

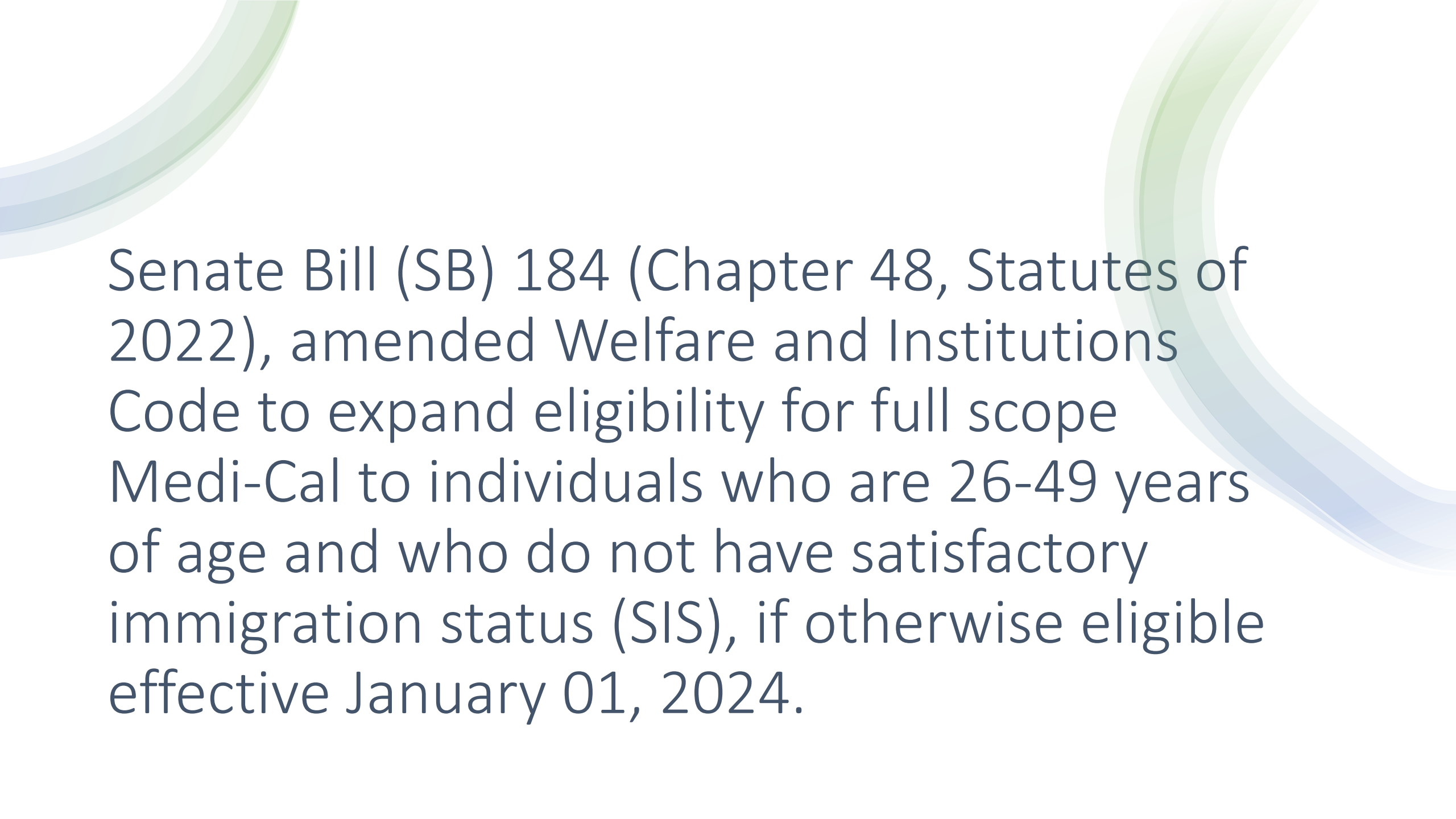
Medi-Cal Expansion for Individuals Ages 26 Through 49

02/06/2024

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY



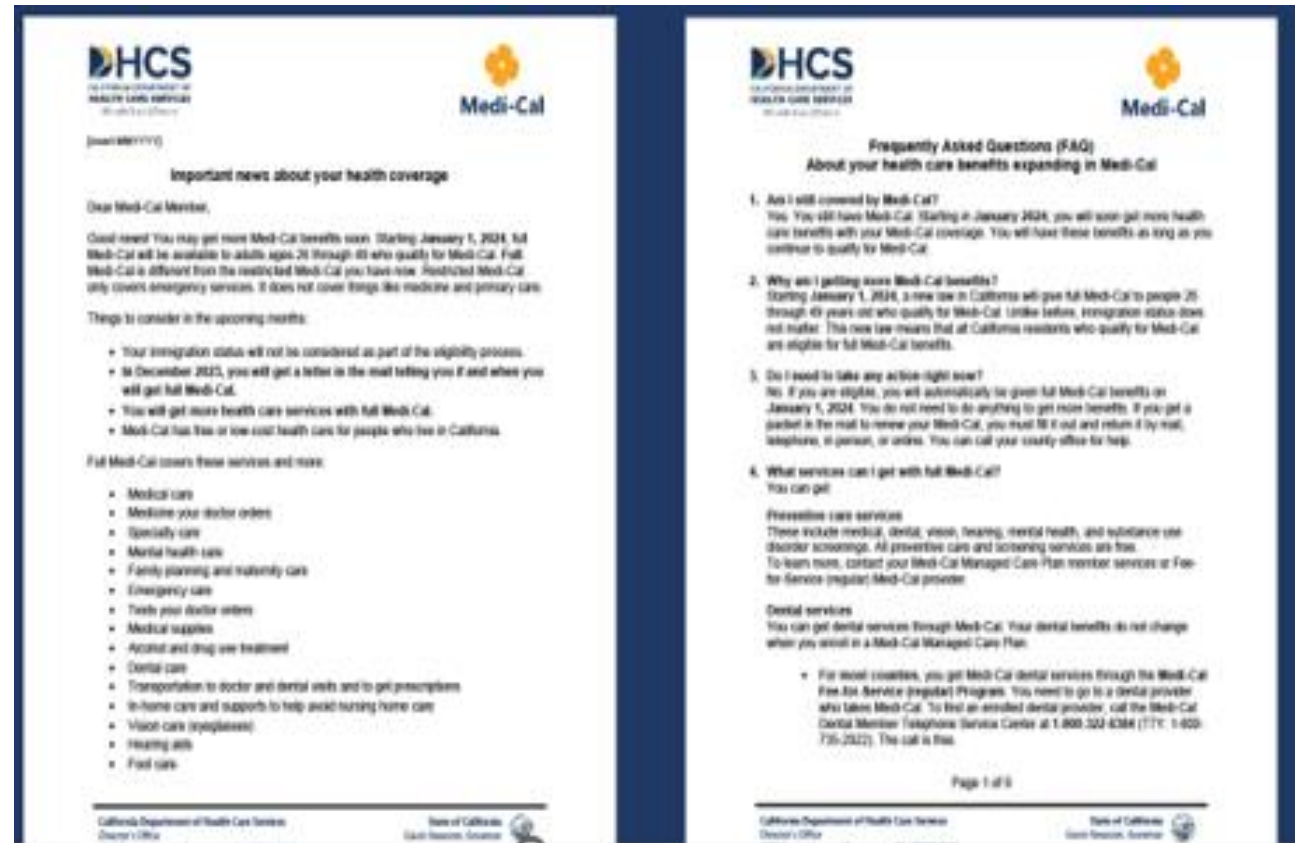
Senate Bill (SB) 184 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2022), amended Welfare and Institutions Code to expand eligibility for full scope Medi-Cal to individuals who are 26-49 years of age and who do not have satisfactory immigration status (SIS), if otherwise eligible effective January 01, 2024.

Initial Implementation

- County of Monterey Department of Social Services (DSS) concurrently provided overviews of the expansion to over 50 agencies and community-based organizations and posted information on social media platforms of Facebook and Instagram
- To engage hard to reach populations several community-based partners including the Health Department's Planning, Evaluation and Policy (PEP) team have conducted outreach, application support and expansion notifications across various locations, including farmers markets, food banks, WIC offices, laundromats, health fairs, agricultural fields, churches, and libraries.

First Notice and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- Individuals on restricted Medi-Cal benefits were issued a notice and FAQ by the California Department of Health Care Services in the month of October.



DSS Notifications

- Medi-Cal Notifications and FAQs were included in all Medi-Cal application packets as of November 2023
- An interview was conducted by Telemundo 23 regarding the Medi-Cal expansion end of December 2023
- Electronic signage was displayed at the three district office lobbies; Salinas, Seaside and King City
- Social media posts were completed on Facebook and Instagram



Transition

The Statewide Automated Welfare System implemented system functionality to determine full scope Medi-Cal for individuals 26 through 49, and notices were mailed in December to inform impacted individuals.

Total Medi-Cal Recipients	189,595
Restricted Medi-Cal Recipients transitioned to full-scope	8,333

Challenges



Lack of trust of
government



Medi-Cal application
complexity

Public Charge (Immigration Status)

Clarifying: Applying for or using Medi-Cal does not affect an individual's immigration status.

The US Department of Homeland Security and US Citizenship and Immigration Services does not consider health, food and housing services as part of the public charge determination (except for residential nursing or mental health institution care).

Additional Challenges for DSS

Workload Increase for Applications and Restart of Medi-Cal Annual Renewals

Staffing to Assist 1:1

Complexity of Medi-Cal and Time to Train New Staff

Application Statistics By Program	September	October	November	December
CalFresh	2,035	2,529	3,248	2,697
CalWORKs	393	624	1,017	757
General Assistance	335	323	297	289
Medi-Cal	1,110	1,452	2,266	1,676
Total	3,873	4,928	6,828	5,419

Esperanza Care Program Ended 12/31/2023

Administrator – Pacific Health Alliance issued letters to 4,299 individuals informing them how to apply for Medi-Cal benefits

Approximately 1/3 were on restricted Medi-Cal prior to 1/1/24

Follow-up in progress



Enrollments & Next Steps

Connecting with county departments and community-based organizations to strategize outreach efforts

Continue searching for grant opportunities (Covered California 2024-27 Navigators Grant Opening February 2024)

Continue messaging regarding Public Charge

Continue posting information on social media and providing information to community-based organization

