



GOOD

THE
BAD

and the

UGLY

Medi-Cal & Cal-Fresh Updates

Provided by,

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Medi-Cal Updates



- ENROLLMENT FREEZE
 - REPORT THE PREGNANCY
 - LOSS OF PREVENTIVE DENTAL
 - CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY
 - MEDICAL SUPPORT FORMS
-

FULL SCOPE MEDI-CAL COVERAGE

In 2025 all Medi-Cal members received Full Scope Medi-Cal, regardless of immigration status.

Medi-Cal Provides a Comprehensive Set of Health Benefits That May Be Accessed as Medically Necessary

Ambulatory Patient Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician services • Hospital outpatient & outpatient clinic services • Outpatient surgery (includes anesthesiologist services.) • Podiatry • Chiropractic • Allergy care • Treatment therapies (chemotherapy, radiation therapy, etc.) • Dialysis/hemodialysis 	Prescription Drugs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage is at least the greater of one drug in each U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) category and class. • Beneficiaries may receive up to a 100-day supply of many medications.
Emergency Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Room services • All inpatient and outpatient services that are necessary for the treatment of an emergency medical condition, including dental services, as certified by the attending physician or other appropriate provider. • Ambulance services 	Rehabilitative & Habilitative Services and Devices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical therapy • Occupational therapy • Speech therapy / Audiology • Acupuncture • Cardiac rehabilitation • Pulmonary rehabilitation • Skilled Nursing Facility services (90 days) • Medical supplies, equipment, and appliances (including implanted hearing devices) • Durable medical equipment • Orthotics/prostheses • Hearing aids • Home Health Services
Hospitalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inpatient hospital services • Anesthesiologist services • Surgical services (bariatric, reconstructive surgery, etc.) • Organ & tissue transplantation 	Laboratory Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient laboratory and X-ray services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Various advanced imaging procedures are covered based on medical necessity.
Maternity and Newborn Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prenatal care • Delivery and postpartum care • Breastfeeding education • Nurse midwife services 	Preventive and Wellness Services and Chronic Disease Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventive services and vaccines recommended by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ United States Preventive Services Task Force (grade A & B) ○ Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices ○ Health Resources and Services Administration's Bright Futures ○ The Institute of Medicine preventive services (for women) • Family planning services • Smoking cessation services • Behavioral health treatment for children under 21

https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/Benefits_services.aspx#top

Mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services, including Behavioral Health Treatment

- Outpatient Mental Health services
- Outpatient Specialty Mental Health services
- Inpatient Specialty Mental Health services
- Outpatient Substance Use Disorder services
 - Residential Treatment services
- Voluntary Inpatient Detoxification

Pediatric Services, Including Oral and Vision Care

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a Medi-Cal benefit for individuals under the age of 21 who have full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility. EPSDT provides periodic screenings to determine health care needs and, in addition to the standard Medi-Cal benefits, a beneficiary under the age of 21 may receive extended services as medically necessary.

OTHER:

Dental

- Emergency dental services
- Dentures
- Dental implants and implant-retained prostheses
- Basic preventive, diagnostic and repair services
- EPSDT and pregnant women receive extended dental benefits.

Vision

- Routine eye exams once in 24 months
- Eyeglasses and contact lenses

Transportation Services

Nonemergency medical transportation by ambulance, litter van, or wheelchair van only when ordinary public or private conveyance is medically contra-indicated and transportation is required for a covered benefit. Nonmedical transportation by private or public vehicle for people who do not have another way to get to their appointment.

Long Term Services and Supports

- Skilled Nursing Facility services (91+days)
- Personal Care Services
- Self-Directed Personal Assistance Services
- Community First Choice Option

Medi-Cal Adult Expansion Freeze

- Medi-Cal members in 2025, who are age 19 and older, and do not have Satisfactory Immigration Status (SIS) will be eligible for new Medi-Cal program "**Full Scope Medi-Cal without Dental**" which only eliminates the preventive dental benefit.
 - Individuals who are Undocumented
 - Individuals with a Non-Immigrant Visa
- A loss of eligibility for more than 90 days will require a new application.
- New applicants applying on or after January 1, 2026, who are aged 19 and older, and who do not have SIS are eligible for **Restricted Scope Medi-Cal**.
 - Restricted Scope Medi-Cal coverage: Long Term Care, Dialysis, Pregnancy and an Emergency.



Medi-Cal Scopes of Benefits

Full scope coverage – Covers a full range of Medi-Cal benefits, such as primary and specialty care, mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, vision, prescriptions, transportation, and comprehensive dental services.

Full scope Medi-Cal with no Dental (effective July 1, 2026) – Covers the same services as full scope Medi-Cal, except dental services. Dental services are covered only for emergencies.

Restricted Medi-Cal – Emergency, Long Term Care, Dialysis and Pregnancy

2026 - What does Restricted Medi-Cal cover?

Emergencies (what is an emergency?)

Dialysis

Long Term Care

Pregnancy



Report the Pregnancy!

**REPORT YOUR PREGNANCY TO THE COUNTY!
THIS WILL ENSURE YOUR MEDI-CAL COVERAGE FOR
12 MONTHS POST-PREGNANCY**

HAVE YOU BEEN PREGNANT ANY TIME IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

If you were pregnant at any time in the last 12 months with Medi-Cal coverage, your Medi-Cal should continue during the pregnancy and 12 months post-pregnancy. No matter how the pregnancy ends, birth, miscarriage, delivery or abortion. You are covered for medically necessary care, including dental and mental health. Immigration status doesn't matter! No one should lose their Medi-Cal or MCAP coverage.

But DPSS has to know you are pregnant!

Tell them as soon as possible so they can set the calendar for your renewal at one year AFTER your pregnancy ends. You should not have to renew your Medi-Cal during or after your pregnancy if DPSS knows.

HOW TO REPORT "I'm Pregnant" or "I Was Pregnant"

Call the county's Customer Service Line
In Los Angeles: 1 (866) 613-3777

To locate other county Customer Service lines call 1 (800) 541-5555

Online: There are two online systems that can be used to report the pregnancy or birth or to apply for benefits. You can create an account, even if you didn't apply there.

<https://www.coveredca.com/> or
<https://benefitscal.com/>



Medi-Cal for the Newborn

If your baby was born and isn't already enrolled in Medi-Cal, report the birth of the baby.

In Los Angeles to 1 (833) 735-9359
Other counties call 1 (800) 541-5555

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility-policy/minimum-essential-coverage>



2026 Medi-Cal Dental Benefit Changes

Starting **July 1, 2026**, some Medi-Cal dental benefits will change for certain adult members **based on immigration status**. However, emergency dental services will still be covered by Medi-Cal. **To find out if the change applies to you, read the Immigration Status Chart at: DHCS - Immigration Status Categories.**

Emergency dental services will continue to be covered for Medi-Cal members.

A dental emergency is a serious dental problem that requires immediate care.

- Bleeding in the mouth that does not stop
- Painful swelling in or around the mouth
- A toothache or jaw pain
- Injuries to the face or jawbone
- A broken or knocked-out tooth
- Infection in your gums or teeth with pain or swelling
- After-surgery care (like bandage changes or stitch removal)
- Cutting or fixing wires in braces that hurt your cheeks or gums

Medi-Cal Updates

California Residency

DHCS conducts residency verification for Medi-Cal recipients in compliance with HR 1, Section 71103 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act, §1903(r)(3) under two programs, Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) Interstate and Residency Verification Program (RVP).

Program Expansion and Procedures (Effective January 1, 2027) DHCS will increase the number of residency verification letters mailed to members until the entirety of each quarter's matched file is processed to meet state and federal requirements. CWDs will no longer manually discontinue in CalSAWS and DHCS will continue to send the Notices of Action (NOAs)

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/letters/Documents/26-08.pdf>

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/letters/Documents/26-04.pdf>

MEDICAL SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDI-CAL

Medical support is a form of child support that provides either health care coverage or cash medical support. MSE is designed to ensure children in absent-parent households receive necessary medical support without interruption of Medi-Cal coverage.

Cooperate in establishing paternity, securing medical support, and providing relevant information to assist in enforcement efforts. Letter No.:25-23 Page 2 November 5, 2025 If the parent, guardian, or relative caretaker fails to comply without good cause, they may lose eligibility. However, the child's eligibility will not be affected by their noncooperation.

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/letters/Documents/25-23.pdf>



CalFresh Updates
CalFresh eligibility changes for non-citizens
Work rules and new ABAWD requirements
Change to Standard Utility Allowance

Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Keep Your Benefits Toolkit and CDSS CF H.R.1 FAQ's

- <https://dpss.lacounty.gov/content/dam/dpss/documents/en/keep-your-benefits/KYB%20COMM%20TOOLKIT%20EXP.%203.31.26.pdf>
- <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/benefits-services/food-nutrition-services/calfresh/frequently-asked-questions>

IMPORTANT!
Medi-Cal Rules
changed on
January 1, 2026!



If you have unsatisfactory immigration status and your full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility ended in November or December 2025, you may be able to get your full-scope coverage back.

- If your benefits ended in November, you have until February 28, 2026 to take action.
- If your benefits ended in December, you have until March 31, 2026 to take action.

Don't miss your deadline!

- Reclaim your benefits with the same level of coverage you had prior to your Medi-Cal discontinuance.
- Call DPSS Customer Service Center at (866)613-3777 to see if you are still eligible or visit [BenefitsCal.com](https://www.benefitscal.com) to submit required documents to be re-evaluated for your full-scope benefits.

New Medi-Cal applicants without satisfactory immigration status, if eligible, will receive restricted-scope Medi-Cal. Restricted-scope Medi-Cal covers emergency care, maternity/post-partum care, emergency dental services, and Long-Term Care services.

Take Action Today!!



Under H.R. 1, lawfully present immigrants lose CalFresh starting April 1, 2026

Beginning April 1, 2026, the following categories of lawfully present immigrants will no longer be eligible for CalFresh:

Asylees

Refugees

Parolees (unless they are Cuban and Haitian Entrants)

Individuals with deportation or removal withheld

Conditional entrants

Victims of trafficking

Battered noncitizens

Iraqi or Afghan with Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) who are not Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)

Certain Afghan Nationals granted parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023

Certain Ukrainian Nationals granted parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024

Time limits under H.R. 1. for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) starting June 1, 2026 (CA).

What this means in practice is that anyone between the ages of 18 and 64 with no children under age 14 and who is not disabled, might only be able to get three months of CalFresh benefits every three years.

Must prove 20 hours a week or 80 hours of work/month

- Activities similar, though not identical, to Medi-Cal's H.R. 1 work requirements.

H.R. 1 expands ABAWDs to:

- Age 64 (up from 59)
- Caregiver of a child 14+ (before was 18+)
- Former foster youth
- More veterans
- Homeless persons

CalFresh Program Changes State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS)

As of November 1, 2025, households that do not include a member over age 60 or who has a disability must have heating or cooling costs separate from their housing costs to claim the Standard Utility Allowance or “SUA” deduction.

This policy change will apply to CalFresh households at different times. • For new households applying to CalFresh benefits, the SUAS policy change took effect starting November 1, 2025. • For ongoing/current cases, this change will take effect at your next Renewal.

[CalFresh HR 1 SUAS Policy Changes FAQ](#)

Thank you!

For Client Referrals: (213)749-4261

