

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Employment Development Department Issues Disability Insurance Program Update, Promotes Expanded Paid Family Leave Program

Note: Examples of Paid Family Leave outreach campaign images appear at the bottom of this news release.

SACRAMENTO— California Employment Development Department (EDD) today issued an update on Disability Insurance Branch activities including a new campaign to promote [California's Paid Family Leave program](#), which provides up to two months of wage replacement to help bond with a new child, care for an ill family member, or when a family member deploys for military service internationally.

“California launched the country’s first Paid Family Leave program and we continue to invest strongly in it,” said EDD Director Rita Saenz. “Paid Family Leave delivers benefits to California workers so they can be there for the moments that matter most.”

One in three California workers are estimated to experience an event that would qualify them for Paid Family Leave benefits in the next decade. Workers receive up to 70 percent of their weekly wages earned 5 to 18 months before their claim start date. The benefits are available for up to eight weeks within a 12-month period. California was the first state to implement a Paid Family Leave program in 2004.

EDD has launched a public education campaign to boost awareness about these vital benefits. The campaign, “Moments Matter,” includes radio, TV, and digital advertising focused on notifying Californians about how to apply for benefits. Most employees pay for these benefits through payroll deductions, noted as “CASDI” on most paystubs.

EDD also created a [Paid Family Leave community partnership page](#) with all the resources and information to help communities access these important benefits. EDD will be hosting [webinar events](#) on November 10, 2021 and December 8, 2021 for claimants, employers and medical providers. [A Step-by-Step guide of the claims process](#) is also on EDD’s website. The [PFL eligibility page](#) contains information on whether a person qualifies and the [Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave Calculator](#) helps individuals estimate how much benefits they will receive.

(more)

Paid Family Leave provides benefit payments to people who need to take time off work to:

- Bond with a new child by birth or through adoption or foster care placement.
- Care for a seriously ill child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner.
- Participate in a qualifying event because of a family member’s international military deployment.
- Engage in any other qualifying activity [listed in state law](#).

This year, California expanded the program to aid military families with the [Military Assist paid family leave program](#). Benefits support workers who take time off work to handle essential needs when a family member (spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, or child) is deployed to another country including:

- Making childcare or parental care arrangements.
- Attending military sponsored events.
- Making legal or financial arrangements.

The EDD’s outreach campaign will also target hard-to-reach communities in different languages to help increase knowledge and awareness of the PFL program across the state.

California State Disability Insurance (SDI) is a partial wage-replacement insurance plan for California workers. The program is state-mandated and funded through employee payroll deductions. Workers covered by SDI have access to both Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave benefits when eligible.

Disability insurance provides benefits to eligible workers who have a loss of wages due to a non-work-related illness or injury, pregnancy or childbirth.

Video Tutorials and Other Resources

To learn more about this valuable program supporting California families visit [California Paid Family Leave](#). The EDD has developed [online tutorials and videos](#) to guide you through State Disability Insurance (SDI) Online and registration in Benefit Programs Online. EDD has also created a comprehensive [Paid Family Leave guidebook](#). Videos on how to file a claim through SDI online or by mail are [posted on YouTube](#).

