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## Exploring the Relationship between the Paid Family Leave Program and Mothers' Return to Work: Focus Group Eligibility Screen

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Hello. I received your name because you signed up with [contact name at partner organization] to possibly participate in a focus group about being a new mom, your use of the [Paid Family Leave (CA) Family Leave Insurance (NJ), Temporary Caregivers Insurance (RI)] program, and decisions about going back to work. As the [contact name at partner organization] mentioned, the focus group is part of a study sponsored by the federal government and not related in any way to the services you may get from [partner organization]. *Briefly describe the focus group process, including the date, duration, location, compensation, and the fact that participants will be asked to be audio-recorded.*

It's important to us that we get the right mix of moms for our group. I have just a few questions that I need to ask you before the focus group—to see if you're the right fit. We will not share or report any of your answers. Is it okay if I ask you a few quick questions?

1. How old is your youngest child? [Click here to enter text.](#)

*Keep going if there is at least one child under one year of age.*

2. Have you gotten a payment from [Paid Family Leave (CA), Family Leave Insurance (NJ), Temporary Caregiver Insurance (RI)] after the birth of your last child? *Provide a brief explanation of the program.* What about temporary disability insurance? *Make sure they understand the difference between paid family leave, employer-funded leave, sick leave, vacation time, paid time off (PTO), or temporary disability insurance.*

Yes    No, but used temporary disability insurance    No

*Keep going if they are participating or did participate in the Paid Family Leave program.*

3. How long have you been getting or did you get payments from [Paid Family Leave (CA), Family Leave Insurance (NJ); Temporary Caregiver Insurance (RI)]?

Got/plan to get the full benefit    Got/plan to get just part of the benefit    Not sure

*Keep going if they are participating or did participate in the Paid Family Leave program.*

4. Now, I'd like to see if you are eligible based on your income. How many people live in your household? For the last several years, has your household income been less than \$X a year (*see table for threshold*)? *Probe further to clarify if mom only meets eligibility criteria temporarily (e.g., recently unemployed, student, starting own business). Moms who meet the income criteria temporarily are not eligible.*

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Yes  No

**Eligibility Income Thresholds by Household Size**

Household Size	California			New Jersey	Rhode Island
	Alameda	Los Angeles	Fresno		
2	64,350	57,700	38,350	54,400	46,200
3	72,400	64,900	43,150	61,200	51,950
4	80,400	72,100	47,900	68,000	57,700
5	86,850	77,900	51,750	73,450	62,350
6	93,300	83,650	55,600	78,900	66,950
7	99,700	89,450	59,400	84,350	71,550
8	106,150	95,200	63,250	89,800	76,200

*If participant is likely eligible:* Great, it seems that you are eligible to participate. I'd like to ask a couple more questions about your employment.

5. What kind of work did you do prior to giving birth? (*let mom describe work and check most appropriate box*)

- Retail
- Food service
- Education/childcare
- Cleaning
- Social services
- Healthcare
- Other [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Describe position: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

6. Have you gone back to work?

- Yes
- Yes, but with a reduced schedule
- Yes, but with a new employer
- No, but I plan to
- No, I don't plan to
- No, I'm undecided

7. We'd like to follow up with you with focus group logistics. What is the best way to contact you? [Click here to enter text.](#)

*If participant is not eligible:* Thank you, but for this focus group, we're looking for someone who participated in Paid Family Leave/has a lower household annual income/has a child younger than age one. We really appreciate you taking the time to answer our questions.