



Sign up for Medi-Cal Coverage Before the January 1, 2026 Freeze



Who Needs to Act? Starting **January 1, 2026**, certain adults age 19 and older who are undocumented and do not have Satisfactory Immigration Status will no longer be eligible for full scope Medi-Cal. **If you do not have Medi-Cal, sign up now to make sure you get access to health care.**

Exceptions Apply: This does not apply to children aged 18 and under, pregnant people, or individuals with certain immigration status.

Frequently Asked Questions:

For Individuals age 19 and older without Satisfactory Immigration Status

1. Can I still apply for Medi-Cal before

January 1, 2026? Yes, as long as you apply for full-scope Medi-Cal by December 31, 2025, ALL adults are eligible regardless of immigration status. Starting January 1, your immigration status and age will determine what kind of Medi-Cal you get.

2. Will I qualify if I don't have "satisfactory" status?

Yes, until the freeze begins all adults who apply before January 1, 2026 can still receive full-scope Medi-Cal as long as you are otherwise eligible.

3. Does the freeze apply to all noncitizens?

No, many noncitizens will still be eligible for Medi-Cal. The adult enrollment freeze does not apply to individuals with "Satisfactory Immigration Status." This includes DACA holders, asylees, and some Legal Permanent Residents (Green Card holders).

4. Will applying affect my immigration case?

No. Based on current information, Medi-Cal use does not count against you in a "public charge" test.

5. What benefits will I get if I sign up now?

Doctor visits, Mental health services, Dental (for a limited time) Emergency services, Hospital care, Prescription drugs and more...

6. If I apply, will my information be shared with other agencies or the federal government?

When you apply for Medi-Cal your information is kept private and only used to determine if you qualify. Some of your information will be shared with the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This is a federal agency that oversees the program. In June 2026, there was a case of data sharing with the Department of Homeland Security. The State of California filed a lawsuit to stop this and currently there is an order in place doing so. We will know more as the court case continues. Please stay updated by consulting trusting community partners.



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7. Will I have to pay? Today: No monthly premium for most adults. Starting July 2027: Some adults may need to pay \$30 per month to keep Medi-Cal.

8. How long will I keep my coverage? If you apply before the freeze, follow the program rules, and stay eligible, you can keep your coverage.

9. What if I don't apply before January 2026? You may only be able to get Emergency Medi-Cal: Emergency services Pregnancy-related care

10. What changes are coming after the freeze? July 2026: Dental services end for certain noncitizens without satisfactory immigration status. 2027: Monthly premium starts for some adults 19–59.

11. Will my children or pregnancy care be affected? No. Children (0–18), Former/current foster youth under 26, and pregnant people can still get Full Scope Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status, even after the freeze.

12. What if I lose coverage or can't pay later? You may drop to emergency Medi-Cal (emergency/pregnancy only) after 90 days of nonpayment. Community clinics and safety-net programs may still help with care.

13. What if I have not used my Medi-Cal benefits in a long time? You should contact the Santa Clara County Social Service Agency to confirm the status of your Medi-Cal. If you have been dropped from the program, you will need to reapply.

14. What if I applied for Medi-Cal and my application was denied? If your application was denied in the last 3 months, you should seek legal advice to determine if you have a good reason for requesting a State Hearing to challenge the denial. If your application was denied more than 3 months ago, you will likely need to reapply. In this situation, we recommend getting help from a trusted community service or legal aid organization.

Bottom line: If you want full-scope Medi-Cal, apply before January 1, 2026.

AWO, in partnership with Afriicionado are here to help you and your family with signing up and questions.

Visit awocenter.org/yourhealthcare or Call (408) 348-9399, (240) 425-7646