

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**This Father's Day, dads are encouraged to take advantage of California's Paid Family Leave program**

SACRAMENTO - As we celebrate Father's Day this Sunday, the California Employment Development Department (EDD) invites fathers and fathers-to-be to take advantage of the state's innovative Paid Family Leave (PFL) program. While many dads may not know it, PFL applies to fathers as well as mothers and offers paid time off from work to bond with a newborn, an adopted child, a stepchild, or a foster child during their first year of fatherhood.

"What I've learned as a father is there's no greater joy a dad can experience, or gift he can give his child than time together," said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning Jr. "The Paid Family Leave program can help nurture the bond between a father and his child that can last a lifetime. And at EDD, we're proud to administer the nation's first such program here in California."

Most working fathers are eligible for partial wage-replacement benefits through PFL, which offers up to six weeks of benefits in a 12-month period and is funded by their own paycheck contributions to the State Disability Insurance program. Fathers can take the leave all at once or stagger it over the course of a year. In addition to bonding, dads can use PFL benefits to help ease the financial burden when they need to take time off to care for a seriously ill child.

Since the program's debut on July 1, 2004, the EDD has processed nearly 600,000 PFL claims and provided more than \$1.3 billion in benefits to California dads. And the number of fathers using PFL is growing, more than tripling since the first full year that benefits became available.

The EDD is enhancing its public education efforts over the next several months to help fathers as well as all other potentially eligible Californians understand more about the PFL program and its benefits. It can provide some needed financial support to take some time away from work and invest it in your family.

For more information about Paid Family Leave benefit eligibility, benefit amounts, and how to apply, please visit [www.edd.ca.gov/disability](http://www.edd.ca.gov/disability) for details.