



Health Care Practice Tip: November 2025 Medi-Cal Immigrant Eligibility Changes in 2026

Medi-Cal eligibility for immigrants is getting worse starting on January 1, 2026. Several changes harm people differently depending on their **age** and **immigration status**. Until California's elected officials reverse these harmful cuts, this Practice Tip provides information and strategy ideas to help immigrants access the health care that they need.

Many immigrants are exempt from these harmful changes!

We start with the only good news in this tip! Many immigrants can **keep their full-scope Medi-Cal because they are exempt from** the changes described below:¹

- Children up to their 19th birthday
- Current foster youth, former foster youth up to their 26th birthday, and nonminor dependents²
- Pregnant people, including 12 months after the pregnancy ends

TIPS to help people in these three groups stay exempt from these changes:

- **People should report their pregnancies as soon as possible.** When applying for Medi-Cal, answer "yes" to the question "Are you pregnant?" If somebody already has Medi-Cal, they should report their pregnancy to [their county Medi-Cal office](#) by phone, at [BenefitsCal.com](https://www.benefitscal.com), by mail, or in person.

¹ The legislature first did not include foster youth, former foster youth, and nonminor dependents in the list of excluded groups, but they added them in the latest amended to Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 14007.8(b)(3), 14007.5(e)(4) (effective Sept. 17, 2025).

² For purposes of this exemption, a "former foster youth" is a youth between the ages of 18 and 25 who was in foster care in any state on their 18th birthday or later. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14005.28. And a "nonminor dependent" is a youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who was in foster care on their 18th birthday and remains under the supervision of the juvenile court with a transitional independent living case plan (i.e., in Extended Foster Care). Welf. & Inst. Code § 11400(v).

- **Watch out for when somebody turns age 19 or 26.** For all of the changes in this tip, Medi-Cal uses special rules to decide when somebody “ages out” of these groups:³
 - People who turn 19 or 26 on or after the second day of the month are considered 18 or 25 for the entire month – so they can keep their Medi-Cal for an extra month! 😊
 - But when people turn 19 or 26 on the first day of the month, they are considered that age for the entire month – so their Medi-Cal will change that same month. 😞
 - When people reach those age limits, they will keep their Medi-Cal but be subject to all of the bad news below. 😞

For people outside of these three exempted groups, please read on for how the coming harmful changes will impact immigrants in chronological order.

January 1, 2026

Medi-Cal will stop enrolling adults without documented status in full-scope Medi-Cal

The California Legislature and Governor betrayed their commitments to Health4All by banning full-scope Medi-Cal for adults with no documented status and three types of non-immigrant visas. Starting on January 1, 2026, these adults (age 19 and older) who apply for Medi-Cal will only qualify for restricted-scope (emergency) Medi-Cal.⁴

Important: This exclusion impacts only certain adults, age 19 and older, who used to be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal only under the different Medi-Cal expansions regardless of immigration status:

- Adults with no immigration status
- Adults with unverified status
- Adults with any of the three non-immigrant visas (student, work, and tourist visas)⁵

All immigrants with other statuses are not affected by this change! This includes: green card holders and applicants (regardless of the five-year waiting period); DACA recipients; refugees; asylees; Cuban/Haitian entrants; Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitioners; non-VAWA battered immigrant categories; parolees; U visa applicants and holders; T visa applicants and

³ As of early November 2025, [ACWDL 25-13](#) confirms these age-out policies for the “expansion freeze” (what we call the “full-scope Medi-Cal ban”) scheduled for January 1, 2026. We expect the same age-out policies to apply to all changes in this tip.

⁴ Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.8(b)(1).

⁵ California law limits the full-scope Medi-Cal ban to only these immigrant adults through a complicated cross-referencing of state and federal statutes. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.8(b)(1) establishes the restriction for people ages 19 and older, who are not United States Citizens (§ 14011.2(e)(1)), who are not in immigration statuses receiving federal full-scope Medicaid funding, and who are not PRUCOL (§ 14007.5(d)). By process of elimination, this leaves only these adult immigrants as subject to this change. Importantly, only the student, work, and visitor/tourist visas are included here, and not other non-immigrant visas like U or T visas.

holders; Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau (COFA); people Permanently Residing in the U.S. Under Color Of Law (PRUCOL); and more.

This means there will now be two groups of adults with no documented status and any of the three non-immigrant visas. The two groups will get different kinds of Medi-Cal. What matters most is:

- Did the person have full-scope Medi-Cal in December 2025?
- Did the person apply for Medi-Cal before January 1, 2026?

→ If the answer is “YES” to either question – good news! They can still be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal after January 1, 2026.

→ If the answer is “NO” to both questions – bad news. Adults with no documented status and some non-immigrant visa holder adults applying for Medi-Cal starting on January 1, 2026 will only qualify for restricted-scope (emergency) Medi-Cal.

1. Full-Scope Medi-Cal:

- a. Adults with no documentation and some non-immigrant visa holder adults who have full-scope Medi-Cal in December 2025 can keep their coverage as long as they continue to qualify and complete their annual renewals in 2026 and beyond.
- b. The same adults who apply for Medi-Cal by December 31, 2025 (and whose applications are approved later by the county) can qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal and keep it as long as they remain eligible. It does not matter when the county approves the application. All that matters is the date of submission.

TIPS to help adults with no documentation and some non-immigrant visa holders stay enrolled in this “frozen” group:

- New adult applicants who have no documentation or certain non-immigrant visas:
 - **The last day for these adults to apply for full-scope Medi-Cal is December 31, 2025.** Make sure to submit your Medi-Cal application no later than 11:59PM on December 31, 2025!
 - The best way to make sure your application is marked with a timely date is to apply online at [BenefitsCal.com](https://www.benefitscal.com). You can submit your application even if you do not have all of the required information.
 - Applicants may be worried about the privacy of their information. As of November 2025, the Federal Government had tried to use private Medicaid (Medi-Cal) information for immigration enforcement – but a court stopped them temporarily. For the latest information, check out the “Additional Resources” below or contact the [Health Consumer Alliance](#).
- For adults who have no documentation or certain non-immigrant visas, and who already have full-scope Medi-Cal in December 2025:

- Sign up for an account at [BenefitsCal.com](https://www.benefitscal.com) and opt into both email and text (phone) alerts. This will help you receive notifications when the county Medi-Cal office needs information to keep coverage active.
- Watch your mail, email, and phone for any contacts from your county Medi-Cal office. You must respond to all requests for information, including annual renewals, to keep your Medi-Cal active.
- When Medi-Cal ends for any reason, a new **three-month grace period** allows people time to return any information that the county Medi-Cal office needs to restore coverage.⁶ So when Medi-Cal terminates, people should contact their county Medi-Cal office to find out what is needed to turn their Medi-Cal back on. The county might simply need the person to submit a proof or confirm some information. In other situations, the person may need to submit a new Medi-Cal application. Be sure to **take action before the three-month grace period ends!**
- When somebody does not turn in requested information or reapply during the three-month grace period, they will be stuck with restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal.
- People who miss the three-month grace period may still get their Medi-Cal back if it ended as a result of an administrative error, like a county's late processing of submitted information, a county data collection error, or other mistake that was not the fault of the Medi-Cal member.⁷ They may also qualify for Medi-Cal after the three-month grace period if they can show good cause, which county Medi-Cal offices determine on a case-by-case basis.⁸

2. Restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal:

- a. Adults without documentation and certain non-immigrant visa holders who apply for Medi-Cal after December 31, 2025 can only qualify for restricted-scope (emergency) Medi-Cal, except for pregnant people who can still enroll in full-scope coverage (but they will transition to restricted-scope Medi-Cal after their pregnancy and postpartum period ends).⁹

TIPS to help adults with no documentation and certain non-immigrant visa holders who are subject to the full-scope Medi-Cal ban:

- People might have medical bills from the months before they apply for Medi-Cal. Possible retroactive full-scope Medi-Cal coverage for months in 2025 may help!

⁶ Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.8(b)(2) (grace period applies when somebody “loses coverage for full-scope Medi-Cal”). This is broader than the traditional 90-day cure period that applies only to terminations resulting from a member’s “failure to provide needed information.” Welf. & Inst. Code § 14005.37(i).

⁷ [ACWDL 25-13](#) at 9.

⁸ [MEDIL 25-27](#) at page 3. Good cause includes physical or mental illness, literacy or language barriers, and more. 22 CCR § 50175(c).

⁹ Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.8(b)(1).

- When the applicant meets Medi-Cal requirements in any of the three months before the application month, they may qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal during any retroactive months before January 2026.¹⁰ The deadline to ask the county for this retroactive-month eligibility is one year after the month for which a person seeks coverage.¹¹
 - This means that adults with no documentation and some non-immigrant visa holders applying for Medi-Cal in January, February, and March 2026 can ask the county to evaluate them for full-scope Medi-Cal for any of the three months that occur in 2025 before their application month.¹²
 - For example: A 27-year-old adult with a student visa applies for Medi-Cal on January 16, 2026. They request retroactive coverage for October, November, and December 2025. They can qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal during those retroactive months, because they would have been eligible under the Age 26-49 Adult Expansion. They can qualify for restricted scope (emergency) Medi-Cal starting in January 2026.
 - Note: Effective January 1, 2027, federal law requires Medi-Cal to shorten the retroactive eligibility period to one month for most adults, and two months for everybody else.¹³
- Restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal covers more than just emergency department hospital care.¹⁴ It also includes ongoing treatment or inpatient care if required to prevent serious injury or death, such as dialysis, and other services related to renal failure or dialysis complications.¹⁵ Also covered are pregnancy-related services and long-term care, depending on a patient's needs.¹⁶
- Medi-Cal is not creating any new "aid code" to identify adults without documentation or non-immigrant visa holders who can keep their Medi-Cal because they were enrolled or applied by December 31, 2025.¹⁷ So it may be difficult to identify which members are in this "frozen" group.
- People can file for a State Fair Hearing and request Aid Paid Pending.¹⁸ If they request the hearing before Medi-Cal changes to restricted (emergency) coverage, then full-scope Medi-Cal must stay active until the hearing decision is released. If they request the hearing after Medi-Cal changes to restricted (emergency) coverage but still during the three-month grace period, they can extend their grace period until the hearing decision.

Here are some examples that show how this full-scope Medi-Cal ban should work:

¹⁰ [ACWDL 25-13](#) at pages 6-8.

¹¹ 22 C.C.R. §§ 50148, 50197.

¹² [ACWDL 25-13](#) at 6-7.

¹³ H.R. 1 (2025) Section 71112 amended 42 U.S.C. 1396d(a).

¹⁴ 42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)(3); 42 C.F.R. § 440.225; Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.5(d).

¹⁵ *Crespin v. Kizer*, 226 Cal. App. 3rd 498 (1990).

¹⁶ Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 14007.65 (long-term care), 14007.7 (pregnancy).

¹⁷ [ACWDL 25-13](#) at page 4.

¹⁸ [ACWDL 25-13](#) at page 9.

Example: Rebeca is 20 years old and has no documented status. She had full-scope Medi-Cal in December 2025, so her Medi-Cal continues into 2026. But in May 2026, Rebeca's Medi-Cal terminated.

→ Rebeca must contact her county Medi-Cal office within the three-month grace period and do whatever it takes to get her Medi-Cal eligibility turned back on. Since Rebeca's benefits terminated in May, her three-month grace period will end on the last day of August 2026.

→ If Rebeca waits until September 2026 to reapply for Medi-Cal, she will have missed the three-month grace period so she will only qualify for restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal, unless she can ask for extra time because the county made an error.

Example: José is 31 years old and has DACA. He applies for Medi-Cal in January 2026.

→ Because people with DACA are not impacted by this full-scope Medi-Cal ban, José can qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal.

Example: Mauricio is 20 years old, has a student visa, and applies for Medi-Cal in February 2026.

→ Because he has one of the three types of non-immigrant visas that are subject to the full-scope Medi-Cal ban (student, work, and tourist/visitor), Mauricio qualifies only for restricted-scope (emergency) Medi-Cal. He may qualify for retroactive month coverage in November and December of 2025.

Example: Úrsula has no documentation and is a former foster youth with active full-scope Medi-Cal. On May 3, 2026, she turns 26 years old.

→ Úrsula will age out of the former foster youth category starting on June 1, 2026. When this happens, she will keep her full scope Medi-Cal. But later, her Medi-Cal will be affected by all of the changes in this tip: the full-scope Medi-Cal ban above, plus the dental exclusion and premiums described below.

July 1, 2026

Medi-Cal will stop covering non-emergency dental care for many immigrants

Medi-Cal will add a third type of coverage starting on July 1, 2026: “full-scope Medi-Cal with no dental.” This type of Medi-Cal will cover all of the ordinary services, except for non-emergency dental care.¹⁹ Still covered will be all other Medi-Cal benefits (including behavioral health), plus any dental treatments needed after or during an emergency medical condition, including:²⁰

- Accidents or injuries impacting the mouth
- Serious tooth pain
- Infections
- Tooth removals, and more!²¹

The impacted group of immigrants for this change is broader than the full-scope Medi-Cal ban above. It includes adults who are qualified immigrants ineligible for federally-funded Medi-Cal, DACA recipients, PRUCOL, adults with no documentation and non-immigrant visa holder immigrants in the group above, and others.²²

Many immigrants can keep Medi-Cal with non-emergency dental coverage. They include: green card holders exempt from or who have met the five-year waiting period, refugees, asylees, U visa applicants and holders, trafficking survivors, Cuban/Haitian entrants, Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau (COFA), qualified battered immigrants, parolees of more than one year, and more.

¹⁹ Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.5(l)(1) (limiting dental coverage to “the treatment of an emergency medical condition and medical care directly related to the emergency, as defined in federal law.”).

²⁰ For a full list of Medi-Cal benefits, visit Medi-Cal’s website, “[What does Medi-Cal cover?](#)” Find the most detailed list of covered benefits and services in the [Medi-Cal Provider Manuals](#).

²¹ There are several definitions of what emergency care should be covered. Federal law defines emergencies as “acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain)...that could reasonably be expected to result in placing patient’s health in serious jeopardy; serious impairment to bodily functions; or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.” 42 C.F.R. § 440.255(b). State statute incorporates this definition, and clarifies that both inpatient and outpatient care is covered. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.5(d); Health & Safety Code § 1317.1. State regulations are similar. 22 C.C.R. § 97500.73. When we asked, DHCS added some of these examples as dental care that would still be covered to [its website](#).

²² State law defines the group of immigrants getting Medi-Cal with no dental in two different statutes. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.5(c) (defining the group as including qualified immigrants who do not get federal funding for their Medi-Cal, plus people claiming PRUCOL), (l) (setting removal of non-emergency dental for adults ages 19 and up for these immigration status groups); § 14007.8(k) (defining group as immigrants receiving state-funded full-scope Medi-Cal).

Medi-Cal will mail an informing notice and FAQ document to all immigrant households that will see their Medi-Cal change to “Medi-Cal with no dental.”²³ A total of 2.5 million mailings will be sent in weekly batches starting November 7, 2025.

TIPS to help adult immigrants subject to Medi-Cal with no dental:

- Medi-Cal continues to cover [a wide range of dental benefits](#) through June 30, 2026. This includes dental exams and cleanings, X-rays, fillings, crowns, root canals, full and partial dentures, denture adjustments, and more! Many of these dental services will not be available under emergency-only dental coverage.
- People should schedule treatments now so that they receive the services by June 30, 2026. Schedule early to make sure you get it done in time, including fittings for any dentures! Search for a [Medi-Cal Dentist here](#).
- The immigrant groups exempted from all of these changes (kids under age 19, foster youth, former foster youth under age 26, nonminor dependents, and pregnant people until 12 months after the pregnancy ends) will keep their full-scope Medi-Cal with dental! But when people age out of the first two groups, or reach the end of their 12-month post-pregnancy period, their coverage will change to Medi-Cal with no dental.
- People can access non-emergency dental care that Medi-Cal excludes through different clinic, dental school, and community programs. Before Medi-Cal covered dental care, people would access dental services through an incomplete patchwork of free, low-cost, and private pay providers. Today there are several options that may help people get free or low-cost dental care:
 - Search for a nearby dental provider in California Dental Association’s [“Low-cost Dental Services” search tool](#).
 - Many local dental schools offer free or low-cost dental clinics. For example:
 - [Southwestern College Dental Hygiene Clinic](#)
 - [UCLA’s Dental Student General Clinic](#)
 - [Pasadena City College’s Dental Hygiene Clinic](#)
 - [UCSF’s Dental Center](#)
 - [University of the Pacific’s Dental Clinic](#)
 - And many others! Contact the Health Consumer Alliance for help locating a clinic in your area.

Example: José is 31 years old and has DACA. He applied for Medi-Cal in January 2026 and was approved for full-scope Medi-Cal because the full-scope Medi-Cal ban applies only to immigrants who have no status or any of the three non-immigrant visas. He should seek all needed dental care before July 1, 2026, when his coverage will change to Medi-Cal with no dental.

²³ The mailings will be sent in all threshold languages. [MEDIL 25-22](#) includes the English-Language version.

Last Updated: November 14, 2025

Example: Remedios is a former foster youth and has had Medi-Cal for all of her life. On August 3, 2026, she turns 26 years old. Because of Medi-Cal's age-out rules, her coverage will change to Medi-Cal with no dental on September 1, 2026.

October 1, 2026

Medi-Cal will lose federal funding for some immigrant groups

Federal law changes which groups of immigrants receive federal funding to support their Medi-Cal coverage. Starting on October 1, 2026, Medi-Cal will no longer receive federal funding to support full-scope Medi-Cal for these immigrant groups:²⁴

- People resettled in California as refugees
- People granted asylum or withholding of removal
- Survivors of domestic violence with a pending or approved VAWA application
- Survivors of trafficking with a pending or approved T visa
- People with Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Valid visa holders

Current state law requires members in these immigration groups to keep their full-scope Medi-Cal with dental.²⁵ But the Department of Health Care Services has said that statutory changes in 2026 will clarify that immigrants in these groups will move to Medi-Cal with no dental, and then later be subject to the monthly premiums described below.²⁶

TIPS to help adult immigrants when this federal law takes effect:

- Many people can keep their full-scope Medi-Cal with dental, so they should not experience any changes on October 1, 2026.²⁷
 - U.S. citizens
 - Lawful permanent residents (green card holders) exempt from or who have met the five-year waiting period
 - Cuban & Haitian entrants
 - Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau (COFA)
 - Children and pregnant people through a year after the pregnancy ends
- People changing to Medi-Cal with no dental do not need to do anything. The change will happen automatically. But they should still respond to all county requests and renewals to keep their coverage.

²⁴ H.R. 1 (2025) Section 71109 amended 42 U.S.C. 1396b(v), explained in NILC's excellent [The Anti-Immigrant Policies in Trump's Final "Big Beautiful Bill," Explained - NILC](#).

²⁵ Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.5 (b) and (c) both incorporate pre-H.R. 1 immigration status groups in Section 1641(b) of Title 8 of the United States Code. That code section was not changed/alterd by H.R. 1, nor was state law. Come October 2026, when immigration groups are eliminated from 42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)(1), they are still listed in Section 1641(b) of Title 8 of the United States Code. When this happens, state law requires that when they are exempt from or beyond the 5-year bar, they should keep full-scope Medi-Cal with dental and no premiums.

²⁶ New statute will likely remove "Section 1641(b)" from Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.5 (b) and (c) and replace it with "42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)(5)."

²⁷ 42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)(5), explained in NILC's excellent [The Anti-Immigrant Policies in Trump's Final "Big Beautiful Bill," Explained](#).

July 1, 2027

Some immigrants ages 19-59 will pay \$30/mo premiums for Medi-Cal

Unlike the changes above, the last harmful Medi-Cal change for immigrants impacts only some immigrants **ages 19 through 59**. Starting on July 1, 2027, each person will need to pay a \$30 monthly premium to keep their Medi-Cal with no dental.²⁸ Everybody between the ages of 19 and 59 who has full-scope Medi-Cal with no dental (the same immigrant groups listed above) will need to pay these premiums. Many immigrants do not need to pay the monthly premiums:²⁹

- People under age 19
- People over age 59
- Pregnant people including through the 12-month post-pregnancy period
- Foster youth, former foster youth under age 26, and nonminor dependents
- Anybody who has full-scope Medi-Cal with dental
- Anybody who has restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal

As of November 2025, Medi-Cal has not published details about how premium payments will work. But from state law, draft guidance, and past Medi-Cal premium payment programs, we can anticipate some details about how people will pay their premiums and keep their coverage:

- People will pay their premiums by cash, check, Western Union, electronic funds transfer (EFT), and credit card (with the option for recurring payments) to the Medi-Cal Premium Payment Section.³⁰
- When people do not pay a monthly premium, they must pay the entire balance due within 90 days.³¹ If they do not pay, their full-scope Medi-Cal with no dental will terminate, and they will be stuck with restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal only (which does not require premium payments). People in this group can use the three-month grace period (described above) to pay back all balances due to get their full-scope Medi-Cal restored.
- The maximum an individual could owe Medi-Cal in unpaid premiums is the balance of the premiums they do not pay for 90 days. Generally speaking, the most an individual

²⁸ Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 14007.5(e)(1), 14007.8(j)(1).

²⁹ Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 14007.5(e)(1)(B), (e)(4). Note that subdivision (e)(1)(B) references people with restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal described in subdivision (d), but it also limits premiums “as a condition of eligibility for the full scope of Medi-Cal benefits, subject to service limitations described in subdivision (l),” which is Medi-Cal with no dental. As a result, people with restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal do not need to pay premiums. DHCS has said that a new Medi-Cal [aid code](#) will be issued to identify members in this eligibility group that must pay premiums.

³⁰ Medi-Cal contracts with a private company called “Maximus” to administer these premiums, including handling all operations of the Medi-Cal Premium Payment Section.

³¹ Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.5(e)(3).

would owe in unpaid premiums is \$30 for every month during a 90-day grace period (or three months' worth of premiums), which would be around \$90 total.

- After the three-month grace period expires, adults subject to the full-scope Medi-Cal ban above cannot reapply for full-scope Medi-Cal. All other immigrants can reapply, but they must pay all past-due premiums before their application can be approved.

TIPS to help adult immigrants ages 19-59 when these premiums start:

- People must pay their premiums to keep their Medi-Cal coverage active. They might need help setting up their payments with the Medi-Cal Premium Payment Section.
- People should check their mail for any notices from the Medi-Cal Premium Payment Section. For example, if a payment fails and they have an overdue balance, Medi-Cal will send them a mailing.
- Paying premiums is especially important for adults subject to the full-scope Medi-Cal ban described above. If their Medi-Cal ends because of problems with the premium payments, they will have only three months to resolve it because they get stuck with restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal only. All other immigrants can reapply when they pay any premiums due from the past year.

Example: Pilar is 32 years old, has DACA, and has been with Medi-Cal for the past three years. On July 1, 2026 her Medi-Cal will change to Medi-Cal with no dental.

- Pilar should schedule all non-emergency dental care to be completed before then! Starting on July 1, 2027, Pilar will need to pay a \$30 per month premium to keep her Medi-Cal. In August 2027, she gets really busy with work and does not pay her premiums for two months. Medi-Cal sends her several letters asking her to pay the \$90 balance due.
- Pilar is too busy, so she does not pay, and her Medi-Cal changes to restricted (emergency) scope approximately 90 days after her first skipped premium payment.
- By the next year, Pilar has time to reapply for full-scope Medi-Cal. Fortunately, because she has DACA, she can still apply but must pay the \$90 unpaid premiums first.

Additional Resources

People should consider any of several other medical care programs to supplement their Medi-Cal when they are banned from full-scope Medi-Cal, downgraded to Medi-Cal with no dental, or downgraded to restricted (emergency) Medi-Cal:

- People can still qualify for many health programs regardless of immigration status:
 - [Hospital Presumptive Eligibility](#)
 - [Pregnancy Presumptive Eligibility](#)
 - [Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment Program \(BCCTP\)](#)
 - [Prostate Cancer Treatment Program \(IMPACT\)](#)
 - [Family Planning, Access, Care & Treatment Program \(FPACT\)](#)
 - [Medi-Cal's 213% FPL Pregnancy Program](#)

Last Updated: November 14, 2025

- [Medi-Cal Access Program \(MCAP\)](#)
- [County safety-net programs](#) (not all counties cover immigrants without documentation)
- [Emergency room screening & care](#)
- [Hospital financial assistance \(charity care\)](#) (not all hospitals provide financial assistance to immigrants without documentation)
- Kaiser Permanente's [Community Health Coverage Program](#)
- [Community health centers & clinics](#)

Groups across California have created several helpful resources:

- [Health Consumer Alliance flyers in threshold languages: "Medi-Cal Changes for Adult Immigrants \(ages 19 and up\) in California Starting in 2026 and 2027"](#)
- Health Consumer Alliance's chart on eligibility for California's health programs [based on an individual's immigration status](#)
- Health Consumer Alliance's chart [explaining the various health programs in California](#) and their eligibility criteria, including immigrant eligibility criteria
- NHeLP's [Medi-Cal Changes Under OBBBA and CA Budget: Immigrant Eligibility & Benefits](#)
- [NHeLP & Children's Law Center's "Upcoming Medi-Cal Cuts Don't Apply to Immigrant Foster Youth, Nonminor Dependents, and Former Foster Youth"](#)
- NILC's [The Anti-Immigrant Policies in Trump's Final "Big Beautiful Bill." Explained](#)
- Medi-Cal's [What Medi-Cal Members Need to Know](#)³²
- [Privacy Information for Immigrants With Medi-Cal](#)
- [Health4All FAQs: Medicaid Information Sharing with Immigration Enforcement \(Spanish\)](#)

For more information or with any questions, please contact:

- David Kane (dkane@wclp.org)
- Jules Lutaba (lutaba@healthlaw.org)

³² Beware that this website from the Department of Health Care Services may contain some inaccuracies. For example, as of November 2025, advocates are still asking that Medi-Cal correct several errors in the immigration status chart.