

Health4All Young Adults

Fact Sheet

New Medi-Cal Expansion

Starting **January 1st, 2020** all income-eligible Californians under the age of 26 will be able to get free full-scope Medi-Cal, regardless of their immigration status. Medi-Cal is California's version of Medicaid, a health insurance program for low-income people. This expansion means that undocumented young adults will be able to receive the health care that they need to thrive.

Individuals Who Will Be Impacted:

Transition Population:

This includes individuals who are currently enrolled in restricted-scope Medi-Cal (also known as emergency or pregnancy Medi-Cal) but are now eligible for full-scope under the young adult expansion. It also includes individuals who enrolled in full-scope Medi-Cal through the previous Health4All Kids expansion and will *remain* eligible after turning 19 under the new expansion. These individuals should have received letters from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) notifying them that they are being automatically transitioned from restricted to full-scope Medi-Cal and therefore their benefits are increasing.

New Enrollees:

This includes individuals ages 19-25 who are newly eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal under the young adult expansion but are not enrolled in restricted-scope Medi-Cal and therefore not in the Medi-Cal system already. These individuals will need to apply for Medi-Cal through any of the existing application methods ([find information about how to apply here](#)).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age 25 or younger
- Household income under 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For example, for a household of 4 people, this would be an annual household income of \$35,535 ([find information about income requirements here](#)).
- Live in California
- Immigration status is NOT a criterion for eligibility. Undocumented individuals are eligible.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- *Will receiving Medi-Cal make me a “public charge”?*
 - Because the Medi-Cal expansion for young adults is state-funded and not federally funded, it is **NOT counted in the public charge test.** (Also, as of this writing, the expanded public charge rule has been stopped by the courts and is *not* in effect.)
 - To find an immigration legal services provider who can help you assess whether public charge might impact you for reasons *other* than the Medi-Cal young adult expansion, please refer to the [Department of Social Services “One California” program](#).

- *How do I enroll in Medi-Cal?*
 - Visit the [DHCS Young Adult Expansion webpage](#) for information for enrollees being automatically transitioned into full-scope Medi-Cal.
 - Submit a new application: [DHCS has a step-by-step guide](#), including links to the paper and online application.
 - Find a local health center that can help you enroll in Medi-Cal: bit.ly/390NSYc
 - For help with the Medi-Cal eligibility rules, call the [Health Consumer Alliance](#) at 888-804-3536

- *What types of medical services will be covered?*
 - General medical care
 - Family planning
 - Dental health services
 - Mental health services
 - Alcohol and drug treatment services
 - Prescription drugs
 - ...and more

Additional Resources:

- For detailed information about the Medi-Cal young adult expansion, visit www.health4allyoungadults.org. This website includes helpful resources, including a webinar by CIPC and other advocates about:
 - Who is eligible
 - The enrollment process
 - Immigration concerns and “know your health care rights” info
 - Tips for working with immigrant communities
- For more information about public charge, please refer to these community fact sheets in 22 different languages: bit.ly/36NDh10

For questions, contact Sarah Dar, Senior Policy Manager, at sdar@caimmigrant.org.