



UPCOMING MEDI-CAL H.R. 1 CHANGES



Changes to Immigration Status Definitions and Medi-Cal Eligibility

Starting **October 1, 2026**, the federal government is changing how it defines some immigration statuses.

**OCT
2026**

Who is affected? You may be affected if you are:

- A refugee or asylee
- A humanitarian parolee
- A survivor of domestic violence or human trafficking

These groups will now be considered to have Unsatisfactory Immigration Status (UIS).

How does this affect me? If you fall under UIS:

- You will receive state-funded, full-scope Medi-Cal
- Dental coverage will be limited to emergencies only
- Your regular Medi-Cal medical services will stay the same

For more information about immigration status and Medi-Cal eligibility, visit <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Medi-Cal/Pages/immigration-status-categories.aspx>

Work Requirements for Medi-Cal

Starting **January 1, 2027**, Medi-Cal members **aged 19-64** will need to work or volunteer to get or keep their Medi-Cal.

**JAN
2027**

Members must do one of the following:

- Work and receive pay.
 - Earn at least **\$580/month** from work.
 - Be a seasonal worker and earn an average of **\$580/month over the last six months.**
- Be in a job training program for at least **80 hours/month.**
- Volunteer or do community service for at least **80 hours/month.**
- Attend school at least **half-time.**
- Do a mix of the things listed above for a total of at least **80 hours/month.**



Who is exempt? The new work rules do not apply to:

- Children (0-18)
- Older Adults (65+)
- Parents with children aged 13 or younger
- Pregnant people, including one year postpartum, regardless of birth outcome
- People with disabilities
- People with serious health or mental health conditions or substance use problems.
- People who were released from jail or prison within the last 90 days
- People on Medicare Part A or Part B
- American Indians or Alaska Natives
- Foster youth or former foster youth under age 26

If you are required to work, you will receive a letter from Medi-Cal with more information before the rule starts. Members who are required to work under these new rules but do not meet the rules may lose their Medi-Cal.



**Questions?
Contact us**

Phone (800) 223 - 8383

Locations



Daly City - 271 92nd St., Daly City, CA 94015
San Mateo - 1500 Fashion Island Blvd, San Mateo, CA 94404
Redwood City - 2500 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City, CA 94063
East Palo Alto - 2415 University Ave., 3rd Fl., East Palo Alto, CA 94303

**JAN
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Six-Month Eligibility Checks are Now Required

Starting **January 1, 2027**, Medi-Cal members **aged 19-64** will have their eligibility checked every **six months**. Medi-Cal will send you a letter if you need to renew your Medi-Cal every six months. **You could lose your coverage if you do not fill out the renewal forms completely!** Always read your mail from Medi-Cal and respond quickly.

Note: Members outside this age group will continue their annual renewal.

**JAN
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Less Time Paying Past Bills

Starting **January 1, 2027**

- If you do not have **children under 19**, or if you are a higher-income parent of children younger than 19, Medi-Cal will only pay **one month** of past medical bills.
- All other members may get help for up to **two months** of past bills.

**OCT
2028**

Copayments for Health Care Services

Starting **October 1, 2028**, Medi-Cal members **aged 19-64** who are not exempt under the new rules may need to pay a small copayment (copay) for certain health care services, such as when seeing a specialist. Copays may range from \$1-\$35 per service.

No copays are needed for:

- Regular checkups
- Mental health and substance use treatment.
- Prenatal (pregnancy) care
- Pediatric (children's) care
- Emergency care



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What Should You Do Next?

No actions are needed. Make sure your contact information such as your mailing address and phone number are updated so you do not miss important notices. Affected members will receive letters by text, mail, or email.

Contact your local county HSA office or visit the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) website at dhcs.ca.gov for updates.



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