

## Maternal and Child Health Access



### Where?

**ONLINE!**



**Thursday, September 18, 2025  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

(After you register, look for the Zoom link in your registration confirmation email)

### Speaker/Topic:

**Gigi dePourtales and  
Jason Romero,  
National Alliance on  
Mental Illness (NAMI)**

**Topic: September Suicide  
Prevention Month**

**Frank Tamborello, Hunger  
Action LA**

**Topic: Let's Talk about  
Redistricting**

**September is known as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.** Suicide is a complex problem that requires collaborative solutions at multiple levels, including by individuals, families, communities, and systems of care. That is why the Los Angeles County (County) Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and of Public Health (DPH) provide various outreach efforts and services to address the problem and give the people the mental health support that they need. Suicide Prevention Month helps raise awareness and promotes education, training, and engagement for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in the County.



From our July 17, 2025 meeting:  
[www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm](http://www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm)

**Guest Speaker: Lucy Quacinella, Multiforum Advocacy Solutions**  
**Devastating federal and state budget cuts: What now?**

Lucy provided an overview of the devastating cuts to health and social programs, resulting from the growth in federal debt (over \$2 trillion) due to the lowering of taxes for the rich and interest hikes, border and immigration spending, military spending, tax exemptions for certain types of income, etc. a timeline of the cuts and key changes is as follows BUT **Please refer to Lucy's PowerPoint on our website for specifics:**

#### **Federal cuts**

As of July 10, 2025, new CMS guidance excludes undocumented immigrants from federal funding for the following (CA and 20 other states plus DC filed suit): Head Start, Mental health and community services block grants, Community Behavioral Health Clinics, substance abuse programs and grants, workforce and homeless programs, and Title X Family Planning Services.

As a result of HR1 signed on July 4, 2025, there will be further restrictions on who gets federally matched Medi-Cal. The federal government typically pays 50% of Medi-Cal so that this change will have devastating consequences for our state's budget and Medi-Cal population. HR1 also adds red tape to Medi-Cal eligibility and retention of benefits for certain populations. It is also uncertain how states will respond and whether they will provide coverage for those impacted.

Details on the cuts include: Effective October 1, 2026, no more federal match funding for non-emergency services for certain immigrants, no Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTCs) (Covered CA) for certain immigrants, including certain lawfully present immigrants, DACAs will lose Covered Ca eligibility effective August 1, 2025, and

lawfully present immigrants seeking Medicare will have to wait an additional year to enroll if applying after July 4, 2025 or risk discontinuance after 18 months if already on Medicare (so sometime in December 2026).

Expansion Adults ages 19-64 will also see: Retroactive Medi-Cal reduced from 3 months to 1 month effective January 1, 2027, Renewals every 6 months instead of annually, Cost sharing of up to \$35 per service (except vaccines, family planning, pregnancy care), and work reporting requirements, with the exception of children, of parent or caretaker relatives of children, pregnant /postpartum adults, and seniors or people with disabilities.

Massive cuts to Food Nutrition Programs are also included, and New requirement for parents (at least one parent) to have a Social Security Number to claim a federal child tax credit.

#### State's Response / Cuts

In response HR1, the state's budget is significantly impacted and forced to make benefit cuts. There will be an enrollment freeze on "Full-Scope Medi-Cal" for undocumented effective January 1, 2026

New applicants will get restricted Medi-Cal, which covers emergencies, pregnancy-related care, long-term care, and dialysis.

Pregnant individuals on Medi-Cal can still receive dental care, mental health, substance abuse treatment, and 12 months postpartum coverage – regardless of immigration status/ Restricted Scope.

\*Important to report pregnancy to access full scope services.

PRUCOL eligibles (Permanently Residing Under Color of Law) will still qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal; however, the State will lose its federal match. PRUCOL Medi-Cal beneficiaries will also have a \$30 monthly premium effective July 1, 2027.

The Assets Limit in Medi-Cal takes effect on January 1, 2026, and applies to seniors and people with disabilities. The limit will be \$130,000 for a household of one plus \$65,000 for each additional member.

In Summary People will need health navigators more than ever to provide education on the changes, provide enrollment and retention support, document processing and uploads, troubleshooting, and navigation of our complex health system.

### **DHCS Adult Freeze Materials now available**

#### **DHCS Adult Freeze Materials now available**

Please see attached the final version of the Adult Expansion Freeze Outreach Materials - General Informing Notice and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). As mentioned in our recent workgroup session, these notices have been approved and will be translated into all threshold languages and alternate formats. We anticipate the mailing to begin mid-September. We also anticipate that the MEDIL, along with the outreach materials, will be ready for publication in the near future.

We know you are all receiving many questions and concerns regarding the Adult Expansion Freeze, so we wanted to provide the documents as soon as possible. We hope the information provided will help address members' questions and ease their concerns.

## CalFresh COLAs

The FFY 2026 CalFresh COLAs are out. These will be in effect October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. CAFB will update our materials and send them out. We'll also send out info about CDSS's income inserts when they become available. If you need help with your CDSS web storefront account, please let us know.

### [COLAs](#)

#### **BE AWARE OF THIRD-PARTY EBT EDGE MOBILE APP**

DPSS is urging customers to be aware of a third-party mobile application, Ebt edge – food stamps, available in the Apple iOS App Store, which mimics the State of California's [official FIS ebtEDGE Mobile App](#).

The Ebt edge – food stamps app charges card users a \$4.99 weekly fee or \$60 fee for lifetime access. The California Department of Social Services, which issues the EBT cards in Los Angeles County, will never charge cardholders a fee to use the official ebtEDGE app. Please continue to use the official, state-supported app only.

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## PREEMIE Act

The PREEMIE Act is the only federal law dedicated to the research, prevention, and treatment of preterm birth. The PREEMIE Act supports federal research, education, and promotes known interventions and community initiatives. The Preventing Maternal Deaths Act provides federal support for maternal mortality review committees (MMRCs). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) now supports MMRCs in 46 states and six territories under the Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE MM) program with funding authorized by the legislation.

During the 118th Congress, ~175 organizations signed to support the PREEMIE Act. Help exceed this in the 119th to support these important bills! Your support will help ensure these bills are included in the next available healthcare package!

Join national, state, and local organizations by [signing onto the coalition letter](#) to support passage of the [PREEMIE Reauthorization Act](#) and [Preventing Maternal Deaths Act](#). In the Please contact, [Andrew Fullerton](#), if you have any questions regarding [this coalition letter](#). Please sign on your organization before September 26<sup>th</sup>!

## LA County Heat Action

invitation to participate in the upcoming [LA County Heat Action Plan Partners Workshop on Sept 19th, 2025, Friday from 1:30-4:00 PM taking place in-person at the Natural History Museum](#).

This workshop is a key part of the planning for LA County's first ever Heat Action Plan. Hear from partners, organizations, and other stakeholders on their priorities and solutions for heat resilience in LA County. They will be sharing draft actions and

strategies developed through months of collaboration with working groups, county departments, and public outreach efforts. Alternatively this workshop will also be held in a virtual format on [Tuesday, Sept 23rd, 2025, 6-7:30 PM](#), for those who cannot attend the in person workshop.

## BAILA General Flyer

BAILA has an updated general flyer and Instagram post images. Please consider using the flyers to share our services. The BAILA Network can help you:

- Understand which benefits you and your family may be eligible for
- Answer your questions about whether enrolling in the benefits could harm your immigration status
- Enroll in Medi-Cal, Covered California, or CalFresh
- Fix problems with benefits you already receive

All BAILA Network services are free!

Submit a referral by calling the **BAILA hotline at 1-818-492-5270** or visit [www.bailanetwork.org](http://www.bailanetwork.org).

Click [here](#) for the flyers available in English, Spanish, and Chinese for now.

## Public Charge Update

On September 5, 2025, USCIS issued a **policy memo** to USCIS officers related to public charge.

Three key takeaways from the memo are:

- **It does not change the benefits considered in a public charge test.**
- **The [Biden public charge](#) rule is still in place.**
- **Public charge policy has not changed.**

For more information, check out the [PIF explainer Memo. PM-602-0190 PublicChargeInadmissibility.pdf](#)

## MCHA Upcoming Training:

Access to Reproductive Health Coverage: Abortion and Family Planning

This training is for community-based agencies, clinics, and providers on health coverage for abortion in California and accessing abortion care. Included is a Medi-Cal eligibility review, how transportation benefits work for those with Medi-Cal, Public Charge and Immigration concerns. Our goal is to expand the number of personnel trained in Los Angeles County who can timely refer to appropriate abortion providers and enroll in a coverage program or troubleshoot a coverage issue for abortion access. We also provide Technical Assistance to those trained through this project or in the past to assist with troubleshooting an eligibility or access issue.

September 23, 2025 10am to 11:30am

Register [HERE](#) on our website

Please contact our office with any questions regarding this event at [info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org) or 213 749 4261 ext. 310. For general information about MCH Access, please visit our website.

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