



California Updates: MPA, Medi-Cal, & Legislation

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JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources.

Since 1972 we've focused our efforts primarily on fighting for people who have been marginalized and excluded from justice, such as women, people of color, LGBTQ individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

Want to receive Justice in Aging trainings and materials?

Join Our Network!

Go to justiceinaging.org and hit **“Sign up”** or send an email to info@justiceinaging.org.

To achieve Justice in Aging, we must:

- Acknowledge systemic racism and discrimination
- Address the enduring negative effects of racism and differential treatment
- Promote access and equity in economic security, health care, and the courts for our nation's low-income older adults
- Recruit, support, and retain a diverse staff and board, including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and presentation, sexual orientation, disability, age, economic class

Agenda

1. Language Barriers in Vaccine Access
2. Master Plan for Aging
3. Medi-Cal Updates
4. Legislation & Budget



Language Barriers in Vaccine Access

Language Access

- Section 1557 and Title VI requires meaningful access for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in federal healthcare programs.
- Separate FEMA guidance also applies to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.
- Justice in Aging filed a [federal lawsuit](#) challenging rollbacks in language access
- Please contact [Denny Chan](#) for questions or if you can identify potential individual plaintiffs.



Master Plan for Aging

MPA Goals

Five Big Goals for 2030:

1. Housing for All Ages and Stage
2. Health Reimagined
3. Equity and Inclusion, not Isolation
4. Caregiving that Works
5. Affording Aging

MPA Next Steps

- MPA released in January 2021
- Multiple committees/council being formed
- Budget items related to MPA
- Legislation related to MPA
- Keeping momentum going



Medi-Cal Updates

Exciting News!

- More older adults and people with disabilities are eligible for Medi-Cal.
- Many may be able to stop paying for private dental/vision insurance they don't need.
- Flipping between free and SOC Medi-Cal because of Part B buy-in has stopped.

Income Eligibility to 138%

- Effective December 1, 2020 (ACWDL 20-24)
 - Individual: \$1,468
 - Couple: \$1,983
- Income limit increased to 138% FPL (ACWDL 21-01, effective 4-1-2021)
 - Individual: \$ 1,482
 - Couple: \$ 2,004
- Income limit increases every April as the Federal Poverty Limit increases

Process for Enrollment

- Most automatically enrolled on Dec. 1, 2020
 - Recipients received a Notice of Action
- Others need to ask the county to redetermine their eligibility
- New enrollees can ask for retroactive with new limits back to Dec. 1, 2020

For more information

- [DHCS webpage:](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medical/eligibility/Pages/ABD-FPL-Expansion.aspx)

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Previous Part B Rule

- County deducted Part B premium, if actually paid by the individual
- If the individuals received free Medi-Cal, State started buying in Part B premium
- Individual no longer had deduction
- Individual flipped to SOC Medi-Cal
- And back and forth...forever!

New Part B Rule

- Effective Dec. 1, 2020—No more flipping!
- Applicants and recipients at redetermination will:
 - Receive the Part B income deduction as if they are paying it.
 - If they qualify for the Aged and Disabled program with the deduction
- 2021 Part B Premium Amount: \$148.50

Applying the Part B Rule

- Start with individual's gross income
- If earned income— $(\text{Income} - \$65)/2$
- All other income
 - Subtract \$20
 - Subtract \$148.50 (if they have Part B)
 - Subtract any other health insurance premium
- Add what's left after deductions
- If below \$1,468, they qualify for A&D
- See ACWDL 20-18 for more examples

Spousal Impoverishment

- SI Methodology for HCBS
 - Allows one spouse to qualify for Medi-Cal when they need HCBS with special income and asset rules.
- Extended to September 30, 2023
- Counties not always applying it correctly
- Some people wrongly denied entitled to retroactive Medi-Cal and IHSS

Things to Remember

- Counties not processing negative actions, but can process positive actions
- There may be people who could benefit who don't know so double check eligibility for clients
- Need more help, you can:
 - Refer client to Health Consumer Alliance
 - 888-804-3536
 - Service providers & attorneys can email me at cramsey@justiceinaging.org



2021 Legislation & Budget

Legislation

- Lots of legislation related to older adults
 - Check out this list:
<https://justiceinaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Legislative-Bills-CA.pdf>
- Not endorsement list, but informational list

Highlighted Legislation

- SB 56 (Durazo)
 - Expands Medi-Cal to undocumented seniors
- AB 470 (Carrillo)
 - Eliminates Medi-Cal asset test
- AB 695 (Arambula)
 - Expands HomeSafe program & lowers APS age to 60, increases funding
- AB 1083 (Nazarian)
 - Establish housing plus services pilot program

2021 Budget

- Governor's Budget included investments for older adults and the MPA
- Legislature holding hearings now, may proposal additional investments
- Governor will release May revise
- Budget needs to be passed by June 15
- Budget needs to be signed by June 30



Questions?

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