



Accelerated Enrollment For Children

What is Accelerated Enrollment or Accelerated Eligibility for Children?

Accelerated Enrollment is a way to give immediate eligibility to children who have mailed in a joint Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Application before their application is fully processed. Accelerated Enrollment gives children full Medi-Cal benefits while the county determines if the children are eligible for Medi-Cal.

Who can get it?

Children from birth to 19 who mail a joint Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Application and who appear to qualify for Medi-Cal can get accelerated enrollment. Children whose applications seem to make them eligible for Healthy Families cannot get Accelerated Enrollment.

When does it start?

Accelerated Enrollment starts on the first day of the month in which the child's joint Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application is received at Healthy Families/Medi-Cal for Children and Pregnant Women (the Single Point of Entry, SPE) in Sacramento.

How will I know if my child has accelerated enrollment?

Your child will receive a BIC card in the mail. The BIC card will come with a letter explaining Accelerated Enrollment. Parents should use the BIC card when getting services from health care providers.

How long can my child get it?

Children can get Accelerated Enrollment until their eligibility for regular Medi-Cal is determined by the county to which the application is forwarded. This can be anywhere from two months after the month the application is mailed to Sacramento to several months, depending on how long it takes the county's Medi-Cal agency to process the child's application.

Does my child have to be citizen to get accelerated enrollment? Will I need to send in documents to show that she is a citizen?

You do not need to send in documents to show that your child is a citizen or qualified legal immigrant to get accelerated enrollment. You will need to show proof of citizenship or immigration status for your child to get Medi-Cal beyond the Accelerated Enrollment period. To qualify for regular Medi-Cal beyond the accelerated period, your child must be either a:

- Citizen
- Lawful permanent resident (green card holder)
- A refugee, asylee, conditional entrant, a person granted a withholding of deportation, or paroled for at least one year
- A Cuban/Haitian entrant
- A battered spouse or child of a battered spouse, or
- Have "PRUCOL" status, which means the INS knows she or he is here and doesn't intend to

deport them. The most common situation of getting PRUCOL status is when a family files their paperwork for residency (green card) status

What kind of benefits will my child get under Accelerated Enrollment?

Your child will receive the same benefits as she would in regular Medi-Cal. This includes, but is not limited to, doctor's appointments, prescription drugs, and visits to the dentist, physical therapy, immunizations, and lab tests.

Under Accelerated Enrollment, will my child be placed in a health plan?

Your child will not be put in a health plan while getting Accelerated Enrollment. She can get services from any health care provider who accepts Fee-For-Service Medi-Cal. However, once Accelerated Enrollment ends and if your child qualifies for regular Medi-Cal, she will receive a packet to make a choice about a Medi-Cal health plan, unless she is receiving Medi-Cal because she has a disability. She may be able to see the same providers in regular Medi-Cal as she did under Accelerated Enrollment, but this is not guaranteed by the program.

What happens if my child qualifies for regular Medi-Cal?

Once your child is found eligible for Medi-Cal, she will no longer be on Accelerated Enrollment. You will get a letter in the mail saying that your child qualifies for regular Medi-Cal along with a new BIC card. You will probably need to choose a health plan for your child, unless she is disabled. You will receive information about how to enroll in a health plan and how to access services through a plan, including picking a primary care doctor. If you do not choose a health plan, Medi-Cal will assign your child to a plan.

What happens if my child does not qualify for regular Medi-Cal?

Once your child is found ineligible for regular Medi-Cal, she will stop getting Accelerated Enrollment. This means her BIC card (**B**enefits **I**dentification **C**ard) may provide only Restricted Medi-Cal benefits. This will happen at the end of the month in which she is found ineligible for regular Medi-Cal benefits. You will receive a notice in the mail telling you that your child was found ineligible for full-scope Medi-Cal. The termination and the notice can take two or more months. Even if she does not qualify for regular Medi-Cal, she may be eligible for other programs, like Restricted Medi-Cal (for emergencies), Healthy Families *or* Healthy Kids.

- ✓ Note that the services your child received while getting Accelerated Enrollment are free and you will not be charged for them later.

Do I need to send the application to the Single Point of Entry?

In order for your child to receive Accelerated Enrollment benefits, you need to send the joint application to Single Point of Entry. The address is Healthy Families/Medi-Cal for Children and Pregnant Women, P.O. Box 138005, Sacramento, CA 95813-9984. There should be a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope inside the application.

What if I fill out the regular Medi-Cal application?

At this time, your child cannot get Accelerated Enrollment if you complete a regular Medi-Cal application and mail it to the county or turn it in to your local welfare office.

If you have further questions about accelerated enrollment, call the **Health Consumer Center** at **(800) 896-3203**.