

# Medi-Cal Expansion for Individuals Ages 26 Through 49

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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.

**HCS**  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
Medi-Cal

**Important news about your health coverage**

Dear Medi-Cal Member,

Good news! You may get more Medi-Cal benefits soon. Starting January 1, 2024, full Medi-Cal will be available to adults ages 21 through 49 who qualify for Medi-Cal. Full Medi-Cal is different from the restricted Medi-Cal you have now. Restricted Medi-Cal only covers emergency services. It does not cover things like medicine and primary care.

Things to consider in the upcoming months:

- Your immigration status will not be considered as part of the eligibility process.
- In December 2023, you will get a letter in the mail telling you if and when you will get full Medi-Cal.
- You will get more health care services with full Medi-Cal.
- Medi-Cal has free or low cost health care for people who live in California.

Full Medi-Cal covers these services and more:

- Medical care
- Medicine your doctor orders
- Specialty care
- Mental health care
- Family planning and maternity care
- Emergency care
- Tests your doctor orders
- Medical supplies
- Acupuncture and drug use treatment
- Dental care
- Transportation to doctor and dental visits and to get prescriptions
- In-home care and supports to help avoid nursing home care
- Vision care (eyeglasses)
- Hearing aids
- Podiatry care

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**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
About your health care benefits expanding in Medi-Cal**

- 1. Am I still covered by Medi-Cal?**  
Yes. You still have Medi-Cal. Starting in January 2024, you will soon get more health care benefits with your Medi-Cal coverage. You will have these benefits as long as you continue to qualify for Medi-Cal.
- 2. Why am I getting more Medi-Cal benefits?**  
Starting January 1, 2024, a new law in California will give full Medi-Cal to people 21 through 49 years old who qualify for Medi-Cal. Unlike before, immigration status does not matter. This new law means that all California residents who qualify for Medi-Cal are eligible for full Medi-Cal benefits.
- 3. Do I need to take any action right now?**  
No. If you are eligible, you will automatically be given full Medi-Cal benefits on January 1, 2024. You do not need to do anything to get more benefits. If you get a packet in the mail to renew your Medi-Cal, you must fill it out and return it by mail, telephone, in person, or online. You can call your county office for help.
- 4. What services can I get with full Medi-Cal?**  
You can get:  
**Preventive care services**  
These include medical, dental, vision, hearing, mental health, and substance use disorder screenings. All preventive care and screening services are free. To learn more, contact your Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan member services or Fee-for-Service (regular) Medi-Cal provider.  
**Dental services**  
You can get dental services through Medi-Cal. Your dental benefits do not change when you enroll in a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan.
  - For most counties, you get Medi-Cal dental services through the Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (regular) Program. You need to go to a dental provider who takes Medi-Cal. To find an enrolled dental provider, call the Medi-Cal Dental Member Telephone Service Center at 1-800-333-6384 (TTY: 1-800-735-2522). The call is free.

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California Department of Health Care Services  
Director's Office

State of California  
Health Services, Secretary

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## 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.

<b>Total Medi-Cal Recipients</b>	<b>189,595</b>
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

<b>Application Statistics By Program</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,873</b>	<b>4,928</b>	<b>6,828</b>	<b>5,419</b>

# 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

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

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

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Continue messaging regarding Public Charge

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

