

**Department of Health Care Services
Proposed Trailer Bill Legislation**

**Expansion of Full Scope Medi-Cal Coverage to Individuals 26 to 49 Years of Age,
Regardless of Immigration Status**

FACT SHEET

Issue Title: Expansion of Full Scope Medi-Cal Coverage to Individuals 26 to 49 Years of Age, Regardless of Immigration Status. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is proposing to extend full scope Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are 26 through and including 49 years of age, regardless of their immigration status, after the Director determines that systems have been programmed for implementation, no sooner than January 1, 2024.

Background: Under current federal law, full scope Medicaid is generally available with federal funding to eligible Qualified Non-Citizens who have been in the U.S. for five years or more (or who are exempt from the five-year bar) and eligible Lawfully Present immigrants who are under 21 years of age or who are pregnant. In addition, federal funding is limited to emergency and pregnancy-related services for immigrants without satisfactory immigration status.

California currently provides full scope Medi-Cal benefits to eligible individuals under 26 years of age, regardless of immigration status, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14007.8. As part of the Budget Act of 2021 and SEC 365 of the health omnibus budget trailer bill AB 133 (Chapter 143, Statutes of 2021), no sooner than May 1, 2022, California will provide full scope Medi-Cal benefits to eligible individuals 50 years of age or older, subject to system readiness.

Justification for the Change: Because equitable access to health benefits leads to improved health outcomes, DHCS is proposing to extend full scope Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are 26 through and including 49 years of age, regardless of their immigration status, after the Director determines that systems have been programmed for implementation, but no sooner than January 1, 2024. The trailer bill language leverages existing law that implements previous expansions for children, young adults and those 50 years of age or older including, system readiness, the transition of current beneficiaries to full scope Medi-Cal, federal financial participation requirements, legislative appropriation language and other technical changes.

By removing a barrier to health access due to immigration status, this proposal would provide all low-income Californians equitable access to comprehensive and affordable care.

BCP or Estimate Issue # and Title: To be determined.