



## Upcoming Medi-Cal Cuts Don't Apply to Immigrant Foster Youth, Nonminor Dependents, and Former Foster Youth

Over the next two years, Medi-Cal eligibility and services will be substantially cut back for immigrant communities. Foster youth, nonminor dependents, and former foster youth up to age 26 are exempt from these changes. These populations should continue to receive full-scope Medi-Cal without premiums or additional requirements.

### California Budget Cuts to Immigrant Eligibility and Services

The federal "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" cut approximately \$1 trillion from Medicaid. In response, California passed a State Budget that will [roll back coverage](#) of Medi-Cal eligibility and services for certain immigrant groups. Starting January 1, 2026, California will freeze Medi-Cal applications from individuals age 19 and older who have [unsatisfactory immigration status](#) (UIS). These new applicants will no longer qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal. Individuals with UIS who are already enrolled in Medi-Cal can keep their benefits, with a [few changes](#). Notably, starting July 1, 2026, they will lose access to dental care services (except emergency dental services) and, starting July 1, 2027, they will need to pay a \$30 monthly premium.

### Are Current and Former Foster Youth with UIS Subject to These Cuts?

No. Individuals who are under age 19 (including those in foster care), nonminor dependents, and former foster youth up to age 26 are NOT subject to these cuts. These populations will continue to receive full-scope Medi-Cal without premiums or additional requirements. [Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 14007.8\(b\)\(2\)–\(3\), 14007.5\(e\)\(1\)\(B\), \(e\)\(4\)](#).

For purposes of this exemption, 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., youth in Extended Foster Care, including probate youth). [Id. § 11400\(v\)](#). 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. [Id. § 14005.28](#).

### What if These Youth Are Denied Medi-Cal Coverage or Services?

This should not happen. If it does, call the [Foster Care Ombudsman](#) at 877-846-1602 or the youth's dependency attorney, if they have one. If the issue persists, call the [Health Consumer Alliance](#) at 888-804-3536 for free legal assistance.