



County Medical Services

Health Services Advisory Board

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County of San Diego



County HR 1 Action Plan



**Coordinated
Countywide
Strategy**



**Proactive
Customer Service
& Communication**



**Statewide
Engagement &
Advocacy**



**Technology, AI,
and Data
Solutions**



**Cross-Sector and
Community
Partnerships**

Board Initiatives



Safety Net Bridge Program

This proposed pilot program is intended to provide primary care with access to social services, medications, and fresh food for people who may *temporarily* lose Medi-Cal coverage due to federal work requirements under HR 1.

County Medical Services Reform

On March 3, 2026, the Board directed an evaluation of County Medical Services (CMS), the State-required indigent care program serving adults who do not qualify for Medi-Cal.



What is County Medical Services (CMS)?

CMS is the State-required indigent care program that funds certain kinds of medical care for some low-income adults living in San Diego County who are uninsured and not eligible for other government health care programs.





Current CMS Eligibility



- Have an immediate or long-term medical need
- 21 through 64 years of age
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Reside in San Diego County
- Denied Medi-Cal
- Sign property lien forms in person
- Meet CMS Financial Eligibility:
 - Income limit of up to 165% of the FPL
 - Property limit of \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple
- CMS Hardship:
 - Income 165% to 350% of the FPL
 - May be required to pay a Share of Cost for services received



Current CMS Covered Services

Prior approval is not necessary:

- Evaluation of your condition by a primary care provider
- Follow-up care approved by a primary care provider for serious health conditions
- Emergency room care
- Emergency hospital admissions
- Emergency medical transportation
- Emergency dental care
- Prescription medicines from the CMS approved list

Services that need prior approval:

- Medical care from a specialist physician
- Planned hospital admissions
- Surgical and diagnostic procedures
- Limited rehabilitation, vision, medical equipment, and home health services
- Non-emergency medical transportation
- Prescription medicines not on the CMS approved list
- Medications and treatment related to preventing organ rejection and/or complication

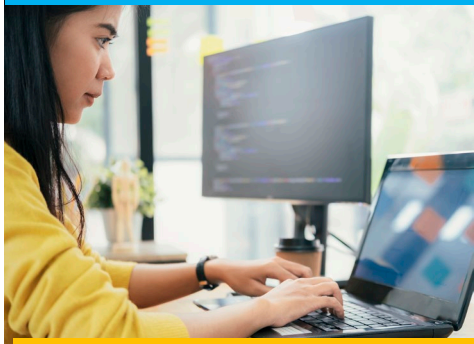
Stakeholder Considerations

Enrollment & Administration

- Simplify CMS application to align with Medi-Cal
- Remove property lien and credit check authorization requirement
- Align property limits with Medi-Cal criteria
- Eliminate repayment requirement
- Increase transparency of enrollment process

Eligibility

- Include individuals who do not meet Medi-Cal work requirements
- Expand minimum eligible age from 21 to 19
- Expand the list of lawful immigration statuses to all Unsatisfactory Immigration Status (UIS)
- Remove the requirement to have a Medi-Cal denial
- Align retroactive coverage and appeal timelines with Medi-Cal
- Eliminate or modernize share of cost for CMS hardship
- Increase the income limit to 350% FPL



Stakeholder Considerations

Recommendations for Covered Services to Include:

- Preventive Care, such as vaccinations and screenings
- Behavioral Health
- Non-Emergency Dental Care
- Transplants
- Pregnancy and Family Planning
- Emergency Department Follow-Up Visits
- Remove pre-approvals for Labs and Diagnostics



CMS Evaluation Next Steps



- **Incorporating stakeholder feedback** into our analysis and report
- **Email us at CSC@sdcounty.ca.gov** if you have additional comments
- **Regular Updates at:**
 - Social Services Advisory Board
 - Healthy San Diego Consumer and Professional Advisory Committee
 - Health Services Advisory Board
 - Behavioral Health Advisory Board
- **Board Item anticipated in late 2026**

Thank you!

