

We're working hard to address high demand.

We are excited to share that thousands of Washingtonians are already taking advantage of the country's best Paid Family and Medical Leave program! Demand is very high however, so here's what you need to know:

- We received three months' projected applications in the first three weeks.
- You can find expected processing times on our website (paidleave.wa.gov/after-you-apply).
- All available resources are working to process claims as quickly as possible.

Paid Leave matters

"I'm so thankful for this new benefit. Because of it I have the opportunity to spend a little more time with baby Violet before returning to work. You never get this time back."

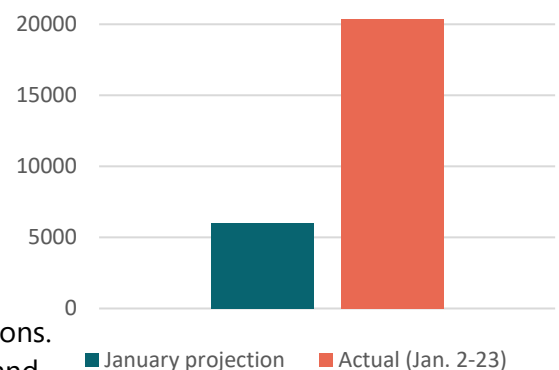
- Customer story shared on social media

Resources to share

- **For people who have already applied.**
paidleave.wa.gov/after-you-apply
- **For people who need help with their application.**
paidleave.wa.gov/benefit-guide, or for tutorial videos and FAQs, paidleave.wa.gov/technical-support

First three weeks

Applications Jan. 2-23



From the Commissioner

"We had originally estimated up to four weeks to process applications. However, we have received a much higher volume than expected and believe we will exceed that threshold soon. Please know that we are doing everything we can to expand our capacity and process applications as quickly as possible while maintaining high quality care and thoroughness.

"Having over 20,000 applications in just three weeks is a testament to the need Washingtonians have for paid leave to care for themselves and their families. That said, we recognize that there may be some who will experience hardships by not getting the benefit sooner than we are able to process their application, and we apologize deeply for the difficulty this may cause. It's important for customers to know that, if approved, the payments will be retroactively paid to the date leave began and not to the date when the application is approved." - Suzi LeVine, Commissioner for the Employment Security Department