

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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## **This Father's Day, EDD highlights California's Paid Family Leave**

*NOTE to editors: Broadcast quality soundbites and B-roll are available for download. Details below.*

SACRAMENTO – This Father's Day, the California Employment Development Department (EDD) highlights California's Paid Family Leave program, which provides up to six weeks of partial pay for workers to take time off from work to bond with a new child.

California became the first state in the nation to create a Paid Family Leave program, which provides benefits to workers who take time off to care for an ill family member or to bond with a child entering their family either by birth, adoption or foster care. In 2017, more than 77,000 new fathers used the program.

"California's Paid Family Leave benefits can make it financially possible for new fathers to bond with their newest family member," said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. "The EDD is proud to administer these benefits for new parents and caregivers, and we encourage more new fathers to take advantage of a program that lets them be present for the moments that matter."

### ***California Paid Family Leave Program at a Glance:***

- As of 2018, California Paid Family Leave has the highest wage replacement rate in the country for eligible individuals to receive benefits when they take time off from work to care for a family member.
- New parents can receive up to six weeks of benefits within a 12-month period during the first year of a child entering their family – up to 70 percent of their wages– with a maximum weekly benefit amount of \$1,216 per week. The EDD offers an [online benefit calculator](#) to provide workers with an estimate of their potential weekly benefits.
- Most workers have already paid for Paid Family Leave benefits through State Disability Insurance paycheck deductions.
- The leave can be used all at once, or it can be staggered or split up as needed, over a 12-month period.
- Eligible individuals can also use paid leave for time off from work to care for a seriously ill family member.

More information about California Paid Family Leave benefits, eligibility and how to apply is available at [californiapaidfamilyleave.com](http://californiapaidfamilyleave.com).

***California Paid Family Leave Statistics at a Glance:***

- In 2017 more than 77,000 fathers used Paid Family Leave to bond with a new child, and the EDD paid more than \$256 million in wage-replacement benefits. In 2016, EDD received 70,000 claims from fathers and issued \$187 million in benefits.
- Biological fathers are the fastest growing segment of Californians using the program – up 600 percent since the program’s debut in 2004.
- Since 2004, the EDD has processed more than 747,000 claims and provided more than \$1.8 billion in benefits to California fathers.
- Approximately 18.3 million workers are covered by the program in California, which is funded through employee payroll deductions.

**Media - Broadcast-quality soundbites and B-roll about the Paid Family Leave program available for download include:**

- **Paid Family Leave Father** – Soundbites and B-roll with father describing the advantages of having his Paid Family Leave benefits, and interacting with his new baby.
- **Paid Family Leave program representatives** – Soundbites in English and Spanish from EDD representatives describing features of the program.

Contact the EDD Media Services Office for broadcast quality video at [EDDMediaInquiries@edd.ca.gov](mailto:EDDMediaInquiries@edd.ca.gov).

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