

paid family & medical leave

the challenge

Michiganders work hard. To support them, we have delivered on policies that make a real difference in their lives: safe roads, clean water, affordable housing, quality education, accessible child care, strong labor unions, and so much more. Because when families succeed, our economy thrives.

Unfortunately, far too many Michigan workers—[more than seven in ten](#)—do not have access to paid family or medical leave. This means that millions of Michiganders must sacrifice their own paychecks if a family member falls ill; if they get hurt and need to recover; or if they have a child. They deserve better.

Governor Whitmer enacted paid parental leave for all state government employees—an action she was able to take as the state’s chief executive. Since it was established in October 2020, nearly 3,500 state employees have used it to care for their newborns.

what's next

Surveys show paid family and medical leave is one of the top three policies people prioritize when considering where to relocate. Over [60% of adults](#) who plan to move in the next two years would be more likely to go somewhere with paid family and medical leave. 40% said they would be less likely to go somewhere without paid family and medical leave.

Access to paid family and medical leave is a priority for all workers, but especially for women, who make up half the state’s workforce and often bear the brunt of caretaking responsibilities. Removing barriers to enter the workforce could mean an additional 150,000 working women, earning \$4.8 billion of wages. Paid family and medical leave also has a positive impact on maternal and children’s health and development. Getting this done will also level the playing field for small businesses, helping them attract and retain workers.

No one should have to choose between being there for their family and a paycheck. Paid family and medical leave is a pro-family, pro-small business policy that will grow Michigan's population and economy.