

Subject: DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – August 2026



**Local Educational Agency
Medi-Cal Billing Option Program**



LEA BOP NEWSLETTER
Program Announcements!
August 3, 2026

LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting | FY 2025-26 Program Highlights | DHCS Priorities for the Year Ahead | Key Program Updates for FY 2026-27 | Action Items for July – September 2026 | Look Ahead: Things to do for October – December 2026 |
LEA BOP Reminders, Meetings and Trainings

Acronyms Used in this Newsletter

CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CRCS	Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule
DHCS	Department of Health Care Services
DUA	Data Use Agreement
FY	Fiscal Year
IEP	Individualized Education Program
IFPS	Individualized Family Services Plan
LEA	Local Educational Agency
LEA BOP	Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program
MER	Medi-Cal Enrollment Ratio
PPA	Provider Participation Agreement
PPL	Policy and Procedure Letter
QM	Quarterly Meeting
RMTS	Random Moment Time Study
RMTS AU	Administrative Unit
SPA	State Plan Amendment
TA	Technical Assistance
TSIP	Time Study Implementation Plan

This LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter edition brings you the latest program updates and a preview of some of the key topics that we will explore during the August 2026 Quarterly Meeting. As we look ahead to FY 2026-27, this newsletter highlights information that you will need to know to help keep your LEA informed, compliant, and prepared.

LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting

The upcoming Quarterly Meeting is an excellent chance for LEAs and program partners to come together to stay current with program updates and through targeted training, learn best practices for your LEA to be successful in the program, and maximize potential reimbursement opportunities. The next Quarterly Meeting is on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break. Here's what you can expect:

The morning session launches at 10:30 a.m. with important agenda items and updates including:

- Goals and Expectations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27
- FY 2025-26 Program Highlights
- Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) Audit Overview
- Program Status Updates
- LEA BOP Administrative Withhold
- Ad Hoc Workgroup Update
- New Data Use Agreement Update
- Medi-Cal Enrollment Ratio (MER)/Parental Consent Update
- Practitioner Enrollment Update
- Specialized Medical Transportation Services Update
- Discussion with Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Subject: DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – August 2026

- o State Plan Amendment (SPA) Updates
- o Time Study Implementation Plan (TSIP)

In the afternoon session, beginning at 1 p.m., we will dive into the Program Guide/Provider Manual Updates and Provider Billing Forum Part 1, which focuses on the following topics:

- Medicaid Claiming
- Random Moment Time Study

These sessions are designed to help LEAs successfully administer the LEA BOP and maintain full compliance across all program areas. [Please register to attend the LEA BOP August 2026 Quarterly Meeting.](#)

QM Office Hour (NEW!)

DHCS is pleased to announce the launch of the QM Office Hour, scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2026. This dedicated session will provide LEAs with an opportunity to receive follow-up clarification and answers to questions that were not fully addressed during the QM on August 5, 2026. Additional details, including the registration link, will be shared soon. LEAs are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this added support.

FY 2025-26 Program Highlights

FY 2025–26 was a year of meaningful progress for the LEA BOP. DHCS, LEA BOP Providers, and program partners continued to strengthen the program through policy updates and expanded guidance. Major milestones include finalizing updates to the Provider Participation Agreement (PPA), submitting the Time Study Implementation Plan (TSIP) to CMS, preparing State Plan Amendment (SPA) 26-008 for submission to CMS, and implementing key components of the 2023 CMS guidance related to practitioner enrollment and specialized medical transportation.

FY 2025-26 Key Accomplishments by the Numbers

- 9 trainings conducted
- 2 CRCS check-ins
- 2,900 training attendees and 450 CRCS check-in attendees
- 625 PPAs received
- 2 Ad Hoc Workgroup Meetings
 - o 1 Subcommittee Meeting
- \$195,000,000 in interim reimbursements issued to LEAs
- \$290,000,000 in interim settlements issued to LEAs
- \$460,645,000 in final settlements issued to LEAs

Throughout the year, DHCS also provided extensive training and technical assistance (TA), delivering multiple statewide sessions and completing a significant number of TA visits to support LEAs in navigating program requirements. Hundreds of CRCS reports and PPA submissions were processed, and workgroup and subcommittee collaboration remained strong, helping move important policy initiatives forward. Collectively, these accomplishments reflect a productive and collaborative year focused on strengthening program compliance, removing barriers, and supporting LEAs in delivering essential services to students.

Welcoming Our Newly Enrolled LEAs!

We also want to recognize the LEAs that have recently enrolled in the LEA BOP. Thank you for joining the program—we are excited to work together and support your efforts in delivering essential services to students!

- Alder Grove Charter
- Ballington Academy for the Arts and Sciences
- Granada Hills Charter
- Trillium Charter School
- Empower Language Academy
- Alma Fuerte Public School
- Foresthill Union School
- Lucerne Valley Unified School District
- Muroc Joint Unified School District
- San Mateo Union High School District
- Seeley Union School District
- Fenton Charter Public Schools
- Oasis Charter Public School
- Vallecitos School District
- Voices College-Bound Language Academy
- Alpine COE/Alpine County Unified School District
- Wonderful College Prep Academy
- Dimensions Collaborative
- Larchmont Charter School
- Chico Country Day School
- New Hope Elementary School District

Technical Assistance (TA)

DHCS is committed to supporting LEA BOP Providers in every part of the program from identifying and optimizing billing opportunities to staying aligned with all program requirements. Each successful TA visit reflects the dedication of the LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit, which offers individualized, hands-on guidance to help providers succeed.

Subject: DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – August 2026

In the last fiscal year (FY 2025-26), the LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit successfully completed 96 TA visits, covering a variety of topics, ranging from maximizing participation in the program to helping LEAs understand their audit settlement adjustments. This FY has also had a great start! So far, the LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit has already completed seven TA visits, with more on the way for the rest of the month and upcoming months. Interested in a TA visit? Simply complete and submit a [TA Request Form](#) to LEA@dhcs.ca.gov. A team member will follow-up with you to schedule a virtual meeting to provide the necessary support to help your LEA succeed in the program with confidence.

DHCS Priorities for the Year Ahead

As the oversight agency for this school-based Medi-Cal program, DHCS is responsible for ensuring that program administration aligns with federal requirements. Therefore, DHCS aims to provide participating LEAs and program partners with the information necessary to appropriately engage in the program while seeking federal reimbursement. The Department acknowledges the challenges associated with an evolving Medicaid landscape and remains committed to offering the guidance and technical assistance needed to support LEAs in meeting program requirements.

As the new school year and fiscal year begins, DHCS encourages you to stay engaged by attending our Quarterly Meetings and trainings. DHCS is committed to supporting you, and encourage you to reach out with questions or requests for technical assistance. DHCS will continue to provide meaningful guidance and training opportunities to support LEAs successfully administering the LEA BOP. If your team has questions or would like to suggest topics for future trainings, please e-mail LEA@dhcs.ca.gov. Your feedback helps ensure our trainings meet the needs of participating LEAs and program partners. DHCS has a dedicated team that works diligently on this program, and is proud to support you as you provide essential services to students in your communities.

Key Program Updates for FY 2026-27

Implementation Checkpoint: Requirements LEAs Should Already Have in Place

LEAs should now have implemented the required updates outlined in the [2023 CMS guidance](#). These changes include practitioner enrollment requirements, updates related to specialized medical transportation, and other program enhancements taking effect

Subject: DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – August 2026

July 1, 2026. LEAs are encouraged to verify that these requirements have been implemented to ensure continued program compliance and uninterrupted claiming.

If additional support is needed, please reach out to DHCS for technical assistance or reference the trainings and resources linked below:

- Practitioner Enrollment
 - [Policy and Procedure Letter \(PPL\) 26-001](#) contains detailed guidance on enrolling eligible practitioners, including a list of practitioners with an eligible enrollment pathway.
 - DHCS provided training on this topic on November 20, 2025. Please refer to the [LEA BOP Practitioner Enrollment in Medi-Cal Training](#) for details.
 - [Practitioner Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) were sent out via E-blast on March 19, 2026, and published to the [LEA BOP FAQs](#) webpage.
- Specialized Medical Transportation
 - [PPL 26-002](#) contains guidance on the new transportation requirement and recommendations on where to document the medical need for the specific adaptation(s) in the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP).

LEA BOP Ad Hoc Workgroup

The Ad Hoc Workgroup is a collaborative group established under Welfare and Institutions Code sections 14115.8 and 14132.06. It is composed exclusively of LEA BOP Provider representatives who collaborate with DHCS on a range of school-based Medicaid topics. DHCS would like to extend its appreciation to everyone who applied to participate in the LEA BOP Ad Hoc Workgroup for FY 2026–27. Membership for this fiscal year has been finalized, and additional details will be shared during the QM.

New Data Use Agreement (DUA)

The DUA is required for LEAs to obtain data from DHCS for the LEA BOP. Historically, this has included obtaining data to calculate the MER, which is a key component of the LEA BOP payment methodology.

Subject: DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – August 2026

Following the publication of the 2023 CMS guidance, DHCS started working in collaboration with the California Department of Education. Going forward, DHCS will provide the MER for participating LEAs. The current DUA, the data match and its authorized processes will no longer be effective after June 30, 2026. A new DUA will be released soon for LEAs to complete.

More information and training will be provided on these changes in the near future. Subscribe to the [LEA BOP Listserv](#) and be on the lookout for more information to come!

Action Items for July – September 2026

- Update your Quarter 1 list and work with your Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) Administrative Unit (AU) to confirm the approved personnel that need to be on the Time Study Participant (TSP) list for FY 2026-27 Quarter 2, ensuring your LEA is ready well before the quarter begins.
- Help your TSPs successfully participate in the first Quarter 1 time study! Need guidance on the TSP list and Quarter 1 implementation? Please refer to the [Quarter 1 Implementation Training](#).

Look Ahead: Things to do for October – December 2026

- Mark your calendar for the October QM and upcoming LEA BOP trainings (see dates below). These sessions will offer important guidance and updates.
- FY 2026-27 Annual Report
 - o Due Monday, November 30, 2026.
 - o Sign and submit to LEA.AnnualReport@dhcs.gov.

LEA BOP Reminders, Meetings, and Trainings

Date/Time:	Reminders/Meetings/Trainings:
August 5, 2026 (10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)	LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting

Subject: DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – August 2026

	Afternoon Session (beginning at 1 p.m.): Program Guide / Provider Manual Updates and Provider Billing Forum Part 1
August 26, 2026 (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	LEA BOP August Quarterly Meeting Office Hour
September 16, 2026 (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)	New State Plan Amendment (SPA) Implementation
October 13, 2026 (2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)	LEA BOP in partnership with California Department of Education (CDE)
October 28, 2026 (10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting Afternoon Session (beginning at 1 p.m.): Documentation and Audit Readiness / Children Youth and Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) and LEA BOP: Processes, Roles, and Responsibilities / New Practitioner Type Overview
November 4, 2026 (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment (PAVE) Office Hours
November 30, 2026	Annual Report Due
December 2, 2026 (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)	Rural & Small District Support and Resource Workshop
December 10, 2026 (1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)	FY 2025-26 Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) Training / Provider Billing Forum, Part 2
January 27, 2027 (10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting Afternoon Session (beginning at 1 p.m.): New SPA Implementation / Time Study Implementation Plan (TSIP)/Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) Training
February 4, 2027	FY 2025-26 CRCS Check-In

Subject: DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – August 2026

(2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	
March 2, 2027	FY 2025-26 CRCS Due
March 4, 2027 (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	Time Survey Participant (TSP) List Development for Quarter 1 / Quarter 1 Recap
April 7, 2027 (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	TSP Quarter 1 List Development Check-In
April 28, 2027 (10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting Afternoon Session (beginning at 1 p.m.): SPA and TSIP Training 2

Please note these training dates and times are subject to change, so keep an eye out for e-blasts that will confirm each session. To stay informed on meetings, program policy updates, and reminders, subscribe to the [LEA BOP Listserv](#) to receive notifications from DHCS.

Meet the LEA BOP Staff

Local Governmental Financing Division

Charles (Chuck) Anders, Chief

Medi-Cal Claims and Services Branch

Regina Zerne, Chief

School-Based Claiming Services Section

Stephanie Magee, Chief

Subject: DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – August 2026

LEA BOP Policy & Fiscal Unit	LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit
Areas of expertise: Policy Claims processing Fiscal Analysis	Areas of expertise: Outreach and enrollment Technical assistance RMTS participation Program compliance
Staff: Toua Vang, Chief Tiffany Lai Mindy Vang Danna Ramos Andrew Khang	Staff: Sarah Borkowski, Chief Lacey Allred Trung Tran Leilany Perez Luke Foster Robin Singh

LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program | Department of Health Care Services

The information contained in this e-mail document is confidential and intended only to be viewed by the recipient listed above. If you are not the intended recipient (or the employee or agent responsible for delivering this to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any distribution or copying of this document is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error, please contact the sender listed above and destroy the document.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to DHCS communications about the LEA BOP,
please go to the [e-mail subscription web page](#).