

**2015 Paid Leave Analysis Grantee  
Information**

<b>Grant Program</b>	2015 Paid Leave Analysis Grant
<b>Grantee Name</b>	Washington Employment Security Department
<b>Grantee City and State</b>	Olympia, Washington
<b>Grant Request Amount</b>	\$247,000
<b>Location of Grant Activities</b>	State of Washington
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>The Washington Employment Security Department will study the feasibility and impact of the state's Family Leave Insurance Act of 2007. Lack of an identifiable funding mechanism and subsequent legislation has postponed its implementation. The grant project will engage active modeling, polling and research and estimate costs and benefits that will provide evidence, garner support and identify savings in other areas of government to move Washington toward implementation of a paid family leave program. The project will leverage modeling efforts by a 2014 grant recipient, Massachusetts, to help hone financing, eligibility and benefit models for their program design. They will run several different benefit scenarios. Using these initial simulations, they will fund expert internal analysts to create a tailored set of hypothetical benefits and relative costs. These initial simulations and analytics will provide a basis for statewide polling. Polling will measure voter's views toward paid family leave, their willingness to support a paid family leave program, preferences on plan(s) from the hypothetical model, and opinions on communication and outreach strategies. In particular, the polling will poll ways the program can be designed to encourage new fathers to take advantage of paid parental leave equal to new mothers. Once a preferred benefit model is selected through statewide poll, they will reengage with Massachusetts to model more detailed simulations. Based on the results of this second simulation, the state will estimate take up rates, total costs of the benefit, and the amount of the premium required to fund the benefit. Concurrently, researchers from the University of Washington will complete two reports. The first will model the potential uptake of paid family leave and estimate its potential impact on families and employers and the second will examine how leave will impact state-funded programs.</p>
<b>Populations to be Served</b>	Washington State Eligible Employees
<b>Team Members</b>	Washington Employment Security Department University of Washington Lake Research Partners (LRP)
<b>Public Contact Information</b>	Neil Gorrell Employment Security policy and UI Director 212 Maple Park

---

Olympia, WA 98507-9046  
360-902-9303  
[Neil.gorrell@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Neil.gorrell@esd.wa.gov)