



Pay It Forward:

An update on national progress

Growing a national movement

Since December 2012, when Oregon legislators introduced the nation's first Pay It Forward bill, the Economic Opportunity Institute has worked to build a national network of supporters, stakeholders, policy experts and legislators.

The Pay It Forward approach to tuition-free higher education has captured the nation's imagination with hundreds of media outlets, including the New York Times, Associated Press, the Wall Street Journal and the Seattle Times reporting on our march towards progress.

To date, Pay It Forward legislation has been introduced in **25 states** and **both chambers of Congress**. EOI is the national hub of research, strategic counsel, legislative resources and grassroots support, propelling Pay It Forward into state and federal law.

Key Successes



December 2012
Nation's first PIF bill introduced



July 2013
Bill passes unanimously in Oregon



October 2013
Multi-state policy conference held in Philadelphia with 19 states



December 2013
U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley introduces federal Pay It Forward legislation



April 2014
Pay It Forward legislation is moving in 25 states



Legislative victories in 2014

- **California:** A study bill has passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and awaits action in the Appropriations Committee.
- **Connecticut:** A study bill is moving through the legislature and is expected to pass this session.
- **Illinois:** There are four pieces of active Pay It Forward legislation in Illinois, one of which has passed through the House and awaits a vote in the Senate. The Legislature is still in session.
- **Maine:** A resolution to study Pay It Forward has passed out of the Joint Committee on Education. The Legislature is still in session.
- **New Mexico:** A study bill passed the House unanimously during the 2014 session. We hope to see the bill re-introduced in 2015.
- **New Jersey:** A Pay It Forward study bill passed both houses of the New Jersey Legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Chris Christie. Sponsors are committed to continuing to champion Pay It Forward.
- **Washington:** A Pay It Forward implementation bill to offer Pay It Forward at select high schools across the state passed out of the House Higher Education Committee with strong bipartisan support. Many legislators are eager to work on Pay It Forward over the interim and take up the bill again next session.
- **U.S. Congress:** Sen. Merkley's legislation in the Senate to provide federal funding for state Pay It Forward programs was joined by a companion bill in the House, sponsored by Rep. Bonamici, in January.



Pushing Forward: Our Work in the Coming Year

Assemble a national consortium for the promotion of Pay It Forward

In anticipation of the 2015 legislative sessions, we are working to strengthen ties with our current partner organizations and enhance our network to create a formal nationwide consortium to steer efforts on Pay It Forward across the nation and at the federal level. This will enable us to broaden our outreach with increased education, advocacy, and coalition-building.

Unite our stakeholders in Washington to build and grow our statewide coalition

Building on our support from stakeholders among college and high school students, administrative officials, and higher education advocacy organizations, we are strengthening the presence of Pay It Forward supporters in Washington, giving us a stronger voice in Olympia during the 2015 session.

Continue to support legislative efforts in Washington and nationwide

During the interim, we are fine-tuning our legislation in Washington, which received a great deal of enthusiasm from the legislature in 2014. We continue to be the go-to resource for the various states moving forward on or consideration Pay It Forward legislation.

Contribute to Pay It Forward study workgroups in Oregon and across the country

As an integral part of the Oregon Workgroup on Pay It Forward, we have helped develop the nation's first pilot programs, the final versions of which will be unveiled by the end of 2014. We also continue to work with the other states considering or already moving forward with legislation, and expect to be part of any future legislatively created workgroups on Pay It Forward.