



2024 MEDI-CAL EXPANSION & PUBLIC CHARGE

What the immigrant community needs to know
about these changes

APRIL 2024

WHAT IS THE MOST RECENT UPDATE REGARDING MEDI-CAL COVERAGE FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS?

Starting January 2024, all income-eligible Californians may qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FULL SCOPE MEDI-CAL AND EMERGENCY MEDI-CAL?

Full scope Medi-Cal covers all medical, dental, mental health, vision, and other important services. Full scope Medi-Cal may also cover substance abuse treatment and includes transportation to medical visits. Emergency Medi-Cal is limited and only covers some emergency medical services.

WILL ALL UNDOCUMENTED CALIFORNIANS BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS EXPANSION REGARDLESS OF AGE?

Yes, all undocumented Californians will be eligible if they meet the eligibility guidelines for the program.

WHAT ARE THE INCOME GUIDELINES NEEDED TO QUALIFY FOR MEDI-CAL?

Visit the [California Department Of Health Care Services webpage](#) to review all income

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guidelines.

WILL USING MEDI-CAL HURT MY IMMIGRATION CASE OR COUNT AS A PUBLIC CHARGE?

No. The use of Medi-Cal and other important health, nutrition and housing benefits does not count as a public charge and will not impact your immigration case. The only public benefits that count are cash aid (like CalWorks or welfare) and long-term institutionalized care (like a nursing home).

WHAT PUBLIC CHARGE RULE IS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT AND WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?

The strict public charge rule announced by the Trump administration has been rescinded by the Biden administration. The current rule is similar to the one that was in place before 2017. Public Charge only applies to people applying for a visa to enter to U.S. or applying for a green card (lawful permanent residence) through a relative.

CAN THE PERSONAL INFORMATION I SHARE FOR MY MEDI-CAL COVERAGE BE SHARED WITH IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS?

No. There are very strict laws in California that protect immigrants from having their personal information shared with immigration officials.

WHERE CAN I SIGN UP FOR FULL SCOPE MEDI-CAL COVERAGE?

- **Online:** Using the **Covered California application page** (<https://www.coveredca.com/apply/>) (Covered California and Medi-Cal use the same application) or **benefitscal.com**.
- **In-person:** Find your nearest county office by visiting the **California Department of Healthcare Services County Office webpage** (<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>)



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➔ **By phone:** (800) 300-1506

WHERE CAN I FIND A TRUSTED LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER TO ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT MY IMMIGRATION CASE?

Visit ilrc.me/gethelp to find a trusted legal services provider in your area.

Are you a California Community College (CCC) or a California State University (CSU) student? If so, you qualify for FREE immigration legal services!		Discover more community explainers, toolkits, & alerts about immigration law.	
FIND OUT MORE	CCC: findyourally.com	CSU: findyourally.com/csu	FOLLOW US    