



Improving Rhode Island's Paid Family Leave Program

March 10, 2021

www.RightfromtheStartRI.org

#RightStartRI

Let's make sure all babies and young children
get off to the Right Start!



Campaign Overview

We are a State Budget and Legislative Campaign to Advance Policies for Families with Young Children in Rhode Island

Steering Committee

- Beautiful Beginnings
- Economic Progress Institute
- Latino Policy Institute
- Rhode Island Association for Infant Mental Health
- Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children
- Rhode Island Head Start Association
- Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Campaign Champions include the RI Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, East Bay Community Action, Parents Leading for Education Equity (PLEE), RI NOW, and many others.

Sign Up to be a Campaign Champion at: <https://rightfromthestartri.org/right-start-agenda-2/>



2021 Campaign Priorities

- Enact strong state and federal **revenue** policies.
- Pass the **RI Child Care is Essential Act** to improve access to high-quality, affordable child care.
- Pass the **RI Early Educators Investment Act** to establish goals for early educator wages.
- Improve our state's **paid family leave program** (Temporary Caregivers Insurance).



2021 Campaign Priorities

- Cover **community-based doula services** through Medicaid and private health insurance.
- Address the staffing crisis for the **RI Early Intervention program** and our network of voluntary **Family Home Visiting programs** by increasing Medicaid rates.
- Maintain full state funding and children's access to **RI Pre-K and Head Start**.
- Vote to **pass Question 3 and Question 5 on the March 2, 2021** ballot to expand access to affordable housing and help early learning programs improve their facilities. - PASSED!



Paid Family Leave: TCI

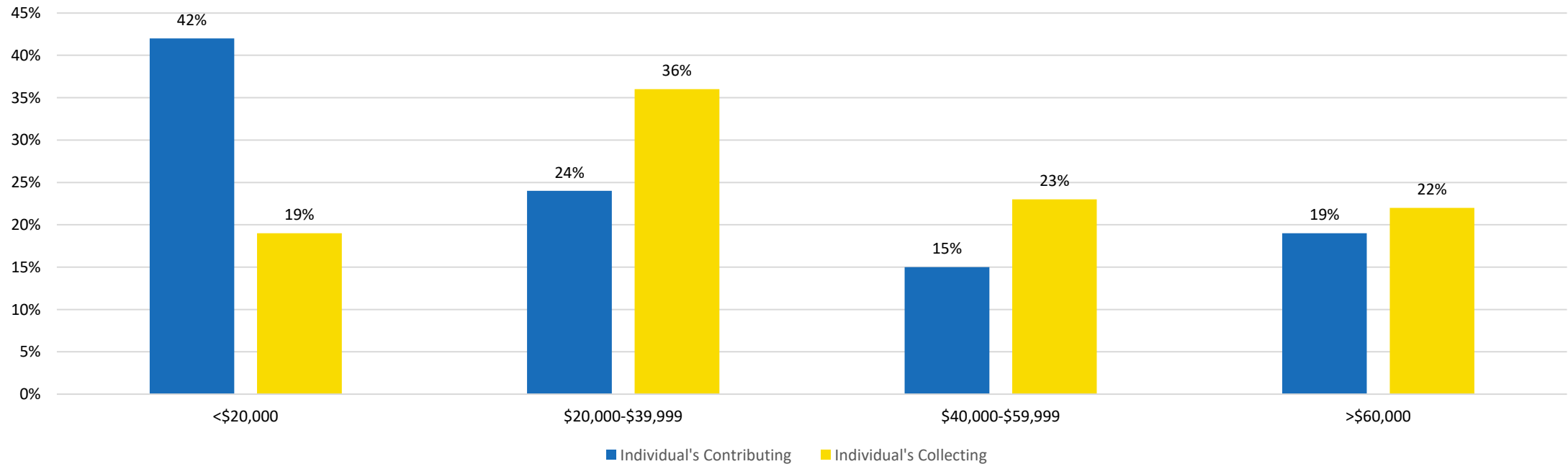
Rhode Island was 3rd state in country to enact paid leave, Temporary Caregivers Insurance or TCI, in 2013

- Available to employees who pay into TDI/TCI fund
- Provides wage replacement benefits for up to 4 weeks in a 12 month period to enable workers to:
 - Bond with a child – newborn, adopted, foster child
 - Care for a seriously ill family member
- Worker must meet the earnings requirement at least \$12,120
- Wage Replacement is around 60% of wages (plus dependent benefit)
Max benefit = \$852; Min benefit = \$94
- Job Protection



Paid Family Leave

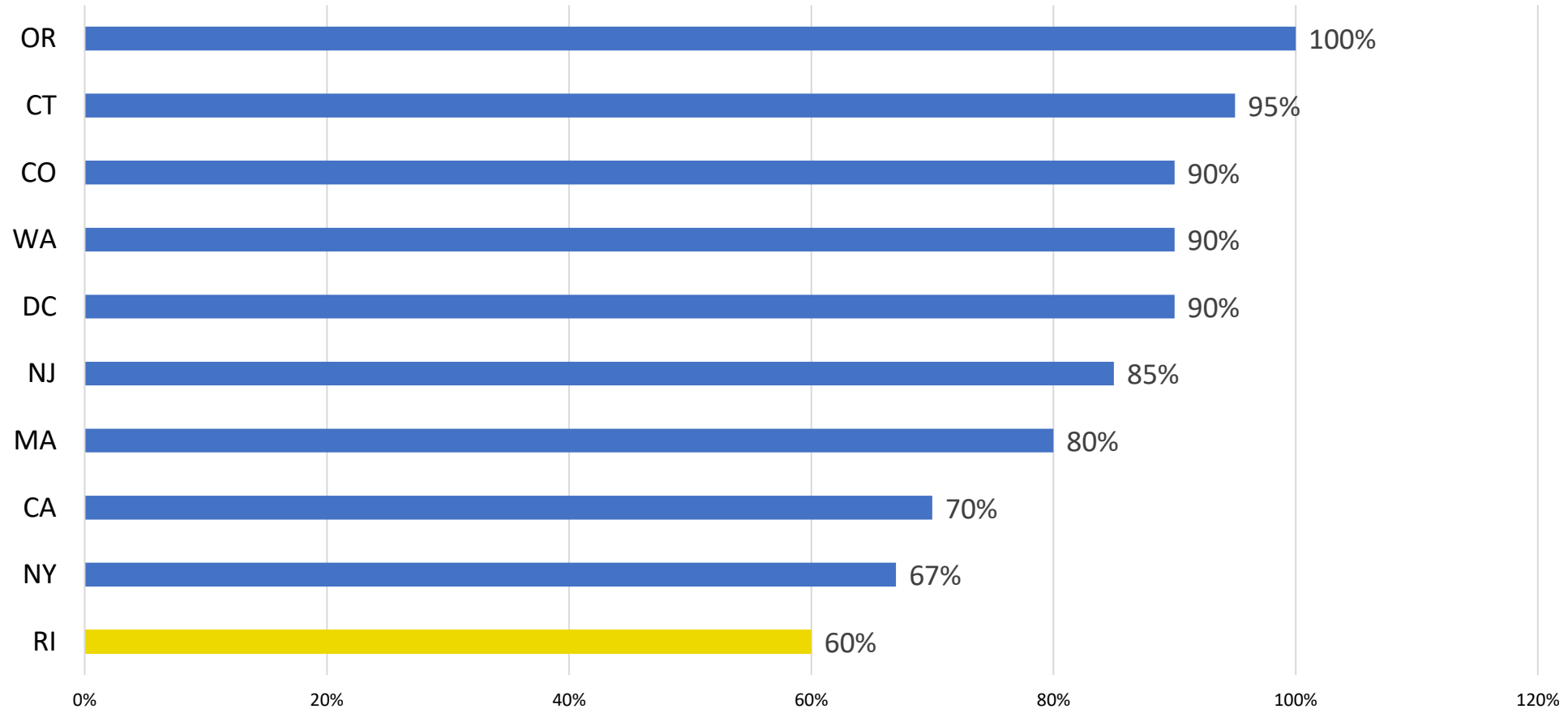
Workers with lowest incomes least likely to use Paid Family Leave in RI





Paid Family Leave

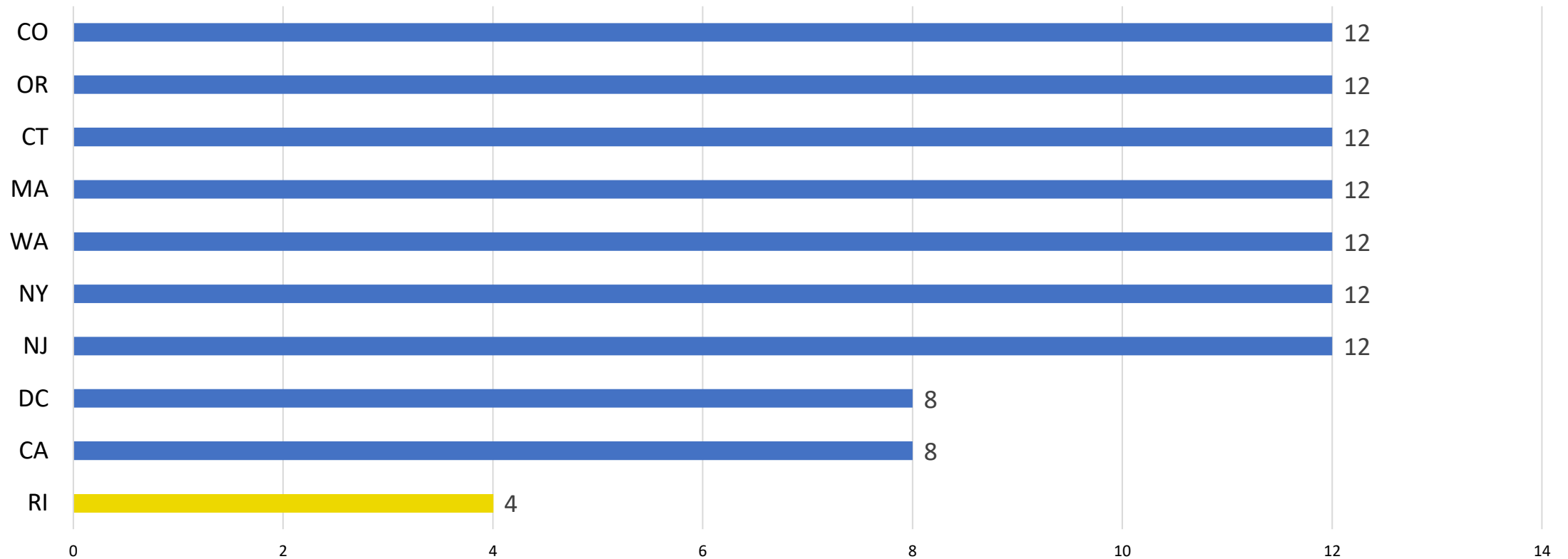
RI's wage replacement is the lowest in the U.S.





Paid Family Leave

RI offers shortest Paid Family Leave program in U.S.





Paid Family Leave

Senator Goldin (S436) and Representative Cassar (5789) have introduced legislation to address:

- Wage replacement – increases for workers with lower income; tax credit for those who don't use
- Number of weeks from 4 to 12
- Expands who can use: gig workers/self-employed
- Expands category for who can be cared for: “care recipients”



Paid Family Leave





Upcoming Zoom Events

Wednesday, March 24th, 1:00: Medicaid and health insurance coverage for community-based doula services

Wednesday, April 7th, 1:00: Worthy Wages – The RI Early Educator Investment Act

Wednesday, April 28th, 1:00: Strolling Thunder Family Rally, 10th Anniversary of RI Child Care Awareness Day, Early Childhood Advocacy Day.