

#HEALTH4ALL

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Medi-Cal expansion for
Undocumented Children



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Hello California friends,

As a doctor I believe that nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our children. Every child should have access to regular doctor check-ups and preventive services in order to stay healthy. In spring of 2016, California will expand Medi-Cal to include all eligible children up to the age of 19, regardless of immigration status. This means that free to low-cost health care will be available to thousands of California children who need it the most.

Every child will be able to get the care they need. We know our state is healthier when everyone, including the undocumented, has access to affordable health coverage.

This booklet will provide you and your family with helpful information on whether your children may now qualify for restricted-scope Medi-Cal and how to enroll.

Our children's health cannot wait, so contact your local county human services office or locate your community health center to get them covered today. Visit localclinic.net or call 855-899-PLUS to find a health center near you.

Dra. Aliza

Enroll Your Kids Today

A few months ago, my daughter got very weak and was throwing up. She did not have health insurance because she is undocumented, and I was afraid to take her to the doctor because I have no money to cover the costs. Fortunately, she got better quickly. Since then, I have been very scared that something else may happen to her and that I will not have the money to pay. That is why I am enrolling her into restricted-scope Medi-Cal as soon as possible so she can get full preventive services next year when Medi-Cal expands.

I tell other mothers not to be afraid to sign their kids up because it will only benefit them.



"Don't be afraid to enroll your kids"

Carolina Morán
Mother of 14-year-old Lizeth

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Medi-Cal Expansion

Undocumented Children Now Have Access

Governor Jerry Brown expanded Medi-Cal to all lower-income California children younger than 19, regardless of immigration status. Medi-Cal provides free or low-cost preventive medical care and treatments including vision, dental and mental health. Undocumented and mixed-status families who are income-eligible for Medi-Cal should know that their children will be eligible for full-scope

Medi-Cal starting no sooner than spring 2016. All kids with restricted-scope Medi-Cal (also known as "emergency Medi-Cal") will automatically transition to full-scope Medi-Cal without having to fill out a new application.

This is a great opportunity for undocumented children to get the health care they deserve.

Five Things To Know About Medi-Cal Expansion

1 Undocumented Kids Are Eligible

Children and youth younger than 19, whose families meet the income guidelines, qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal. Here are some income eligibility examples:

Family of 4 \$64,505 annual income or \$5,375 per month

Family of 5 \$83,730 annual income or \$6,978 per month

Family of 6 \$86,637 annual income or \$7,220 per month

2 It's Free or Low-Cost

Medi-Cal is free for families who meet income requirements. For families who must pay, for example, the monthly premiums are \$13 per child up to a family maximum of \$39 per month.

3 Enroll Your Kids Now

Medi-Cal expansion will begin as early as spring of 2016, but families and youth can take action **immediately** by enrolling into restricted medi-cal to gain access to full-scope Medi-Cal as soon as possible.

4 Enroll in Person

You can enroll yourself and your children in restricted-scope Medi-Cal at your local county human services office or a local clinic in-person. Get help finding a clinic at www.localclinic.net or by calling (855) 899-7587.

5 Make sure You Have Everything You Need

Families should bring as many of the following materials as they can with them to enroll into Medi-Cal:

- Proof of Identity (driver's license or photo ID)
- Proof of Income (current pay stub or bank statement)
- Child's Birth Certificate or Legal Resident Card
- Proof of Residency (PG&E, cable or telephone bill)
- Medi-Cal Card, if applicable
- Not all items are required for enrollment assistance

Your information will be confidential

Any personal information shared when enrolling your children into restricted-scope or full-scope Medi-Cal is confidential. The information used to enroll is strictly confidential. It will never be shared with immigration enforcement. Many mixed immigration status families are concerned that enrolling in health care coverage will negatively affect their applications for immigration status. Unless you enroll in long-term care, enrolling yourself or your children in health care coverage does not constitute a "public charge" that could later affect your immigration status.



Frequently Asked Questions

What if a child is already enrolled in restricted-scope Medi-Cal?

If children are already in restricted-scope Medi-Cal, they should keep it and make sure the coverage does not need to be renewed. That way, eligible children are in the best position to transition to full-scope Medi-Cal when the expansion takes place. A county human services office or a local clinic can assist families renewing their Medi-Cal coverage.

What if a child is already enrolled in a child health plan through a county?

Families should be receiving information from their county child health plan about the Medi-Cal expansion with additional instructions.

What if a child is already enrolled in a health plan through the Kaiser Permanente Child Health Program?

Kaiser will communicate with families whose children are already enrolled in the Kaiser

Permanente Child Health Program to inform them about the Medi-Cal expansion. In the meantime, these children will not lose access to the benefits they have now, and Kaiser will work with eligible families to ensure a smooth transition into full-scope Medi-Cal.

What happens when someone turns 19?

Unless they qualify for DACA status(*), they will lose their coverage.

What about those who have DACA status?

Undocumented Californians who have DACA status may be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal and can enroll at either a county human services office or at a local clinic. Get help finding a clinic at www.localclinic.net

Where can I enroll?

You can enroll yourself and your children in restricted-scope Medi-Cal at your local county human services office or a local clinic in-person. Get help finding a clinic at www.localclinic.net or by calling (855)

(*) **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** is an immigration policy, started by the Obama administration in June 2012, that allows certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country before their 16th birthday and before June 2007 to receive a renewable two-year work-permit and exemption from deportation.



What's the difference between restricted-scope Medi-Cal and full-scope Medi-Cal?

The difference between restricted-scope and full-scope Medi-Cal is those with full-scope Medi-Cal has access to more services.

People with restricted-scope Medi-Cal receive limited care, typically in the case of an emergency services. Although restricted-scope Medi-Cal is often called "emergency Medi-Cal," an individual can enroll any time of year, even when there is no medical emergency.

Full-scope Medi-Cal gives people access to critical preventive services, like annual check-ups, shots and free health screenings. People with full-scope Medi-Cal have a primary care provider (or a "medical home") and also have access to Denti-Cal, which gives patients access to regular dental care as well.

Full-scope Medi-Cal covers:



Preventive services, vaccines and wellness visits



Doctor visits



Emergency services



Hospitalization



Prescription drugs



Specialty care and specialty drugs



Eye exams and glasses



Dental services





Why I will enroll my daughter

Maricarmen López is the mother of three girls, only one of whom is undocumented. For years, she has had to treat her daughters differently. She has to find different options to be able to take Yamilet to the doctor. Although she recently enrolled Yamilet in emergency Medi-Cal, the plan is quite limited and it does not offer vision or dental care. "My daughter asks me why she doesn't have the same services or go to the same doctor as her

sisters. I am forced to explain to her that she is different because she was not born in this country," said López. To avoid medical bills, she treats Yamilet with home remedies or over-the-counter medication when she gets sick. Now, as Medi-Cal will be expanded to cover all children, even those who are undocumented, Yamilet will have access to the same health services and doctors as her sisters.



Full-scope Medi-Cal will allow Yamilet to access:

- Expanded medical and emergency care
- Dental services
- Vision and lens services
- Hospital care
- Medication
- Laboratory tests

#Health4All

While the expansion of Medi-Cal will allow undocumented children to enroll in health care, more than a million undocumented adults are still locked out of affordable, quality health care. They do not have access to preventive services and treatments than can keep them healthy. But there are still opportunities for undocumented Californians to get access to basic health care services through the community health centers (clinics) and

county programs. To find a clinic visit: www.local-clinic.net or by calling (855) 899-7587. All Californians should have access to health coverage, regardless of their immigration status. #Health4All seeks a statewide solution so that all Californians will have access to affordable, quality health coverage. To learn more visit www.health4allca.org

HEALTH & JUSTICE FOR ALL





Glossary

For those enrolling in health coverage for the first time, there can be a lot of confusing terminology. It's critical for you to understand these terms so that you may be able to take full advantage of your new benefits and make informed decisions about your health and your family health.

Medi-Cal: Medi-Cal is California's version of the federal Medicaid health program that provides free or low-cost preventive medical care and treatments including vision, dental and mental health.

Full-scope Medi-Cal: gives people access to critical preventive services, like annual check-ups and free health screenings. People with full-scope Medi-Cal have a primary care provider (or a "medical home") and also have access to Denti-Cal, which gives patients access to regular dental care as well.

Restricted-scope Medi-Cal: people receive limited care,

typically in the case of an emergency. Although restricted-scope Medi-Cal is often called "emergency Medi-Cal," an individual can enroll any time of year, even when there is no medical emergency.

Income Eligibility: to qualify for Medi-Cal, your household must not exceed a certain amount, depending on how many people are in your immediate household (like children, spouses, etc).

Premium: The amount you pay for your health coverage. Usually it is paid monthly.

California Earned Income Tax Credit: a new California tax credit that puts money back into the pockets of working families and individuals. If your annual income is between \$6,580 and \$13,870 you may be eligible – the most important thing to do now is file your taxes! Visit www.CalEITC4Me.org

