

Mendocino County Department of Social Services CEO Report

September 2026

II. Safe & Healthy County



ATLAS Telehealth Arrives in Fort Bragg With a Successful Ribbon Cutting Event

We are excited to share photos from the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the new Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS) program at the Fort Bragg Veterans Memorial Building.

In partnership with the San Francisco VA Health Care System, this new resource will provide local Veterans with improved access to healthcare through telehealth services, helping to overcome barriers created by distance and the challenges of living in a remote community. The ATLAS site will expand access to care while reducing the need for Veterans on the Mendocino Coast to travel long distances for appointments.

Thank you to the dedicated staff and partners who helped make this program a reality, everyone who attended and spoke at the event, and, most importantly, the Veterans whose needs and experiences continue to guide this important work.



Providing Housing Stability Through the Housing & Disability Advocacy Program

The Housing & Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) helps people in Mendocino County who have disabilities and are experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their homes. Because addressing homelessness remains a key priority for the region, HDAP case managers work hard to reach the people who need help the most.

In **Fiscal Year 2025–26, HDAP helped 22 people find housing.** This included 10 new participants enrolled during the year, while others continued receiving support started previously. Case managers work one-on-one with each participant, staying involved even after someone finds housing to help keep them stable. A grant from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) funds the program.

Beyond housing, case managers help participants apply for vital disability benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and connect them to medical care and other essential community services.

HDAP remains a key part of the county's response to homelessness. By connecting people to stable housing and ongoing support, the program helps Mendocino County's most vulnerable residents build safer, more stable lives. For more information, please call (707) 463-7900.

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Medi-Cal Changes

Major changes to Medi-Cal for certain adults ages 19-64 will be starting next year under H.R.1 including work and community engagement requirements, six-month eligibility renewals, and shortened retroactive coverage.

Beginning **January 1, 2027**, some adults receiving Medi-Cal through the Affordable Care Act expansion will need to **meet work, school, training, or volunteer requirements** to keep Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal will send letters to every person that needs to meet these new rules. To meet these requirements, members must do one or more of the following:

- Work at a job earning at least \$580 per month
- Be a seasonal worker and earn an average of \$580 over the last six months
- Be in a job training program (learning skills to get a job) for at least 80 hours a month
- Volunteer or do community service for at least 80 hours a month
- Attend school at least half time
- Do a combination of the above activities with a total of at least 80 hours per month or \$580 in earnings per month

Also starting **January 1, 2027, retroactive coverage periods will be reduced**. Currently, eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries are entitled to up to 3 months of coverage prior to their application date. The number of months of retroactive coverage will be reduced to 1 month for adults aged 19-64 without children, and 2 months for other individuals.

Finally, the other major change that will occur starting **January 1, 2027** is the implementation of **six-month certification/renewal periods** for adults aged 19-64 who qualify for Medi-Cal through Affordable Care Act expansions. New members enrolling after January 1, 2027 will have their first redetermination check six months after joining Medi-Cal. Members who are already receiving Medi-Cal prior to January 1, 2027 will transition to the six-month certification period after their first regularly scheduled renewal after March 1, 2027. Other members will continue to renew once a year.

To apply for Medi-Cal or to see when your next renewal is due, you can log in to [BenefitsCal](#).

For more information or to report changes, please reach out to one of our eligibility offices by calling (707) 463-7700 in Ukiah or (707) 962-1000 in Fort Bragg. You can learn more about Medi-Cal at [Help | Medi-Cal](#).

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2026 Quarterly Reporting

Family & Children’s Services Quarterly Court Report Timeliness

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Jurisdictional Reports	50%	44%
Dispositional Reports	85%	77%
Semi-Annual Status Review Reports	42%	60%

Special Investigations Quarterly Report

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Referrals received	120	102
Closed investigations	65	56
Time of IEVS processing	100%	100%



The Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) matches an applicant or recipient’s data with State welfare files, wages, unemployment and disability benefit files, income information from the Internal Revenue Services, and/or Franchise Tax Board and the Social Security Administration. Eligibility Examiners review the matches within 45 days.



Mendocino County Department of Social Services Monthly Data Dashboard