

Date: March 29, 2024

CCS Information Notice: 24-01

TO: All County California Children's Services (CCS) Program Administrators,  
Medical Consultants, Department of Health Care Services Staff

SUBJECT: CCS County Program Guidance for CCS Whole-Child Model (WCM)  
Program Implementation – Assembly Bill 118

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Information Notice is to provide select County CCS Programs direction and guidance to implement the WCM Program as outlined in Assembly Bill (AB) 118 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 42, Statutes of 2023).<sup>1</sup> This Information Notice provides direction to County CCS Programs to work in partnership with Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) operating in their county to implement the WCM Program. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will provide guidance to counties and MCPs in upcoming months prior to implementation which will include additional detail pertaining to the requirements of the WCM Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

AB 118 authorizes the expansion of the WCM Program. No sooner than January 1, 2025, the WCM Program will be implemented into the following counties: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, San Benito, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba. The WCM Program is a delivery system that will provide comprehensive, coordinated services for beneficiaries with special health care needs through enhanced partnerships with MCPs. Under the WCM Program, MCPs will assume full financial responsibility for authorization and payment of CCS eligible medical services, including service authorization activities claims and case management.

## **COUNTY CCS PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

County CCS Programs will be required to come into compliance with the attached County Readiness Submission Requirements Checklist incorporated into this Information Notice as Attachment A. The Operational Transition Plan, Policies and Procedures Updates, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are required to be submitted prior to implementation.

---

<sup>1</sup> [AB 118](#)

County CCS Programs will maintain responsibility for CCS Program eligibility determinations for potential beneficiaries, including responding to and tracking appeals relating to eligibility determinations. County CCS Programs will develop processes to provide MCPs with financial and residential eligibility information.

County CCS Programs will continue to provide care coordination services for CCS beneficiaries not included in the WCM Program. This includes beneficiaries who do not have full scope Medi-Cal, beneficiaries with other health coverage, and beneficiaries who receive Medical Therapy Program services. County CCS Programs will be responsible for coordinating care with MCPs for beneficiaries accessing care through both the County CCS Program and MCP delivery systems.

### **COUNTY CCS PROGRAM READINESS ACTIVITIES**

County CCS Programs will adhere to Attachment A, the County Readiness Submission Requirements Checklist that outlines the Operational Transition Plan, Policies and Procedures Updates, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) deliverables that must be approved prior to implementation. The deliverables will be applicable to county administration of CCS eligibility responsibilities, and coordination of care with MCPs when beneficiaries are accessing care through both the health plan and county delivery systems.

County CCS Programs and MCPs must sign the current CCS WCM MOU and submit to DHCS for review no later than September 30, 2024.<sup>2</sup> The MOU outlines the respective roles of the County CCS Program and the MCP to coordinate care, conduct administrative activities, and engage in information exchange activities required for the effective and seamless delivery of CCS services to CCS eligible beneficiaries.

DHCS is facilitating ongoing meetings between WCM County CCS Programs and MCPs as part of the implementation of the WCM Program. Additionally, DHCS looks forward to working with WCM County CCS Programs on the implementation and expansion of the WCM Program and improving the delivery of CCS services in WCM counties.

For additional questions, please send your inquiries by email to [CCSProgram@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:CCSProgram@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

### **ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

Cortney Maslyn, Chief  
Integrated Systems of Care Division  
Department of Health Care Services

---

<sup>2</sup> [WCM MOU](#)