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2021

Considerations for Medi-Cal's Young Adult Expansion

The Young Adult Expansion for Medi-Cal for undocumented 19-26 year olds went live January 1, 2020.

Please note that Medi-Cal provided under SB 75 to undocumented children up to 19 and Medi-Cal provided under SB 104 to Young Adults 19-26 are NOT considered subject to existing federal Public Charge rules. These are state-only programs that California pays for. We are cautiously optimistic about changes to public charge with the new administration.

The Young Adult Expansion Eligibility & Enrollment Plan, which includes all the notices this population receives, is now located on the [DHCS YAE landing page](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/YoungAdultExp.aspx) (<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/YoungAdultExp.aspx>). Notices are in 16 languages. The first general information notice, Frequently Asked Questions notice and Notice of Action went out to the transitioning population in mid-to-end of November, 2019. Also posted are reports of numbers of children transitioning from SB 75 into Full-Scope vs. staying in Restricted Medi-Cal, by month and by county.

The “transitioning population” is individuals ages 19 through 25, inclusive, who were enrolled in restricted Medi-Cal and not in a satisfactory immigration status for full-scope Medi-Cal. The transition population also included beneficiaries receiving full-scope Medi-Cal under SB 75, who would have aged out of their full-scope coverage at age 19, or age 21 for some lawfully present immigrants, respectively, in January, 2020 and as they age out thereafter, if their income remains under 138% FPL.

The Young Adult Expansion All County Welfare Directors Letter ([ACWDL 19-23](#)) is posted on the DHCS website <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/ACWDL/2019/19-23.pdf>. Many organizations have created flyers to help get the word out for young people 19-25 (until age of 26) who may never have interacted with DPSS or Medi-Cal.

In addition to helping young adults new to Medi-Cal to enroll, here are some important considerations:

- The income eligibility level for the 19-26 year olds is that of adults, 138% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For children 19 and under (SB 75), the income level is 266%. Some young adults in the community whose income is over 138% FPL may need to be evaluated under other (non-MAGI) rules that require a “linkage” to Medi-Cal – such as disability or pregnancy. To make statements like, “Everyone aging out of SB 75 children’s full-scope Medi-Cal WILL continue on Medi-Cal” is erroneous. For example, a child in a family of three whose household income is \$2500/month would be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal under SB 75 because the household income is under 266% of the FPL. As soon as the child turns 19 and transitions into YAE, the young adult will be evaluated for income under 138% of the FPL.

NOTE:

- During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Medi-Cal has a “No Negative Action” policy in place. No Negative Action protections for Medi-Cal beneficiaries means that Medi-Cal should not be cut off or changed unless the beneficiary dies, moves out of state or requests that Medi-Cal end. Should an undocumented youth turn 18 and “age out” of SB 75 coverage during the Public Health Emergency, they should remain on full-scope Medi-Cal under the Children's/SB75 Medi-Cal program through the duration of the Public Health Emergency regardless of age or household income.
- Some young adults may be getting specific health needs met under a carefully cobbled-together set of specialty or other services, such as County services or charity care services or a community clinic. PLEASE assist these young adults to try and replicate these services in the health plans available in each county OR if that is not possible and they feel they need to stay with their current provider/health service, help them to file a Medical Exemption Request to return to or stay in fee-for-service Medi-Cal.
- Undocumented young adults up to age 26 under 138% of poverty cannot be in My Health LA in Los Angeles County because they are Medi-Cal eligible.

Call MCHA if you have questions or need help as a young adult or to help a young adult:

213-749-4261.