



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



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Office of AIDS

All Project Directors' Letter No. 23-05

Medi-Cal Waiver Program

June 5, 2023

SUBJECT: FULL SCOPE MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION FOR OLDER ADULTS

Purpose

This All Project Directors' Letter (APDL) provides information to Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP) agencies regarding the Medi-Cal expansion available to all current and potential MCWP participants age 50 and older who meet eligibility requirements, regardless of immigration status.

Background

In 2022, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) implemented changes to Medi-Cal programs mainly utilized by older adults and people living with disabilities. These changes make it possible for more individuals age 50 and older to receive full scope Medi-Cal coverage, regardless of immigration status.¹ Additionally, changes to the property limits enable participants to keep more assets and still be eligible for full scope Medi-Cal.² All other Medi-Cal eligibility rules, including income limits, will still apply.

Older Adult Expansion

In 2021, California Assembly Bill (AB) 133 amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 14007.8 to expand eligibility for full scope Medi-Cal to individuals who are 50 years of age or older, regardless of immigration status, if otherwise eligible. This new coverage is referred to as the Older Adult Expansion, which went into effect on May 1, 2022.³ In May 2022, if potential MCWP participants had active restricted scope Medi-Cal, covering emergency and pregnancy related services only, they should have been automatically transitioned to full scope Medi-Cal. If these individuals qualify for full scope Medi-Cal under the Older Adult Expansion, they

¹ Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.8; All County Welfare Directors' Letter (ACWDL) 21-13.

² Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14005.62; ACWDL 22-25.

³ ACWDL 21-13.



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should also have received a notice telling them about their eligibility for full scope Medi-Cal and the beginning date, which was May 1, 2022 or after.⁴

A similar expansion for persons between 26 to 49 years old will take effect by January 1, 2024.⁵

Immigration Status

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services do NOT consider health, food, and housing services as part of the public charge determination. Therefore, using Medi-Cal benefits (except for nursing home or mental health institution care) will NOT hurt an individual's immigration status. When someone applies for state-funded benefits, their information is only used to determine if they qualify. State laws protect the privacy of their information – DHCS and county social services agencies cannot answer questions related to immigration or public charge.

Additional Resources

For all questions related to Older Adult Expansion, please email DHCS at OlderAdultExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov or refer to the DHCS website for resources and additional information on the [Medi-Cal Expansion for Older Adults](#).

- [Eligibility And Enrollment Plan \(April 6, 2022\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [All County Welfare Directors' Letter \(ACWDL\) 21-13](#)
- [All County Welfare Directors' Letter \(ACWDL\) 22-25](#)
- [Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter \(MEDIL\) 23-19](#)

Contact

If you have questions regarding this notice above and beyond any assistance from DHCS, please contact the MCWP Program at (916) 449-5881 or email MCWP at cdphmcwp@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kaye Pulupa

Kaye Pulupa, MPH
Chief, Special Programs Section
HIV Care Branch, Office of AIDS
California Department of Public Health

⁴ ACWDL 21-13 at 4 – 5.

⁵ Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.8(2)(B); ACWDL 23-08.