



News Release

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CALIFORNIA'S LOW INCOME HEALTH PROGRAM TRANSITIONS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF NEW MEMBERS TO MEDI-CAL

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Director Toby Douglas announced today that more than 630,000 Californians from the state's Low Income Health Program (LIHP) will become Medi-Cal members on January 1.

Medi-Cal will immediately begin serving the former LIHP members, which is a group comprised of uninsured, childless adults ages 19 to 64, and parent and caretaker relatives, all with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level. They will receive quality health care services from California's statewide network of Medi-Cal managed care plans, as well as mental health, substance use and long-term care services.

The vast majority of former LIHP members will remain with the same medical provider in Medi-Cal that they saw under LIHP. About 24,000 LIHP members have incomes too high to qualify for Medi-Cal. They may apply for coverage through Covered California, the state's health benefit exchange.

"California made a wise decision in 2010 to work with our county and federal partners to bring health care reform to the state early by providing coverage to uninsured childless adults under the LIHP," said Douglas. "This program was critical to our preparation for the full ACA Medicaid expansion on January 1. It allowed us to strengthen our provider networks and expand our use of the more coordinated services provided by organized delivery systems."

In partnership with the Legislature, 53 participating counties, and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, California enacted and implemented the state's "Bridge to Reform" waiver in 2010, which allowed the launch of the LIHP. Through the LIHP, counties and other local entities enhanced their primary and specialty care provider networks to meet the health care needs of program enrollees through a coordinated and managed approach that included the use of medical homes.

"The success of the LIHP program and the launch of the Medi-Cal expansion could not have happened without the tremendous partnership of California's county health and human services agencies," said Douglas. "We are extremely grateful for their support and we look forward to continuing our work on behalf of Californians in need."

DHCS has worked closely with Covered California to build and jointly operate CoveredCA.com, a one-stop-shop for health care coverage enrollment in California. Since the website's October 1 launch through the month of November, over 180,000 applicants have been found likely eligible for Medi-Cal. Another 280,000 applicants applied for Medi-Cal in October and November through the existing Medi-Cal county

application process. Enrollment for Medi-Cal is open throughout the year, with coverage retroactive to the date an application is received.

Please visit “Medi-Cal Eligibility and Covered California - Frequently Asked Questions” on the DHCS [website](#) for additional information.

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About the Department of Health Care Services

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) works to preserve and improve the physical and mental health of all Californians. DHCS provides health care services for more than 8.5 million Californians through Medi-Cal, including medical, dental, mental health, substance use treatment services and long-term services and supports. This is accomplished through an investment of approximately \$70 billion annually in public funds for the care of low-income families, children, pregnant women, seniors and persons with disabilities. DHCS focuses on delivering quality, effective services primarily through the more coordinated systems of care provided by 21 Medi-Cal managed care plans located in all of California’s 58 counties. For more information about DHCS, please visit www.dhcs.ca.gov.