Updated November 2026

Medi-Cal Changes for Immigrants in 2026 and 2027

Special rules may help some people keep their Medi-Cal (check each change below):

- Children (under 19 years old)
- Current and former foster youth (under 26 years old)
- Pregnant and post-pregnancy people (up to one year after the end of pregnancy)
- Immigrants eligible for federal funding (sometimes called "SIS") are **NOT** impacted by these changes:
  - U.S. citizens (including naturalized citizens)
  - LPRs ("green card holders") who have met or are exempt from the 5-year waiting period
  - Cuban/Haitian entrants, and COFA nationals
  - "Lawfully present" kids (under 21) and pregnant persons eligible under CHIPRA

Medi-Cal changes and which immigrants are affected:

Timeline & Description of Changes		Who Is Affected
Jan 1, 2026	**Enrollment Freeze for Undocumented Adults** Undocumented adults (age 19+) applying for Medi-Cal on or after January 1, 2026 will only qualify for Emergency Medi-Cal. People who had Full-Scope Medi-Cal in December 2025 can keep it as long as they continue to renew and qualify. If your Full-Scope Medi-Cal ends for any reason, you have 3 months to get it back. You may not be able to get your Full-Scope Medi-Cal back after that period, and you will only qualify for Emergency Medi-Cal.	Only adults (age 19+) who are undocumented, have unverified status, or a work, tourist, or study visa. Not affected: • Children under age 19 • People claiming PRUCOL status • All other immigration statuses!
Jan 1, 2027	**Medi-Cal Managed Care Exclusion** Over 2 million immigrants will be disenrolled from their Medi-Cal health plans. They will access care through Regular Medi-Cal, sometimes called Fee-for-Service/FFS. Members do not pay copays or fees for Regular Medi-Cal. Find providers who accept regular Medi-Cal: • Medi-Cal's "Find Care" search tool • Call Medi-Cal: (800) 541-5555	All immigrants of all ages who do not receive federal funding for their Medi-Cal will transition to Regular Medi-Cal. Not affected: • Only the 4 groups of immigrants eligible for federal funding (sometimes called "SIS"). Check the green box above.
July 1, 2027	**Monthly Premiums** Adults ages 19 through 59 enrolled in Full-Scope Medi- Cal with no Dental must pay a premium amount between $30 and $50 each month. If you miss any monthly premium payments, you will have 90 days to catch up. If you do not pay the full amount owed within 90 days, you will lose your Full-Scope Medi-Cal with no Dental, and you may only qualify for Emergency Medi-Cal.	Adults (ages 19-59) with Full-Scope Medi-Cal with no Dental & ineligible for federal funding: • Subject to the Enrollment Freeze (above) • Refugees, asylees, DACA recipients, trafficking survivors, green card holders subject to the 5-year waiting period, PRUCOL, parolees, and more Not affected: • Immigrants eligible for federal funding (check green box above) • All pregnant people • All people under age 19 or over age 59 • Foster youth & former foster youth under age 26

(continued)

Timeline & Description of Changes		Who Is Affected
July 1, 2027	**Dental Coverage Ends (Except for Emergencies)** Medi-Cal will end full dental care for certain immigrants. See below for more on what is covered under emergency dental care.	Adults (ages 19+) who are ineligible for federal funding (sometimes called "SIS") Not affected: • Immigrants eligible for federal funding (check green box above) • All people under age 19 • All pregnant people • Foster youth & former foster youth under age 26

Medi-Cal Coverage Types Explained

Full-Scope Medi-Cal
Covers all medically necessary services, including:
- ✓ Preventive care
- ✓ Doctors and hospital visits
- ✓ Mental health care
- ✓ Dental
- ✓ Prescription drugs
- ✓ Long-term care
- ✓ and more!

Full-Scope Medi-Cal with no Dental
Covers all medically necessary services, including:
- ✓ Preventive care
- ✓ Doctors and hospital visits
- ✓ Mental health care
- ✗ Dental
- ✓ Prescription drugs
- ✓ Long-term care
- ✓ and more!

Dental care will only be covered in emergencies, like serious tooth pain, infections, and tooth extractions.

Emergency Medi-Cal
Only covers:
- ✗ Preventative care
- ✗ Regular doctor visits
- ✓ Emergency care only
- ✓ Pregnancy care
- ✓ Long-term care
- ✓ Dialysis
- ✗ Most other services

Emergency Medi-Cal is not comprehensive health coverage.

Medi-Cal's New Work Rules Apply to Immigrants

Starting in 2027, many adults ages 19 to 64 will need to satisfy new Medi-Cal work rules. They will also have to renew their Medi-Cal every six months instead of every year. These changes apply regardless of immigration status.

Don't Lose Your Medi-Cal: Important Reminders

Check your immigration status and how these changes apply to you. Visit Medi-Cal's Immigration Status chart (or scan the QR Code below). Talk to a trusted and verified immigration specialist if needed.

Update your immigration status with the county Medi-Cal office. Use Medi-Cal Form MC-13 to report PRUCOL status, if it applies to you.

Check your mail, email, and phone for renewal notices and requests from your county Medi-Cal office. Respond to all requests to keep your Medi-Cal coverage. Sign up for text and email reminders by visiting www.BenefitsCal.com. Renew your Medi-Cal coverage when it's your turn!

Contact your county Medi-Cal office as soon as possible to resolve issues with your renewal. Find your local county office: www.dhcs.ca.gov/COL

More questions? Since policies impacting Medi-Cal and immigrants continue to change, please contact the **Health Consumer Alliance (HCA)** to see if you are eligible for free and confidential information about Medi-Cal enrollment for immigrants. For the HCA program in your area, call HCA's statewide toll-free number at **1-888-804-3536** or go online to **www.HealthConsumer.org**.

To see DHCS' Medi-Cal Immigration Status chart, scan this QR code →