

Summary of Medi-Cal Coverage for Immigrants

Beginning January 1, 2014, all low-income immigrants will be eligible for some form of health care coverage in California!

Background

California has a long tradition of providing health coverage to low-income immigrants. When the 1996 federal welfare law restricted access to public benefits programs for lawfully present immigrants, California continued to provide Medi-Cal to “qualified”ⁱ immigrants who were under the five year barⁱⁱ and individuals who are permanently residing in the U.S. under color of law (PRUCOL).ⁱⁱⁱ Since 2009, the state has received federal funding for children and pregnant women who are “lawfully residing” immigrants under the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. ***Beginning on January 1, 2014, all low-income childless adults earning less than 138% FPL including qualified immigrants and PRUCOL (who include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival, or DACAs^{iv}) will be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal in California!***

Who is eligible for Medi-Cal currently and in 2014?

- Currently, children who are qualified immigrants or PRUCOLs with family incomes up to at least 250% are eligible for full scope Medi-Cal. ***See 2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines on back page.***
- All pregnant women, including qualified immigrants, PRUCOLs, or undocumented, with incomes up to at least 200% FPL are currently eligible for ***pregnancy-related*** Medi-Cal.
- Parents, caretaker relatives, seniors, and persons with disabilities who are currently eligible for full scope Medi-Cal remain eligible after 2014. The income eligibility level will vary for each population up to at least 138% FPL.
- Childless adults who are qualified immigrants in their 5 year bar and PRUCOL (including DACAs) with incomes below 138% FPL will be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal as of January 1, 2014.
- Undocumented immigrants currently eligible for Medi-Cal but for immigration status are eligible for restricted scope Medi-Cal. Beginning in 2014, eligibility for restricted scope Medi-Cal will be expanded to include undocumented childless adults.

Eventual Transition from Medi-Cal to Covered California for Childless Adults

Within the next year, qualified immigrants who are childless adults under their 5 year bar will be transitioned from Medi-Cal into Covered California where they are eligible to receive financial assistance from the federal government. In addition, the state is developing a program in Covered California so that these immigrants will be able to receive the same benefits and pay the same premiums and cost-sharing as they would have in the Medi-Cal program. ***We do not know when the transition will happen and until then, childless adults with incomes below 138% FPL including “qualified” immigrants and PRUCOL will be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal.***

Parents, caretakers, and PRUCOLs (including DACAs) will NOT be transitioning into Covered California and will remain eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal.

Help Get Immigrants Enrolled in Coverage!

- Today through December 2013, low-income childless adults who are “qualified” immigrants not subject to the five year bar may be eligible for county-run health programs called Low Income Health Programs. For more information go to the [Department of Health Care Services website](#), click on Low Income Health Program in the right hand menu, and download the [Local Low Income Health Program Contacts document](#). LIHP enrollees will be automatically transitioned into Medi-Cal in 2014.
- Become a Certified Enrollment Entity: <https://assisters.ccgrantsandassisters.org/>.
- Assist them in completing the on-line application at www.coveredca.com.
- Assist them in completing the paper application available in different languages at www.coveredca.com.
- Contact your county social services department for information about partnership opportunities to conduct outreach and enrollment.
- Educate immigrant families that applying for health care won’t harm their or their family members’ immigration status. For questions about public charge go to <http://www.nilc.org/pubcharge.html>.
- Educate immigrant families that only those in the family who are applying for coverage in Covered California need to provide a Social Security Number or proof of immigration status and that the state is required to keep their information private. This information is not required of applicants for restricted scope Medi-Cal.
- Contact the Covered California’s call center 1-800-300-1506 for more information.
- Help immigrants to become naturalized citizens.
- Help people apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals <http://www.uscis.gov/I-821D>.

2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in family/household	100% FPL	138% FPL	200% FPL	250% FPL
1	\$11,490	15,856	22,980	28,725
2	15,510	21,404	31,020	38,775
3	19,530	26,951	39,060	48,825
4	23,550	32,499	47,100	58,875

For families/household with more than 4 persons, add \$4,020 for each additional person.

ⁱ “Qualified” immigrants are: (1) lawful permanent residents (LPRs), including Amerasian immigrants; (2) refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation, conditional entry (in effect prior to Apr. 1, 1980), or paroled for at least one year; (3) Cuban/Haitian entrants; (4) battered spouses and children with a pending or approved (a) self-petition for an immigrant visa, or (b) immigrant visa filed for a spouse or child by a U.S. citizen or LPR, or (c) application for cancellation of removal/suspension of deportation, whose need for benefits has a substantial connection to the battery or cruelty (parent/child of such battered child/spouse are also qualified); and (5) victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries who have obtained a T visa or whose application for a T visa sets forth a prima facie case. (A broader category of trafficking victims who are certified by or receive an eligibility letter from the Office of Refugee Resettlement are eligible for all federal benefits, without regard to their immigration status.) 8 U.S.C. §1641.

ⁱⁱ The “5 year bar” refers to the five years that qualified immigrants must wait until they become eligible for *federally funded Medicaid*. However, in California, qualified immigrants under the five year bar are still eligible for state funded full-scope Medi-Cal.

ⁱⁱⁱ PRUCOL is a benefits eligibility category which generally means that an individual is lawfully present and has a good faith belief that the federal immigration authorities are aware of an individual’s presence but do not plan to remove him or her from the country. 22 CCR § 50301.3

^{iv} **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** is a type of administrative relief from deportation where a non-U.S. citizen is permitted to temporarily remain in the U.S. As of August 30, 2012, DACA-eligible individuals granted relief under the Obama Administration do not have access to health coverage through federal Medicaid or Advanced Premium Tax Credits to purchase insurance through the Exchanges. Individuals granted deferred action under other avenues are not excluded from Medicaid or the Exchanges. For more information: www.nilc.org.