

From Community Health Councils –

On May 9, 2019, Governor Newsom released the highly anticipated [May Revision of the proposed 2019-20 budget](#). The May revision continues to address the governor's values of [effective government, affordability and opportunity, and justice and dignity for all Californians](#). The governor has also been keen on ensuring that the state is ready for an economic downturn. Overall, the May Revision mirrors the January proposal with more funds added to certain areas and fewer funds to others due to changes in projected predictions.

- The May Revision increases by \$3.2 billion for a total of \$213 billion due to projected short-term revenues
- The increase in revenues are constitutionally obligated to fund reserves, debt repayment, and schools
- \$162.3 billion is budgeted for Health and Human Services which is an increase of \$1.1 billion from January

Medi-Cal Expansion:

The budget would still expand full-scope Medi-Cal for undocumented young adults up to age 26.

- \$98 million for young adults aged 19-25
- The expansion will provide coverage for approximately 90,000 undocumented young adults in the first year
- January 1, 2020 start date

Expanding Subsidies:

The governor tackles the affordability piece in healthcare.

- California is the first state in the nation to offer financial assistance to individuals with incomes between 400 percent and 600 percent (48,000/yr =400%) of the federal poverty level.
- Subsidies would also expand to individuals between 200 percent and 250 percent of the federal poverty level.
- January 1, 2020 start date

Other Budget Health Initiatives:

Other items in the proposed budget include significant investments in the healthcare workforce, especially for mental health professionals.

- Proposition 56 funds would provide support for workforce education and training around mental health, as well as support for the Medi-Cal loan repayment program among other things

The governor has invested additional funding to support:

- **Black Infant Health Program**

- **IHSS Supportive Services**
- **Earned Income Tax Credit**
- **Whole Person Care Pilot Program**
- **Expansion of paid family leave to six months**

Other Budget Priorities:

The governor still makes a strong commitment to:

- Early childhood education in providing universal preschool and full-day kindergarten
- Two free years of community college tuition for first-time, full-time students
- The May Revision includes additional funding for CSU's and UC's to prevent tuition increases
- Housing is still addressed head-on with the hope of accelerating new housing development.
- The governor has provided funds for legal aid resources to help renters fight back against rent gauging and other unfair practices.
- [Removal of sales taxes on menstrual products and diaper sales](#)

We thank the governor for his strong commitment to addressing the needs and concerns of California's most vulnerable populations. However, the budget still falls short in addressing:

- Full-scope [Medi-Cal coverage to all](#) regardless of immigration status
- Funding for community-based health coverage assistors
- Fails to make changes to the Supplemental Security Income and State Supplemental Payment grant amounts that were reduced in the last recession.

The California Legislature is set to finalize the proposed budget on June 15. There is still time to advocate and show support or opposition for items that are included or not included in the budget. CHC will continue to monitor the process and provide updates.