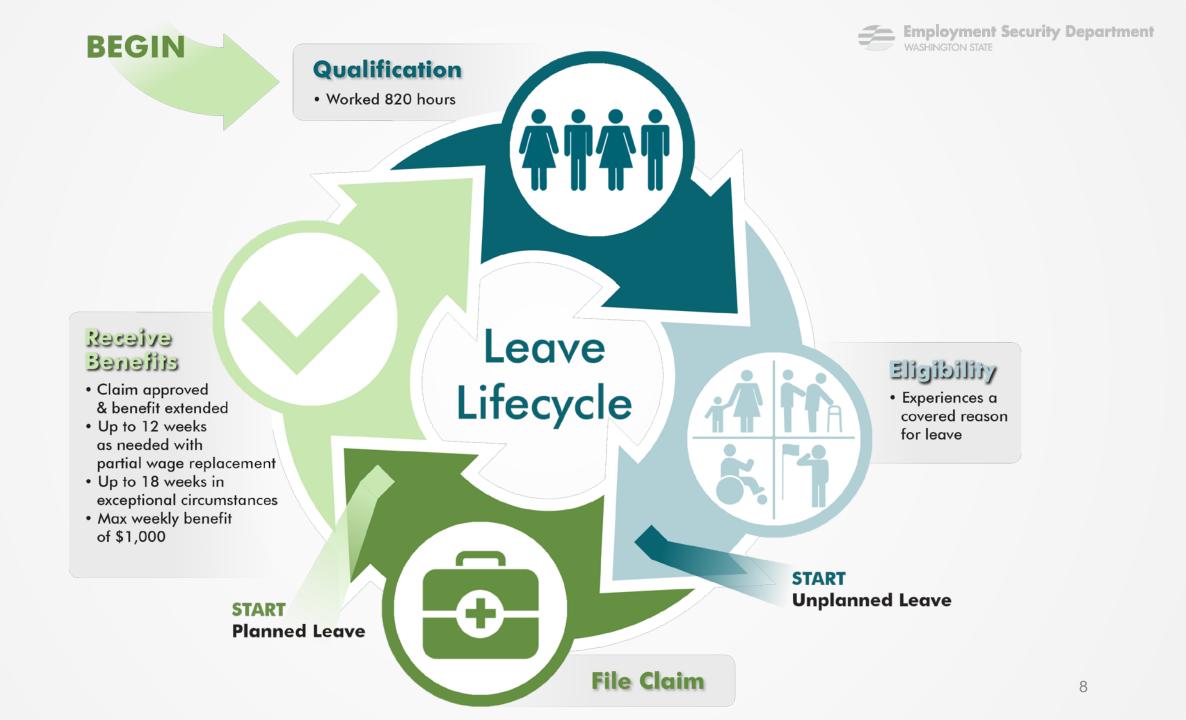
Taking time to receive cancer treatment

Caring for a sibling getting treatment for opioid addiction

Recovering from a back injury following a car accident

Extended hospital stay with a premature baby

Spending time with a parent before a military deployment

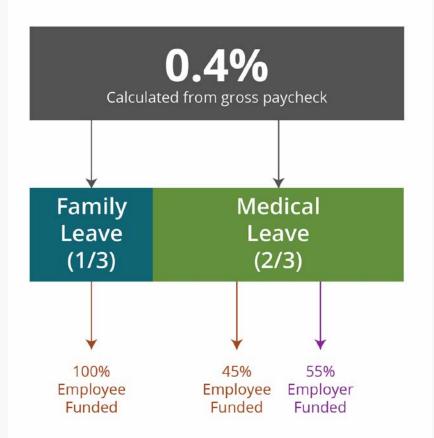


## **Qualification For Benefits**

# 820 Hours

worked during the qualifying period across all employers.

20 Hours/week -> 41 Weeks 40 Hours/week -> 20.5 Weeks



Fewer than 50 employees: Not required to pay EMPLOYER premium

## How It Works: Weekly Benefit Estimates

For example only. This presentation is not a quote of benefits.

Weekly Wage	Projected Annual Wage (Weekly wage *52)	1/2 State Average (For reference)	90% of Weekly Wage (For Reference)	Part A 90% of Weekly Wage or ½ State Average. (Whichever is lower)	Part B 50% of Weekly Wage Over Base (If base is over ½ state average)	Total Weekly Benefit (Part A + Part B, max of \$1,000)
\$576.92	\$30,000	\$566.50	\$519.23	\$519.23	\$0.00	\$519
\$961.54	\$50,000	\$566.50	\$865.38	\$566.50	\$197.52	\$865
\$1,923.08	\$100,000	\$566.50	\$1,730.77	\$566.50	\$678.29	<del>\$1,259</del> \$1,000*

- \*Weekly max benefit \$1,000, which comes out to a yearly income of about \$75,000. Weekly minimum benefit is \$100.
- Benefits subject to change with annual adjustments statute.
- Benefits calculated by annual wages for example purposes only and don't reflect the legal process of benefit calculation.

## Voluntary Plans



#### Any employer may apply for a voluntary plan to provide either family or medical leave benefits, or both.

The employer must have the plan re-approved annually for the first three years. After three years, the employer must submit the plan for re-approval if modified.

The application fee is \$250.

If approved, neither the employee nor the employer pay premiums or file claims through the state program.

The benefits must be equivalent or better than the state program including duration of leave and wage replacement.



The employer must maintain health insurance if required under FMLA.

The employee remains responsible for their portion of the health insurance premiums.

## **Jbb** Protection

Employees covered by the state program are entitled to job restoration when returning from leave if they meet the same requirements under FMLA:

They work for an employer with 50 or more employees.

They have worked for that employer for 12 months or more.

They have worked at least 1,250 hours for that employer in the past 12 months.

Employees covered by a voluntary plan are entitled to job restoration when returning from leave if:



They have worked for that employer for 9 months or more.

They have worked at least 965 hours for that employer in the past 12 months.

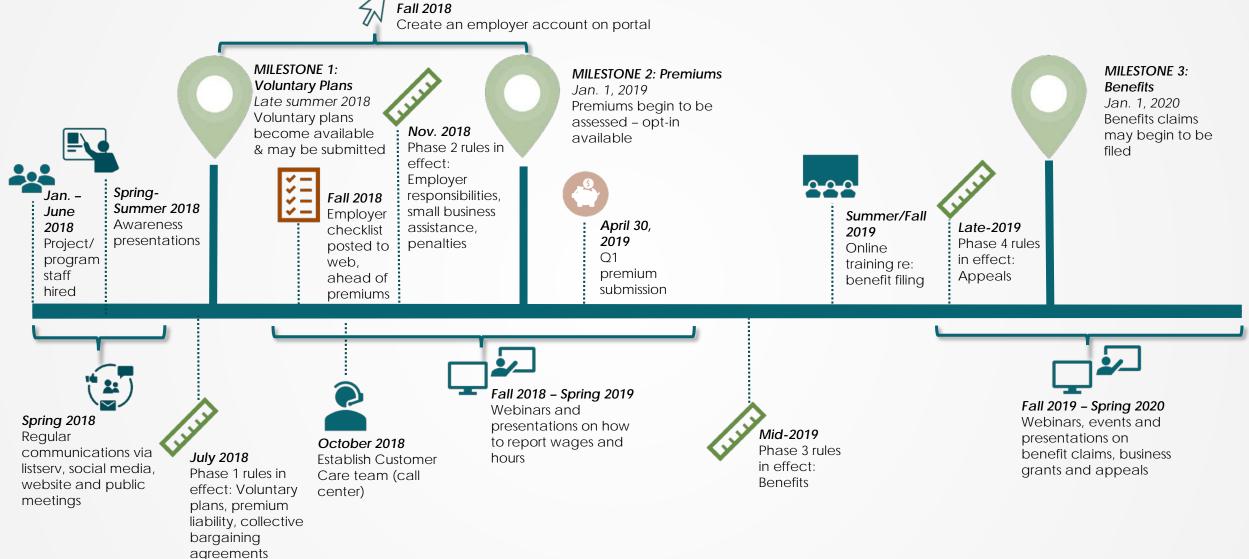
## **Collective Bargaining Agreements**

Before Oct. 19, 2017 Parties to a collective bargaining agreement that was in effect on October 19, 2017, are exempt from all rights and responsibilities under paid family and medical leave until the agreement is reopened, renegotiated, or expires.

After Oct. 19, 2017 Employers with multiple bargaining units are required to adhere to all paid family and medical leave requirements for those bargaining units whose agreement was renegotiated, reopened, or expired after October 19, 2017.

To establish employee benefit eligibility, the Employment Security Department will request information from employers regarding employees whose qualifying periods include a time period where a collective bargaining agreement exempted the employer from reporting requirements.

## PROJECT TIMELINE



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## Getting ready for 2019

- 1. Prepare to withhold premiums.
- 2. Prepare to report wages and hours worked.
- 3. Examine short-term & temporary disability policies.
- 4. Look for mandatory flier later this summer.
- 5. Choose State Plan or Voluntary Plan.

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### CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Survey Link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ FMAC0628

Questions? Email: paidleave@esd.wa.gov



 Visit us online at
www.esd.wa.gov/paid-familymedical-leave





Ask questions and make comments on our public forum at bit.ly/commentforum