



September 2021 Update

Greetings from the PFMLI team! We hope you were able to enjoy your summer and stay cool with the record temperatures that we saw. It was a busy summer for the PFMLI team as we continue to make progress on building this exciting program for Oregon workers and their families. It is important to us to keep you up-to-date on the latest developments from the PFMLI program.

What's New?

The Oregon Employment Department has decided to form a single “contributions” group to operate the UI Tax program and the PFMLI contributions program. This allows a single point of contact for employers. The goal is to provide a technology system that allows employers to pay contributions through a one payroll reporting process for all OED programs, including PFMLI. This will help OED implement a program that is more user-friendly and efficient for employers.

PFMLI’s Interim Director Gerhard Taeubel has announced he is stepping down. Under Gerhard’s leadership, PFMLI was able to achieve significant progress even during the turbulence of the pandemic, including working with many partners to have PFMLI technology components incorporated into Modernization. Gerhard also led the PFMLI team through many key programmatic decisions, such as guiding the legislative adjustment of the program’s implementation dates, making considerable headway with policies and rules, building a foundation for communications and outreach, and, most of all, building a great team to put all of the pieces together to implement such an important program.

OED has already started [a competitive process to find the next person to lead the PFMLI program](#), and we hope to fill the position before Gerhard departs. We wish Gerhard the best of luck on his next adventure.

PFMLI met for the first time with its Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) on September 29. The RAC discussed Oregon PFMLI Batch 1 administrative rules related specifically to wages, contributions, employer size, assistance grants, equivalent plans, self-employed, and the PFMLI program’s outreach plan. The RAC is an important part of the rule-adoption process, PFMLI wants to ensure affected individuals, and groups provide input and suggestions during the development of the rules. The RAC is one of the many opportunities the public will have to provide feedback on administrative rules.

Hear from Oregonians on what PFMLI means to them:

My mother had to have surgery on her wrist and couldn't move it for two weeks. She couldn't eat or really do anything. She needed my help and support. It was hard for me to balance caring for her and work. I couldn't leave work for the full two weeks to take care of her. It resulted in me having to choose between working and taking care of my mom when she needed my help. If PFMLI would have been in place, I wouldn't have had to make those tough decisions between work and family. – Heinar

Meet the PFMLI Leadership Team:

Isela Gonzalez, Policy Lead, PFMLI:



Isela Ramos Gonzalez is a Policy Lead in the PFMLI Division. Isela had dedicated more than 15 years of her career to the labor and employment field. She is an attorney admitted to practice law in Oregon and California. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wellesley College, a Master's degree in Public Policy from American University, and Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law.



Shannon Ball, Policy Lead, PFMLI:

Shannon Ball is a Policy Lead for the PFMLI Division with a focus on drafting administrative rules, legislation, and assisting in design sessions with Modernization and PFMLI. Prior to working with OED, she worked at the Oregon Department of Revenue for almost 18 years in Personal Income Tax. The last nine years she worked on administrative rules, legislation, developing forms and instruction, and conducted annual outreach and training to tax practitioners on the new law updates for the Personal Income Tax division. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Oregon. Shannon is excited to create policies for the

PFMLI program that will allow families to have stability in their income so they can take time off with their children and loved ones during a critical time of need.

Get in touch

We want to create a program that's informed by the needs and experiences of Oregonians. Do you know someone who might be interested in learning more about paid family and medical leave insurance? Send them a link to our [website](#), and encourage them to sign up for [PFMLI email updates](#)!

We welcome your questions and ideas and we want to hear from everyone who has ideas to share. **If you have questions or concerns, please send an email to PaidFamilyAndMedicalLeave@oregon.gov.**