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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.

The Young Adult Expansion Eligibility & Enrollment Plan, which includes all the notices this population will receive, 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>). 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.

The “transitioning population” is individuals, ages 19 through 25, inclusive, currently enrolled in restricted Medi-Cal and not in a satisfactory immigration status for full-scope Medi-Cal. The transition population also includes 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 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 will need to be evaluated under other (non-MAGI) rules that require a “linkage” to Medi-Cal – such as disability or pregnancy. To say 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 under 138% of the FPL.

- 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.
- Some 3000 or so young adults in My Health LA will be transitioning to Medi-Cal in Los Angeles County as well.

Call MCHA if you have questions or need help as a young adult or to help a young adult:
213-749-4261.