

**Access to**

**Health  
Care**



**post-DACA**

**Oct. 16, 2017**

## Access to Health Care Post DACA

October 2017

On September 5, 2017 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued [a memo](#) announcing the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This means that DHS will no longer accept or review *new* DACA applications. However, DHS will honor the status of *current* DACA grantees until their status expires, and will review and process pending applications accordingly. The DACA program has provided temporary relief from deportation and a work permit for undocumented immigrants who meet certain requirements. This means that immigrant youth with DACA have had the opportunity to work, grow professionally, provide for their families, and have access to vital public benefits.

### **But what happens to DACA recipients' ability to access health care after they lose their status?**

DACA recipients and their families, including those who are undocumented, have health care options. The California Immigrant Policy Center has prepared this short information sheet to explain the health care benefits available in California for DACA recipients.

### **What is Medi-Cal?**

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid program, which provides no-cost or low-cost health coverage access to doctor visits, medications, dental services and vision. Medi-Cal provides health services to low-income families, persons with disabilities, seniors, pregnant women, children in foster care, and certain low-income adults.

### **What is the Medi-Cal income requirement?**

To qualify for Medi-Cal, you must make at or under 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For example, a family of 3 who makes \$27,821/year can qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal. This means that this family does not have to pay a monthly health insurance premium or costly out-of-pocket expenses when they see a doctor. To see if you qualify based on income, see the chart below.

138% FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL  
(Effective April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018)

Family Size	138% FPL
1	\$16,395
2	\$22,108
3	\$27,821
4	\$33,534
5	\$39,248

For a complete table see DHCS' [website](#)

### **Do I qualify for Medi-Cal if I'm a DACA recipient?**

Yes. In 2014, Medi-Cal was expanded to low-income childless adults, including those who have DACA.

Therefore, DACA recipients are eligible for full-scope “comprehensive” Medi-Cal if they meet the income requirements. DACA recipients fall under a benefit eligibility category called “Permanently Residing in the United States Under Color of Law” (PRUCOL), which makes them eligible for Medi-Cal.

### **What happens after my work permit expires and I lose my deferred action status?**

DACA recipients whose deferred action status expires **will continue to be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal as individuals who are PRUCOL**. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released an [FAQ](#) to provide information to DACA recipients about their continued eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal.

### **Will my information be shared with immigration enforcement?**

Personal information provided to Medi-Cal is **not** shared with immigration enforcement entities, even if a member of the family is undocumented. Medi-Cal uses personal information only to determine eligibility for health care.

**What are some other health programs available to immigrants?** There are number of health programs that are available to immigrants, regardless of their immigration status. See below:

**Restricted-Scope “Emergency” Medi-Cal** - Emergency Medi-Cal provides emergency care and other critical services to all income-eligible Californians regardless of immigration status. Limited-scope Medi-Cal may also cover care and services related to an emergency medical condition (including dialysis services).

**Health4All Kids** - The “Health4All Kids” expansion provides all income-eligible children and youth under the age of 19 with access to full-scope “comprehensive” Medi-Cal, regardless of immigration status. For more information, visit: [www.health4allkids.org](http://www.health4allkids.org)

**County Safety-Net** - In California some counties provide health care to undocumented residents. Visit your local county office for safety-net options in your county. To find your nearest county office go [here](#).

**Pregnancy-Related Care Provided Through Medi-Cal** - Women with households up to 213% of the FPL qualify to receive pregnancy-related medical care as well as **all** other medically necessary services they may need through Medi-Cal, regardless of immigration status. This includes preventive care, speciality care, dental, mental health services, and substance use treatment. For more information go [here](#).

### **Family Planning Access Care Treatment (FAMILY PACT)**

Family PACT is a program for low-income men and women of childbearing age that provides medical knowledge, assistance, and services for family planning. The purpose of family planning is to empower women and men to decide the number, timing, and spacing of their children. For more information go to [www.familypact.org](http://www.familypact.org)

### **Resources**

Find out if you are eligible for any of these programs by going to your local county human services office, or a local clinic. To find one near you, visit [www.localclinic.net](http://www.localclinic.net) or call (855) 899-7587.

**[Undocumented and Uninsured:](#)** A healthcare resource guide for undocumented and uninsured Californians. Includes directory for: Counseling/Mental Health, Urgent Care and Specialists.

**[Is It Safe to Apply for Health Insurance or Seek Health Care?](#)** A guide created by the National Immigration Law Center to provide immigrants with information on patient rights and protections.

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