

Mendocino County Department of Social Services CEO Report

April 2026

II. Safe & Healthy County



Department Procedures Approved/Updated

- 26-01 Employee Transfer Requests

Adult & Aging Services Public Guardian Program Spotlight

Each spring, national observances highlight the lives and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities — Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March and Autism Acceptance Month in April.

In recognition of this, the Mendocino County Public Guardian program spotlights its work supporting adults with developmental disabilities who require conservatorship. The program currently manages 17 active conservatorships, 13 of which involve individuals needing coordinated medical, financial, and social services.

Public Guardian staff collaborate with regional centers, care providers, medical professionals, and community partners to ensure conservatees have safe living environments, access to healthcare, and individualized supports. The program's approach balances protective oversight with person-centered advocacy, upholding the dignity and quality of life of each conservatee.

This work reflects the county's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable residents while supporting their ability to live safely and meaningfully within the community.



Mendocino County Department of Social Services Monthly Data Dashboard

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Important Changes for Dental Benefits for Immigrants

Starting July 1, 2026, Medi-Cal will not cover regular dental services for some adults aged 19 and older, based on their immigration status, except for emergencies. This change does not affect pregnant individuals or foster youth under age 26 who were in foster care on their 18th birthday. This change does effect immigrants whose status does not get federally qualified funding for their Medi-Cal. To learn more about immigration status and changes to Medi-Cal eligibility, go to: [Immigration Status Categories](#).

How this change affects you:

- If you applied for Medi-Cal before January 1, 2026, you can use your full dental benefits until June 30, 2026. Starting on July 1, 2026, your coverage will be called full-scope Medi-Cal with no dental. If you were enrolled in a Medi-Cal Dental Plan (Dental Managed Care Plan), you will be disenrolled.
- If you applied for Medi-Cal on or after January 1, 2026, you will qualify for restricted scope Medi-Cal only. This covers emergencies, including dental-related services, pregnancy-related services, and some nursing home care.

Covered emergency dental services are those treatments needed right away to stop severe pain or to diagnose and treat sudden serious medical problems. Serious problems are those that could cause serious harm or death if not treated right away. Emergency dental services can be for:

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

To learn more, go to Smile, California at: [Smile, CA - What should I do if I have a dental emergency?](#)

