

Changes to Medi-Cal Health Coverage – for Community Organizations

January 1, 2026: Medi-Cal enrollment freeze. Undocumented residents, those without “Satisfactory Immigration Status” and others who don’t qualify for federally funded Medi-Cal cannot enroll in Medi-Cal. If patients *are already enrolled* in Medi-Cal, they will stay covered regardless of immigration status if they complete their renewal forms. If patients’ coverage stops because of a late renewal or missing paperwork, they will have 90 days to fix it and stay enrolled. Income-eligible children (0-18), former foster youth under age 26, and pregnant women can still enroll at any time.

July 1, 2026: Restrictions to Medi-Cal Dental coverage. Undocumented residents, those without “Satisfactory Immigration Status” and others who don’t qualify for federally funded Medi-Cal will lose dental coverage even when they still have Medi-Cal. Emergency dental care will still be covered (extractions, infection, severe pain). Children, former foster youth under age 26, and pregnant women do not lose their dental benefits.

January 1, 2027: Work, school or volunteer requirement to remain on Medi-Cal. Requirement to earn \$580/month, attend school half-time, volunteer or enroll in job training 20 hours/week begins. This applies to all adults ages 19-64 eligible because of the Affordable Care Act’s Medi-Cal expansion who do not qualify for an exemption. Parents of a child age 0-13 are exempt.

January 1, 2027: Medi-Cal renewals every six months. Medi-Cal members will now need to complete renewal forms twice each year instead of annually. This applies to all adults ages 19-64 eligible because of the Affordable Care Act expansion of Medi-Cal except for former foster youth under age 26, pregnant women. People on SSI/SSDI likely excluded.

How You Can Help in Community Organizations

- ✓ Ask your state Legislative representatives and the Governor to stop the rollback of dental benefits for undocumented residents. Also ask them to stop the rollback of dental reimbursement rates which, if it starts on July 1, will affect all Medi-Cal members, reducing dental access by 50%. For more information: [Saveourdentalcare.org](https://saveourdentalcare.org)
- ✓ Remind patients to check their renewal dates on benefitscal.com
- ✓ Remind patients to keep their contact information updated with the Department of Social Services
- ✓ Remind adult Medi-Cal members to look for a renewal packet in 2027 every six months
- ✓ Help clients find their renewal date, set up a reminder to complete the renewal packet and keep a copy, and complete the forms
- ✓ Set up processes in your organization to ensure clients have a benefitscal.com account, know their renewal dates, and submit their renewals and work requirements documentation
- ✓ Know the referrals for questions about getting back on Medi-Cal if they did not renew and questions about meeting work requirements (coming soon from CenCal Health)