

# Health4All Older Adults FAQ

This document seeks to provide partner organizations with information regarding the implementation of Health4All 50+ as of August 26th 2021.

Please use this as a guide for creating materials for your community.

## What is Health4All 50+?

*On July 28, Governor Newsom signed into law the removal of immigration status as a barrier to Full-Scope Medi-Cal eligibility for Californians ages 50 and over. This means that **low-income adults ages 50+, regardless of immigration status, will be eligible for comprehensive Medi-Cal health insurance coverage**, making California's health system more equitable and universal for all.*

## When will undocumented immigrants ages 50+ be able to access Full-Scope Medi-Cal?

*Implementation of Health4All 50+ is **expected to happen in May 2022**. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is preparing for implementation and their goal remains May 2022.*

## How will eligible patients enroll into Full-Scope Medi-Cal?

***Patients who enroll now in Restricted-Scope/Emergency Medi-Cal will automatically be transitioned to full Medi-Cal without further action.** Thus, enrolling in Restricted-Scope Medi-Cal as soon as possible will allow for a timely transition and is a good way for people to ensure they have access to Full-Scope care immediately in May 2022. DHCS is expected to mail notices to this population, and the DHCS website will also be updated with information about implementation in multiple languages.*

***For folks not currently enrolled in Medi-Cal, [DHCS has a step-by-step guide](#) on how to apply for Medi-Cal benefits, including links to the paper and online application.***

*Find a local health center that can help you enroll in Medi-Cal: [bit.ly/390NSYc](https://bit.ly/390NSYc)*

## What services are included in Full-Scope Medi-Cal?

*Full-Scope Medi-Cal has comprehensive health benefits including preventative care, dental, vision, and prescription drug coverage, among many others. A full list of services can be found [here](#).*

### **Will accessing Full-Scope Medi-Cal affect the “Public Charge” test?**

*Accessing Full-Scope Medi-Cal will not count toward the “Public Charge” test. Using Medi-Cal will not negatively affect applications for green cards because the Medi-Cal expansion for older adults is state-funded, not federally funded, AND because the 2019 Public Charge Rule is no longer in effect.*

### **How does Health4All 50+ relate to the repeal of the Medi-Cal Assets test?**

*California will eliminate the Medi-Cal assets test, which limits seniors and people with disabilities to assets of no more than \$2,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for couples in order to access Medi-Cal, in July 2022. If an undocumented Californian over the age of 65 falls over this asset limit, they may not be able to benefit from Full-Scope Medi-Cal until July 2022.*

### **Will the Full-Scope Medi-Cal coverage retroactively cover previous medical services and/or bills?**

*Applicants can request retroactive Medi-Cal coverage for up to three months prior to the month of application. For example: A newly-eligible individual who applies for Full-Scope coverage in the month of May 2022 can request coverage up to February 2022.*

### **Why is Health4All implementation taking place in May 2022 and not the beginning of the year?**

*DHCS is undergoing system upgrades, and that date is the soonest DHCS would be ready to implement older adult expansion.*

### **What is the eligibility criteria for this Medi-Cal expansion?**

- *Age 50 or older (ages 25 and younger are already eligible)*
- *Household income under 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For example, for a household of 4 people, this would be an annual household income of \$36,570 (find information about income requirements [here](#)).*
- *Live in California*
- *Immigration status is NOT a criterion for eligibility. Undocumented individuals are eligible.*