

Maternal and Child Health Access



Where?

ONLINE!



**Thursday, April 16, 2026
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

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

Speaker/Topic:

**Ruth Rivera and Valerie Beltran
Sexual Assault Services and
Policy Updates
East LA Women's Center**

**Marcela Marquez and Liz Ramirez
CalFresh & Medi-Cal Update
MCHA**



Minutes from our February 19, 2026 meeting:

www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm

Lucy Quacinella, Multiforum Advocacy Solutions CA Governor's 2026 Budget Challenges & Opportunities

February's MCHA meeting focused on Medi-Cal and CalFresh policy changes, with Lucy Quacinella presenting detailed information about the governor's proposed budget and federal cuts affecting both programs, highlighting significant reductions in eligibility and benefits for undocumented immigrants and low-income adults. She emphasized the need to reframe the proposed budget narrative from cost savings to maintaining access to essential services. The discussion covered how undocumented and legally present immigrants will be affected by changes to full-scope Medi-Cal coverage, new work-reporting requirements, and restricted benefits, while CalFresh eligibility will be reduced for able-bodied adults without dependents and for homeless individuals. Lucy highlighted that approximately 1.4 million people could lose their Medi-Cal coverage by June 2028 due to these new requirements and explained that California should use state funds to maintain full-scope coverage for lawfully present immigrants.

Lucy further discussed the work reporting requirements, emphasizing the importance of understanding these requirements to help clients navigate both programs. She raised concerns about the governor's budget, noting the lack of new funding for homelessness and childcare, which she argued underscores the need for additional revenue sources.

Lucy and Liz discussed Medi-Cal coverage for pregnant individuals, clarifying that those in pregnancy Medi-Cal should receive 12 months of comprehensive postpartum coverage for both the mother and newborn. They emphasized the importance of reporting pregnancies to avoid coverage gaps and highlighted consumer protections that prevent loss of coverage due to income increases during pregnancy.

Lucy addressed questions about premium payments, explaining that pregnant individuals are exempt from the \$30 monthly premium, though they will lose non-emergency dental coverage starting in 2027. The group also discussed the challenges faced by undocumented individuals and the complexities of maintaining full-scope coverage, particularly during pregnancy.

Please visit www.mchaccess.org for a copy of Lucy's presentation

Materials This Month

Proposed Sales Tax Increase in LA County

Changes to CalFresh

Beginning April 1, 2026, certain **non-citizens** who apply for CalFresh may no longer be eligible. To find out more about the updated CalFresh eligibility, click [HERE](#):

Starting June 1, 2026, some CalFresh recipients will need to work to keep their benefits. There are two types of work rules – **CalFresh Work Registration** and **Work Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)**. For more information and exemptions, click [HERE](#):

April 21, 2026, 10:30 am CDSS CalFresh Time Limit Trainings

Work Registration 101 – An overview of the general CalFresh work registration requirements and key county responsibilities.

Registration Link: Click [HERE](#)

April 27, 2026, 9:00 am DPSS CBO/Partner Info Session on Workfare and Community Services Opportunity

Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 214 812 778 960 99

Passcode: oz6xZ9CY

Dial in by phone

+1 323-776-6996,591786585# United States, Los Angeles

Phone conference ID: 591 786 585#

[All County Welfare Directors Letter - FINAL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CHIP EMV/TAP PAY EBT CARDS](#) – All remaining CalFresh magnetic stripe-only cards (the ones without chip/tap technology) will be deactivated. This does not affect WIC or SUN Bucks cards.

[ACL 26-16](#) CALWORKS AND CALFRESH: IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW INCOME EXEMPTIONS. Grants, awards, scholarships, loans, or fellowships awarded for the purpose of attending an institution of higher education are no longer considered income and are exempt from being considered a resource for 12 months.

State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS)

As of November 1, 2025, CalFresh **State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS)** eligibility will be restricted to households with members over age 60 or with a disability. For more information, please click [HERE](#)

Changes to Medi-Cal

As of January 1, 2026, **asset information** will be required to determine Medi-Cal eligibility for individuals who are 65 and older, disabled, or in need of long-term care. Adults who have **Unsatisfactory Immigration Status (UIS)** will no longer be able to enroll in full-scope Medi-Cal, only restricted-scope Medi-Cal. ***Beginning July 1, 2026, adults with Unsatisfactory Immigration Status will no longer have dental benefits under Medi-Cal.***

For more information on these changes, please click [HERE](#)

If you were unable to attend the **Medi-Cal policy update webinars**, you can watch the webinars in various languages [HERE](#).

Do you need help with your taxes?

Code for America is offering free online VITA tax services for persons who earned less than \$89,000 in 2025 and for those with no taxable income to help them claim their refund and child tax credits. Find out more [HERE](#).

Smile California

Did you know your Medi-Cal members can get the latest Medi-Cal Dental updates every month through Member Bulletins? Just refer them to the “Latest News” section on www.smilecalifornia.org.

For more information about Medi-Cal Dental, please visit the Medi-Cal Dental website at dental.dhcs.ca.gov.

Maternal Mental Health Screening in CA Brief

The UCSF Center for Health Equity (CHE) is pleased to announce the release of a new data brief: [Maternal mental health screening in California: progress and opportunities](#). The brief provides information on screening for depression and anxiety symptoms during and after pregnancy in California, using representative data from the 2020-2024 Maternal and Infant Health Assessment (MIHA).

MIHA Pre-test / Survey

Did you give birth to a baby in the past year? We would like to hear from you! Help University of California, San Francisco researchers by taking a voluntary, secure 15-minute survey about the health of you and your baby

Complete the survey: tiny.ucsf.edu/2026MIHApretest

A few people will be invited to participate in a follow-up call. They will get a gift card. Questions? Contact che@ucsf.edu

New letters and Notices search widget on CDSS

A new search widget on CDSS’s website to make it easier to search for letters (ACLs, ACINs, County Letters).

[All County Information Notice - Letters and Notices Search Widget](#)

MCHAs Next Monthly Meeting
May 21, 2026
10 am- 12 noon

Maternal and Child Health Access

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