## Update on



## Connecticut Paid Leave

Erin O'Brien Choquette Chief Executive Officer CT Paid Leave Authority January 10, 2023

## **AGENDA**

What Is CTPL? (& What is FMLA?)

What Are the Qualifying Reasons for benefits?

CT Paid Leave Program Statistics

How To Be a CTPL Ambassador





# What is CTPL?

CTPL provides incomereplacement during certain qualifying family and health leaves

- CTPL stands for CT Paid Leave
- The CT Paid Leave Act is a Connecticut law that:
  - Creates a source of incomereplacement benefits for eligible employees who cannot work for the same reasons as FMLA
  - It does <u>not</u> provide job-protected leave.
- Individuals who work for covered employers contribute .5% of their wages to the CT Paid Leave Trust, which funds the benefits



### FMLA stands for Family and Medical Leave Act

• There is a **federal FMLA & a CT FMLA.** Both have been around since the 1990's.

# What is FMLA?

- Both laws allow eligible employees to take **job-protected time away from work** for certain family and medical reasons.
- Leave taken under FMLA is unpaid. Employers may adopt policies to provide for income replacement during the leave, but they are not required to.

FMLA provides job-protected leave for certain qualifying family and health conditions

- Some employers provide paid leave to their employees (example: continuing to pay employees their regular pay while they are out on parental leave)
- Many employers require or permit employees to use their earned accruals (sick leave, vacation leave, other PTO) while they are out on leave
- The CT FMLA covers more workers than federal FMLA





## Qualifying Reasons to Apply for Leave/Receive Benefits



#### **MEDICAL LEAVE**

Medical leave is leave taken by a worker to receive treatment for or recover from their own serious health condition.

This includes serving as an organ or bone marrow donor and pregnancy.



#### **BONDING LEAVE**

Bonding is the emotional and physical attachment that occurs between the parent and the child. Bonding leave is taken by a worker not only for the time physically spent with the newborn or newly placed child, but also the time needed to process adoption or foster care placement if applicable.

- Both parents may take bonding leave
- Bonding leave may be taken any time during the 12 months after the birth/placement
- Applies to birth, adoption or foster care



#### **CAREGIVER LEAVE**

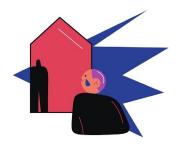
Caregiver leave is taken by a worker to provide physical or psychological care or psychological comfort and reassurance for a family member experiencing a serious health condition.

CT laws have a broad definition of family

## Qualifying Reasons to Apply for Leave/Receive Benefits







#### **MILITARY CAREGIVER LEAVE**

Military Caregiver leave is taken by a worker to care for a covered family member who is a member of the military who and has experienced a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces.

#### **QUALIFYING EXIGENCY LEAVE**

Qualifying exigency leave is taken by a worker to engage in certain activities arising from a spouse, child or parent is on federal active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty in the Armed Services.

### **FAMILY VIOLENCE LEAVE ACT**

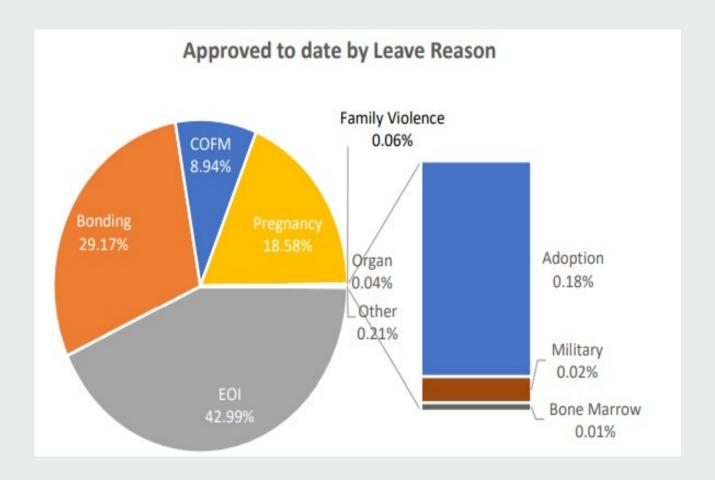
Family violence leave can be taken by a worker who is a victim of family violence:

- to seek medical/psychological care or counseling for physical or psychological injury or disability;
- to obtain services from a victim services organization;
- to relocate due to such family violence; or
- to participate in any civil or criminal proceeding related to or resulting from such family violence.

(Up to 12 days in a calendar year)



## Claims



425,782 payments released

to 43,683 unique employees

covering 2,507,107 total days paid

for a total gross of \$244,516,760



### **Employer Stats**

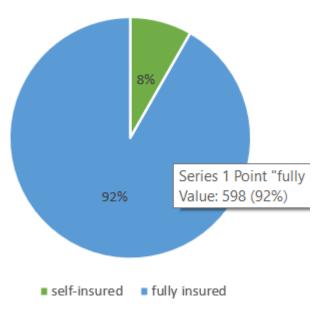
- 142,961 Employers + Sole Props Registered
- 652 employers with approved private plans

#### **Employers Registered - Employee Size**

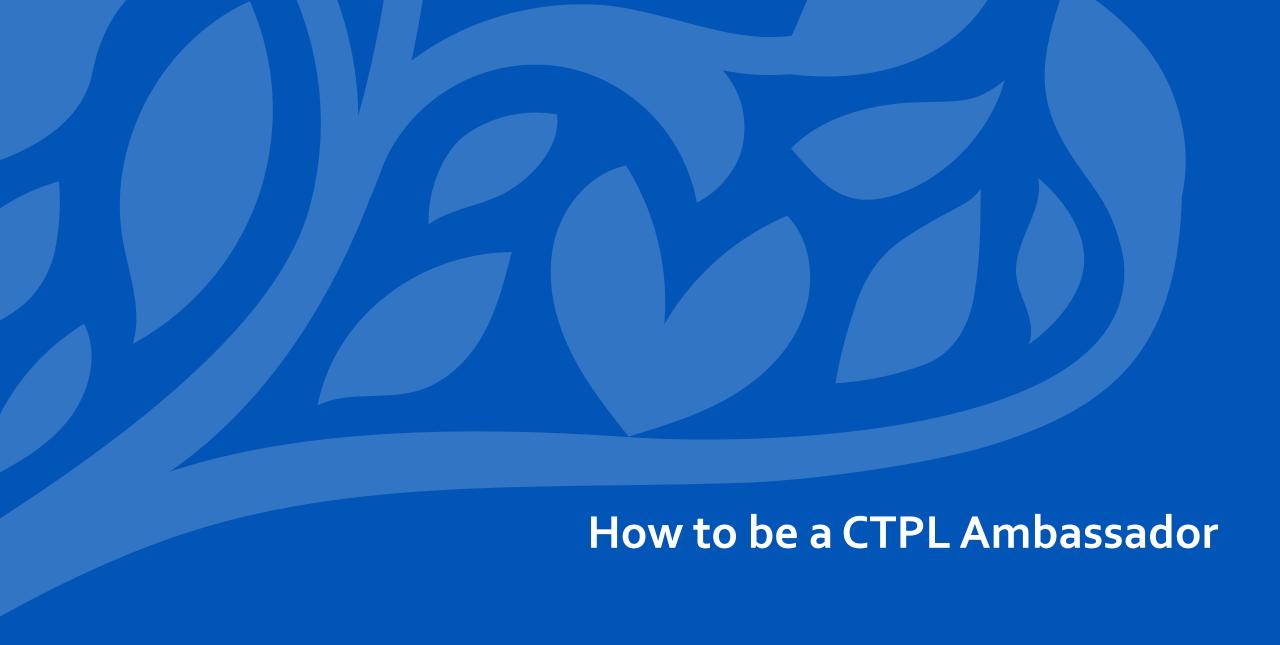
(Portal Registrations)



#### Private Plan Breakdown







## Consider how the CTPL reasons intersect with the services you provide & the populations you serve

- Are you helping military families during deployments?
- Do you provide services to individuals impacted by family violence?
- Do you support foster families?
- Are you assisting individuals with disabilities who are entering the workforce?
- Do you provide access to or information about mental health services?
- Are you trying to encourage people to become bone marrow donors?
- Do you offer caregiver support programs?
- Are you a health care provider? A social worker? A resources officer?





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