

Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance*

The ESD participates in Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) and Paid Leave Oregon¹. This includes submitting employee and employer contributions to the Oregon Employment Department (“Department”) as required by state law.² The ESD does not administer PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon. All applications and related questions should be directed to the Department.

Definitions

1. “Family leave” means leave from work taken by a covered individual:
 - a. To care for and bond with a child during the first year after the child’s birth or during the first year after the placement of the child through foster care or adoption; or
 - b. ³To effectuate the legal process required for placement of a foster child or the adoption of a child; or
 - c. To care for a family member with a serious health condition.
2. “Family leave” does not mean:
 - a. Leave described in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 659A.159 (1)(a)(i.e., care for a child who is suffering from an illness, injury or condition that requires home care or who requires home care due to closure of the child’s school or child care provider as a result of a public health emergency) except for leave to care for a child who requires home care due to an illness, injury or condition that is a serious health condition;
 - b. Leave described in ORS 659A.159 (1)(b) (death of a family member); or
 - c. Leave authorized under ORS 659A.093 (leave for spouses of members of the military upon deployment or call to active duty).
3. “Family member” means:
 - a. The spouse of a covered individual;
 - b. A child or the child’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - c. A parent or the parent’s spouse or domestic partner;

¹ Paid Leave Oregon is the program developed by the Oregon Department of Employment to administer Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance.

² The overall contribution will be determined by the Department director, and is initially set at 1 percent (up to \$132,900). The employer contribution is 40 percent and the employee contribution is 60 percent of this amount. The amount will be set annually by November 15. See ORS 657B.150.

³ This provision becomes effective on January 1, 2025.

- d. A sibling or stepsibling of a covered individual or the sibling's or stepsibling's spouse or domestic partner;
 - e. A grandparent of a covered individual or the grandparent's spouse or domestic partner;
 - f. A grandchild of a covered individual or the grandchild's spouse or domestic partner;
 - g. The domestic partner of a covered individual; or
 - h. Any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with a covered individual is the equivalent of a family relationship.
4. "Medical Leave" means leave from work taken by a covered individual that is made necessary by the individual's own serious health condition.
 5. "Safe leave" means leave related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking and relocation for health and safety reasons as provided in ORS 659A.272.
 6. "Serious health condition" means:
 - a. An illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that requires inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility;
 - b. An illness, disease or condition that in the medical judgement of the treating health care provider poses an imminent danger of death, is terminal in prognosis with a reasonable possibility of death in the near future, or requires constant care;
 - c. Any period of disability due to pregnancy, or period of absence for prenatal care; or
 - d. Any period of absence for the donation of a body part, organ or tissue, including preoperative or diagnostic services, surgery, post-operative treatment and recovery.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible for Paid Leave Oregon benefits, an individual must:
 - a. Be an employee of the ESD⁴;
 - b. Earn at least \$1,000 in the base or alternate base year⁵;
 - c. Contribute to Paid Leave Oregon in accordance with state law;
 - d. Experience an event qualifying the employee for:
 - (1) Family leave;
 - (2) Medical leave; or
 - (3) Safe leave.
 - e. Submit an application to Department;
 - f. Have not exceeded maximum paid leave in the active benefit year; and
 - g. Have no current disqualifications⁶.

Leave

⁴ PFMLI is a state-wide benefit, and not unique to the ESD. An eligible individual does not need to be an employee of the ESD in order to be eligible for PFMLI, but this policy only applies to employees of the ESD.

⁵ Pay could come from another Oregon employer.

⁶ Disqualifications may include eligibility for Workers' Compensation or Unemployment or determination of a willful false statement or failure to report a material fact in order to obtain benefits. See OAR 471-070-1010(1)(h).

Paid Leave Oregon can be used for family leave, medical leave or safe leave. Up to 12 weeks of paid leave can be taken per benefit year.⁷ Leave can be taken in one-day increments and can be consecutive or nonconsecutive.

Any family leave or medical leave taken under Paid Leave Oregon must be taken concurrently with any leave taken by an eligible employee under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-3, FMLA) for the same purposes. Leave taken under Paid Leave Oregon is in addition to, and may not be taken concurrently with, any leave taken pursuant to ORS 659A.150 - 659A.186 (Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA)).

The ESD will maintain an employee's existing health benefits while the employee is using leave. The employee will be required to pay the employee's contribution to premiums.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 657B](#)
[ORS 659A.162](#)

[OAR 471-07](#)

[Senate Bill 1515](#) (2024).

⁷ In some pregnancy-related situations (e.g., pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition), employees may be able to take two additional weeks, for a total for 14 weeks per benefit year.