

Equity and Practice Transformation Grants

Department of Health Care Services - 2022-23 Governor's Budget Proposal

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) DHCS has seen a significant reduction of preventive and routine chronic condition care. Furthermore, 55% of school aged children are enrolled in Medi-Cal, 50% of the state's births are in Medi-Cal, and 68% of the Medi-Cal population is black, Latino or people of color. The department proposes one-time \$400 million (\$200 million General Fund) to advance equity, reduce COVID-19-driven care gaps, and fund practice transformation to allow Medi-Cal providers to better serve the state's diverse Medi-Cal enrollee population. This funding is proposed to be available until June 30, 2024.

To align with the goals of the Medi-Cal Comprehensive Quality Strategy and Equity Roadmap, these funds would pay for delivery system transformation grants to pediatric, primary care, OB/GYN and behavioral health providers focused on advancing DHCS' equity goals in the **"50 by 2025: Bold Goals" Initiative**:

- » Ensure all health plans exceed 50th percentile for all children's preventive care measures
- » Close racial/ethnic disparities in well child visits and immunizations by 50% (state level)
- » Close maternity care disparity for black, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (AI/AN/NH/OP) individuals by 50% (state level)
 - » Pre & Postpartum care
 - » C-sections
- » Improve maternal and adolescent screening and referral for depression by 50% (state level)
- » Improve follow up after ED visit for Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder by 50% (state level)

Consistent with the proposed budget bill language, these funds would include both initial planning grants and practice transformation grants:

- **Initial Planning Grants** would help small/medium/ independent practices apply for the Practice Transformation Grants. This grant funding could be used by each practice for staff time to prepare the grant application and/or the hiring of a consultant to help the practice conduct a needs assessment, assist with research, tools, strategies, and recommendations to include in the development of their grant proposal and with completing the grant application.
- **Equity and Practice Transformation Grants** would include but are not limited to case management and/or system mechanisms for identifying and addressing underutilization and closing care gaps, electronic medical record system updates, population health improvements, telehealth, remote patient monitoring, etc. and will help practices in their work to make it possible for DHCS to realize its 50% by 2025 Bold Goals. Full grant design details, to be finalized.