

Health4All

KIDS

An SB 75 Fact Sheet

Purpose: This fact sheet highlights the successes of the SB 75 “Health for All Kids” implementation, discusses privacy protections in Medi-Cal, and provides resources for advocates.

Highlights of the Health for All Kids Implementation

In May 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 75 expanded full-scope Medi-Cal to low-income children regardless of immigration status. Through a collaborative workgroup, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), counties, and stakeholders worked together to develop and implement an eligibility enrollment plan that resulted in the following four significant accomplishments:

- Transitioned 120,614 children from restricted-scope Medi-Cal to full-scope Medi-Cal;
- Granted full-scope Medi-Cal to 43,310 newly eligible children;
- Created outreach materials and notices of action in the Medi-Cal threshold languages; and
- Facilitated enrollment into managed care plans for these children.

Key wins: Through the stakeholder workgroup, DHCS accepted many of the advocates’ suggestions for the SB 75 eligibility and enrollment policies, including:

- Instructions to counties on use of “add-a-family-member” functionality rather than requiring new applications for children with family members in Medi-Cal;
- Requiring counties to redetermine eligibility when children age out of the SB 75 program at age 19;
- Including the option to enroll in managed care immediately over the phone instead of waiting for a plan choice packet; and
- Clarifying that restricted scope Medi-Cal is no longer an option for children under age 19 regardless of circumstances (*e.g.*, failure to return a form, opting out, etc.)

In addition, advocates secured some important measures to improve outreach to families with children in restricted scope Medi-Cal, including:

- Simplified and translated outreach letters and notices into all threshold languages;
- Improved instructions on how to use Medi-Cal in the fee-for-service and managed care settings;
- Distinct enrollment letters in managed care depending on whether a family lived in a County Organized Health System (COHS) or non-COHS county;
- Messaging about the importance of renewing restricted scope Medi-Cal before the transition to full-scope Medi-Cal happened;
- Reframed tone of outreach letters to reflect the good news;
- Included information about accessing dental care; and
- Added basic information on public charge.¹

Challenges: Concerns about Privacy & Confidentiality in the Medi-Cal Program

An enrollment barrier has been community concerns about what happens to their personal information. There are provisions in the Medi-Cal program to protect and promote the confidentiality of beneficiary information, which may be of particular concern regarding immigration status. California state law requires that the information anyone provides to Medi-Cal is kept confidential and used only for the purposes of Medi-Cal. See Welf. & Inst. Code 14100.2(a). Medi-Cal must also follow federal confidentiality rules, which restrict the use or disclosure of information concerning applicants and beneficiaries to purposes directly connected with the administration of Medi-Cal. See 42 C.F.R. § 431.301.

Some other information to keep in mind and statements you can share with your clients who are looking to apply for or use Medi-Cal benefits:

- *“You do not need to provide a Social Security Number if you are not applying for health coverage for yourself.”*
- *“You do not need to provide your own immigration status if you are not applying for health coverage for yourself.”*
- *“You do not need to provide your immigration status to doctors, pharmacists, or hospitals in order to get treatment.”*
- *“Information is shared with the federal government only for the purposes of administering the Medi-Cal program. Information about non-applicants (e.g. parents) is never shared.”*

Resources

[Health4AllKids website](#) – joint stakeholder resource page for community advocates, which includes:

- [Materials for Community Outreach](#)
- [Best Practices for Working with Immigrant Families](#)
- [Toolkit for Community Advocates](#)

The National Immigration Law Center’s [“Is it Safe to Apply for Health Insurance or Seek Health Care?”](#)

[DHCS SB 75 Website](#) – home to all of Medi-Cal’s resources for SB 75, including FAQs for consumers

[DHCS & Covered CA Immigration workgroup](#) – home to immigration issues that arise in both Medi-Cal and Covered CA

[Western Center’s SB 75 Practice Tip](#)

[NHeLP’s Lessons from California: SB 75](#)

ⁱ In response to the question of whether using full-scope Medi-Cal would make someone a public charge for immigration purposes, DHCS provided a link to the USCIS public charge fact sheet for accurate information on the topic.