



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2026

REVISED PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT 26-0034 TO CLARIFY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT BENEFIT POLICY IN THE ALTERNATIVE BENEFIT PLAN

This revised notice supplements the public notice published on June 30, 2026, concerning State Plan Amendment (SPA) 26-0033 and corresponding Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) SPA 26-0034. The proposed amendments update the Medicaid State Plan and ABP provisions governing Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services to clarify policy, including utilization management controls, and support enhanced program integrity efforts aimed at reducing potential fraud, waste, and abuse. This revised notice applies solely to ABP SPA 26-0034. The June 30, 2026, public notice remains unchanged with respect to SPA 26-0033.

Additionally, this revised notice provides information of public interest with respect to Section 440.386 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which requires Medicaid state programs to publish a public notice to solicit public input regarding the amendment to the Medi-Cal ABP. DHCS provides a comprehensive set of services under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment benefit for individuals under 21 years of age, as described by 42 CFR 440.345.

Section 1902(a)(73) of the Social Security Act requires state Medicaid programs to notify Indian Health Programs (IHP) and Indian Health Organizations (IHO) of any SPAs that are likely to have a direct effect on Indians, IHP, and IHO. DHCS has determined that the updated language will not have a direct effect on Indians, IHPs, or IHOs because the provisions do not impact services, enrollment, or rates reimbursed to Indian Health programs, but rather makes updates to clarify policy as part of DHCS' broader efforts to enhance program integrity and reduce potential fraud, waste, and abuse.

DHCS does not anticipate any additional fiscal impact in terms of increased costs as a result of SPA 26-0033 and ABP SPA 26-0034.



The effective date of SPA 26-0033 and ABP SPA 26-0034 is July 1, 2026. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Public Review and Comments

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 26-0033 and ABP SPA 26-0034 will be published on <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2026.aspx>.

If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 26-0033 and/or SPA 26-0034 using the mailing or email addresses listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Benefits Division
Attn: Medi-Cal Benefits Policy Branch
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4601
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 26-0033 and/or SPA 26-0034 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 26-0033 and SPA 26-0034 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.