

California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative

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Immigrants and the CHDP Gateway: Free Health Services for Children!

What is CHDP?

The Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) program serves California's low-income children in the early detection and prevention of disease and disabilities. Under CHDP, children get scheduled preventive health screenings from CHDP providers, at no charge. CHDP services include immunizations, nutrition, vision, lab tests, dental and hearing assessments and referrals for further diagnosis and treatment, if necessary.

What is the CHDP Gateway Program?

The new CHDP "Gateway" helps to enroll eligible children in the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families insurance programs. It also provides children, regardless of immigration status, *full scope* Medi-Cal services for up to two months, each time they return for a periodic medical visit. Children who already are receiving "emergency-only" Medi-Cal cannot get *full* Medi-Cal services, but can get the CHDP health services described above.

Who is eligible for the CHDP Gateway?

Children under age 19 in families earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level (about \$36,800 per year or \$3,067 per month for a family of four) can receive CHDP or temporary Medi-Cal services, regardless of their immigration status, if they live in California.

Which health services are available under the CHDP Gateway?

Children enrolled in the CHDP Gateway can get temporary Medi-Cal services, including doctor's visits, prescription medicines, dental care, mental health care, vision care (eye glasses), hospital services, x-rays, lab tests, and specialty care.

How does the CHDP Gateway work?

When your child visits a CHDP doctor or clinic, you must fill out a confidential "pre-enrollment" form. The information is entered into a computer to find out whether your child meets the income and age requirements, and whether he or she is already receiving Medi-Cal. If your child is not on Medi-Cal, you will get a receipt allowing him or her to get temporary Medi-Cal services until the end of the following month. For example, if you complete the pre-enrollment

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form in the middle of October, your child will be covered until the end of November. You can use the receipt immediately. Soon afterwards, a *temporary* Medi-Cal card will be mailed to you. And, if you check a box on the pre-enrollment form, a Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application also will be mailed to you.

Does the CHDP Gateway pre-enrollment form ask about immigration status?

No. You do not need to provide any immigration information to get temporary Medi-Cal services through the CHDP Gateway.

Will the information a family provides on the “Gateway” pre-enrollment forms be kept confidential?

Yes. The information will remain confidential, and will only be used to determine the child's eligibility for temporary Medi-Cal or other CHDP services.

How can my child continue getting Medi-Cal beyond the temporary period?

In order to continue your child's coverage, you will need to submit a Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application before the temporary Medi-Cal card expires. If you submit the application in time, your child will continue receiving coverage until a decision on the application is made.

Does the Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application ask about immigration status?

The Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application asks for your child's immigration documents, but does not ask about the parent's immigration status. U.S. citizen children and most lawfully present immigrant children can get Medi-Cal or Healthy Families if they meet the program requirements. For more details, see the Immigrant Benefits Handbooks at www.nilc.org/ciwc.

What if I do not want my child to receive Medi-Cal beyond the temporary period?

You are not required to get Medi-Cal for your child beyond the temporary period. If you choose not to apply for ongoing Medi-Cal/Healthy Families, your child's coverage will terminate at the end of the temporary period. At your child's next periodic checkup, you can complete another CHDP pre-enrollment form to receive another round of temporary Medi-Cal services for your child.

What if I apply, but my child is found ineligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families?

If your child is found ineligible due to his or her immigration status, continuing coverage will not be granted. However, your child will be able to get temporary Medi-Cal beginning at her next allowable medical visit. Or, your child can enroll in Medi-Cal for emergencies, and still receive “well-child” checkups, immunizations and preventive health screenings through CHDP.

What if my child is now receiving “emergency” Medi-Cal?

Children who are *currently* enrolled in “emergency” Medi-Cal *cannot* get all of the Medi-Cal services described above, but *can* get periodic “well-child” checkups, immunizations and preventive health screenings through CHDP, free of charge. There is a CHDP schedule for “well-child” visits, based on the age of the child.

Will I be billed for the temporary coverage my child received if he or she is found ineligible for ongoing Medi-Cal/Healthy Families?

No. You will not be billed for health services if your child is found ineligible for continuing coverage (or chooses not to apply for continuing coverage), as long as you have told the truth on your application forms -- for example, you have not been truthful about your income or

where you live.

Will using CHDP or temporary Medi-Cal prevent me or my child from getting a green card (lawful permanent resident status) by making us a “public charge”?

No. Using CHDP or temporary Medi-Cal services cannot prevent you or your child from getting a green card by making you a “public charge,” and cannot prevent you or your child from becoming a U.S. citizen.

Where can I get more information about the CHDP Gateway?

You can visit the California Department of Health Service’s website at www.dhs.ca.gov/chdp.

If you have other questions about immigrants and benefits, you can call the hotline numbers listed below, or visit CIWC’s website at www.caimmigrant.org

HOTLINE NUMBERS

APALC: 800-520-2356 (Mandarin)
800-267-7395 (Vietnamese)
800-867-3126 (Khmer/Cambodian)
800-867-3640 (Korean)

CHIRLA: 888-6-CHIRLA (888-624-4752)(Spanish)

SIREN: 408-286-1698 (Spanish)
408-286-1448 (Vietnamese)

HELPLINK:
800-273-6222 - Northern CA only
415-772-HELP (415-772-4357)
(Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin)
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