

# Alachua County Paid Parental Leave

# Alachua County, Florida

# ALACHUA COUNTY Certified Public Manager Graduates

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# **The Paid Parental Leave Opportunity**

- Alachua County does not currently provide for paid parental leave.
- Potential employees are increasingly seeking social benefits such as paid leave to care for a new family member.
- Alachua County values supporting the well-being of all employees and their families.



## **Alachua County Can Consider This Opportunity**

Review and adopt a policy for **paid parental leave** that:

- 1. Applies to all employees who have met eligibility
- 2. Supports healthy outcomes for families
- 3. Promotes employee wellness
- 4. Improves opportunities for attracting and retaining employees
- 5. Ensures the continued mission of the County



#### What is Paid Parental Leave?

Parental Leave is paid leave that is available to all qualifying employees within 6 months of the event (birth, adoption, fostering).



How do we compare with other local employers?

**University of Florida** 

Up to 8 weeks of paid leave, upon hire.

**City of Gainesville** 

Alachua County Florida

Up to 12 weeks of paid leave. Employed for 12 months, 1250 hours worked, regular employee

**City of Newberry** 

6 weeks paid for the primary caregiver, 2 weeks for the secondary caregiver. Employed for 12 months, worked at least 1,250 hours, regular employee



## How do we compare with other Cities?

- Jacksonville 6 weeks
- St. Petersburg 8 weeks
- Wellington 6 weeks
- Tampa 10 weeks
- Doral 4 weeks
- Tallahassee 6 weeks
- West Palm Beach 6 weeks

Most have stipulations for 12 months prior employment and 1,250 hours worked over the previous 12 months.

All that have Unions stipulate that the benefit must be bargained.



- Hillsborough 6 weeks
- Leon 6 weeks

Alachua County

- Miami Dade 6 weeks
- Wakulla 4 weeks

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#### **Positives Associated with Parental Leave**

- Employees can take care of their family while maintaining financial security.
- Improves health outcomes for mothers and babies.
- Can promote parent-child bonding.
- Increases gender equity at home and the workplace.
- Improves likelihood of retention & productivity with the agency.

#### **Potential Positive Outcomes**

- Happier families generate more productive employees.
- Increased equity in the workplace.
- Decreased turnover.
- Better health outcomes for families.
- Improved Employee retention/recruitment.

#### How much will it cost

- In most cases this is a soft cost as the FTE is already budgeted.
  - In Fire Rescue there will be additional hard cost as employees must be replaced on shifts.
  - Other departments may need to pay Out Of Class pay to cover the employee on leave.
- Productivity loss

### Recommendation

- Provide 6 weeks paid parental leave for all eligible employees.
  - \* Must be bargained with Unions.

# **Policy Statement**

The Board will provide paid leave to eligible employees to be used to care for and bond with the newborn, foster/legal guardian or adopted child of that employee after the birth or placement of the child.