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Paid Leave Oregon marks three years of supporting Oregon workers and families

Salem, Ore. — September marks the three-year anniversary of Paid Leave Oregon. Since its inception, the program has served hundreds of thousands of Oregonians when health, family, or safety needs demanded their attention.

Since the first Oregonians received benefits on September 13, 2023, over two hundred thousand Oregonians have received Paid Leave benefits, with more than \$2.2 billion paid to workers across the state.

“A serious illness, having a child, the need to care for someone you love or a threat to your safety can suddenly demand your full attention while the rest of life keeps moving,” said Paid Leave Oregon Director Juan Serratos. “Paid Leave gives Oregonians the ability to be there for themselves and the people who depend on them while maintaining the financial stability they and their families rely on.”

Personal medical leave continues to represent the largest share of applications, followed by bonding and leave to care for a family member. Oregonians also use Paid Leave for adoption and foster care placement, and to address needs related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other threats to their safety.

As more Oregonians use the program, Paid Leave has also continued to strengthen its customer service. The average time it takes to decide if someone is eligible has fallen by more than half since its peak in 2024, and recent months have shown improvement in call wait times even as demand for phone assistance has grown.

“Our mission is to support business and promote employment, and our customers are at the core of that mission,” said OED Director Andrew R. Stolfi. “Paid Leave recognizes that workers get sick, welcome new family members and sometimes need to care for others. It help workers stay financially stable and in their jobs while giving employers a better chance to retain experienced employees and we are glad to celebrate the program’s third anniversary.”

As Paid Leave enters its fourth year of benefits, the program is focused on serving a growing number of customers and making Paid Leave a normal and well-understood part of working in Oregon — something workers know is available before the day they need it.

Paid Leave reflects a basic commitment that when health, family, or safety temporarily demand a worker's attention, they should have support to get through that period without unnecessarily losing their financial footing or their connection to employment. That stability supports workers and families, helps employers retain experienced employees, and makes Oregon a healthier, happier, and more prosperous place to live and work.

To learn more about Paid Leave Oregon, including eligibility and how to apply for benefits, visit paidleave.oregon.gov.

About Paid Leave Oregon

Paid Leave Oregon provides temporary, paid time away from work so employees can have financial security when experiencing significant life events. Covered events include welcoming a new child, recovering from a serious health condition, caring for a family member with a serious health condition, or addressing issues related to sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, or harassment. Paid leave benefits help Oregonians stay connected to their jobs and maintain financial stability during these major personal events. Learn more at paidleave.oregon.gov.

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