

# DOCUMENTED

# OR

# DREAMER



## #Health4All



## For Immigrants:

### *California Health Care Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **Am I eligible for health care if I am undocumented?**

California residents who are undocumented may be eligible for Emergency/Restricted Medi-Cal or can purchase private insurance. Undocumented immigrants may also be eligible for the following health care services: County Health Services in some counties, Community Health Centers, Emergency Care, Public Health Services, Mental Health Services, Breast & Cervical Cancer Program (time-limited treatment), Medi-Cal services for Pregnant Women, Access for Infants & Mothers (AIM), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP), Minor Consent Services, CA Children's Services, Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT), Northern California Kaiser Charitable Health Coverage.

#### **Can I get employer sponsored coverage for myself and my family members?**

If your employer offers coverage for workers and their dependents, you and your family should be able to get this coverage.

#### **Who is required to have insurance under the individual mandate?**

Any individual who is required to file taxes and does not meet one of the exemptions from the individual mandate, must have proof that he or she is enrolled in "minimum essential coverage" through work, Medi-Cal, Medicare, Covered California or other private or public individual coverage. Undocumented immigrants are exempt from the mandate. However, any tax filer, including an undocumented immigrant who files taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), is responsible for getting health insurance for their eligible tax dependents – including US citizen children. The individual mandate will be enforced when you file taxes. You should be able to indicate that you are exempt from this requirement on the tax form without providing information about your immigration status.

#### **Did You Know?**

Unless you are exempt, all individuals must have health insurance by January 1, 2014. To avoid paying a penalty, make sure to apply for health insurance by March 31, 2014.

#### **Starting January 1, 2014 Medi-Cal will:**

- Increase income eligibility for adults and families.
- No longer ask about assets when it comes to determining eligibility.
- Expand coverage to adults without dependent children, including Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (if they meet other eligibility criteria).

## If I am undocumented, can I apply for Medi-Cal or other insurance on behalf of a child or other adult in my family who is a citizen or a lawfully present immigrant?

Yes. Only individuals seeking benefits must provide information about their citizenship or immigration status and social security number (SSN) if available. If you are applying on behalf of another, you are considered the “application filer” and do not need to provide information about your citizenship or immigration status or SSN. Any information provided on the application can ONLY be used only to determine eligibility for the programs your family members are seeking. Application filers seeking coverage for eligible family members will be asked for their SSN, which is used to verify the household’s income. *They do not need to provide an SSN if they do not have one.* Individuals who do not have SSNs may provide other documents to prove their income.

Further, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) released a statement confirming that immigration enforcement and health care will not be linked. No one will face complications with immigration by applying for health care for themselves or a family member. (For the full report see: Clarification of Existing Practices Related to Certain Health Care Information, ICE, November 2013.)

## Am I eligible for health benefits programs if I have been a lawful permanent resident for less than 5 years?

Yes. All of the programs listed above and many others may be available for you. In California, lawfully residing immigrants do not have to wait to get Medi-Cal. If your income makes you ineligible for Medi-Cal, you may be eligible for Covered CA with financial assistance. Lawfully present immigrants who are eligible for Covered CA can apply immediately. Deferred Action Childhood arrivals are not eligible for Covered CA, but are eligible for Medi-Cal.

## Will using health care affect my immigration status by making me a “public charge”?

No. Your use or your family’s use of health care insurance for which you/they are eligible will not be considered in the “public charge” decision. If you enroll in Emergency/Restricted Medi-Cal or any of the services listed above, this also will not affect your immigration status. Only long-term care paid for by Medi-Cal or monthly cash assistance (like CalWORKs) is relevant in the public charge determination. You should not provide any false information on the application.

## Will it hurt me or my sponsor if I apply for health care?

No. In California, the Medi-Cal program does not ask about an individual’s sponsor. Sponsors are not asked to pay for Medi-Cal services provided to sponsored immigrants. Sponsors do not have financial responsibility for sponsored immigrant’s children either.

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