Mendocino County Department of Social Services CEO Report

November 2026

II. Safe & Healthy County

Upcoming Work and Community Engagement Requirements for Medi-Cal

Effective January 1, 2027, certain Medi-Cal applicants and recipients will need to meet the Work and Community Engagement Requirements to get or maintain Medi-Cal coverage. The population this applies to are those who fall into the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) New Adult Group under the Affordable Care Act who meet the following criteria:

- Ages 19-64
- Income below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level
  - $22,025 annually for an individual
  - $45,540 annually for a family of four
- Not pregnant or not within 12-months postpartum month
- Not enrolled in, or entitled to, Medicare Part A or B
- Not eligible for coverage under any other Medi-Cal group

If this new rule applies to you, and you do not qualify for an exemption, you must complete one of the following:

- Earn at least $580 in monthly income
- Complete 80 hours of work per month
- Complete 80 hours of community service per month
- Participate in a work program for 80 hours per month
- Be enrolled in an education program at least half-time
- Any combination of activities totaling 80 hours

All current Medi-Cal beneficiaries should have received an outreach letter by mail to notify of these upcoming changes some time within the last two months. Individuals already receiving Medi-Cal will be assessed for these new rules at their next scheduled Medi-Cal renewal starting with March 2027.

People newly applying for Medi-Cal under the New Adult Group will need to meet these requirements as a condition of eligibility unless they meet an exemption. Individuals exempt from the Work and Community Engagement Requirements include:

- Medically frail individuals
- Participants in a drug or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program
- Parents, guardians, caretaker relative, or family caregivers of a dependent child under the age of 14 or a dependent with a disability
- Veterans with a disability rated as total
- Members of a household receiving SNAP who are not exempt from SNAP work requirements
- Individuals compliant with TANF work reporting requirements
- American Indians and Alaska Natives
- Former foster care youth under the age of 26
- Inmates of a public institution
- Pregnant individuals or those entitled to postpartum Medi-Cal coverage

More information on upcoming Medi-Cal changes is available online at https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/medi-cal/updates/medi-cal-changes/

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Honoring and Supporting Veterans Through the Veterans Services Office

This November, in recognition of Veterans Day, Mendocino County joins the community in thanking our local veterans for their service and sacrifice. The County's Veterans Services Office remains dedicated to supporting these individuals and their families year-round.

The office provides direct, individualized support through in-person consultations, phone support, and community outreach, helping veterans navigate federal benefit claims, healthcare access, and housing resources.

Additionally, the Veterans Services Office will participate in the Mendocino County Veterans Stand Down on December 3, 2026, at the Veterans Memorial Building (293 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah), connecting veterans directly with essential service providers and community partners.

Through ongoing assistance and strong local partnerships, Mendocino County remains committed to honoring our veterans and ensuring they can easily access the support they have earned.

Fort Bragg Veterans Services Office
(707) 964-5823
360 N. Harrison St.
Fort Bragg, CA
Appointment is required.



Ukiah Veterans Services Office
(707) 463-4226
405 Observatory Ave.
Ukiah, CA
Lobby is open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm (closed 12pm-1pm) excluding County holidays.
https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/All-Departments/Social-Services/Adult-Aging-Services#Veterans



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Social Services Program Data

Family & Children's Services	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
Jurisdictional Reports	50%	44%	85%
Dispositional Reports	85%	77%	100%
Semi-Annual Status Review Reports	42%	60%	33%

Special Projects Team	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
Front Door for Families *Housed or Stabilized duplicated*	30	41	34
Live Oak Residents	90	82	88
Jail Inmates Assisted with Medi-Cal Enrollment	9	11	6

Special Investigations Unit

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
Referrals Received	120	102	168
Closed Investigations	65	56	185
IEVS Processing Time	100%	100%	

Qtr 2 and Qtr 3 Updates

CalFresh Over Issuance Referrals are up $68,335. CalWORKs Over Payments Referrals are up $20,079. IEVS CalFresh Over Issuance are down $3,739. CalWORKs Over Payments are up $962.

Mendocino County Department of Social Services Monthly Data Dashboard