

DATE: August 20, 2026

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information

Letter No.: I26-24

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF CATEGORICAL PAROLE PROGRAMS

Reference: All County Welfare Directors Letter [25-10](#); [22-33](#); [Executive Order](#);
[SHO 26-001](#)

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to remind counties about their responsibility to redetermine a member's eligibility for Medi-Cal and/or Children's Health Initiative Program (CHIP) when the county becomes aware of changes in a member's circumstances that may impact eligibility for these programs, such as a change in immigration status or category.

Background

DHCS guidance in ACWDL [25-10](#), issued on May 1, 2025, announced the end of parolee arrivals to the United States including the Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan (CHNV) parole program because of the [Executive Order](#) issued January 20, 2025. However, the end of the CHNV does not prevent U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from granting parole to certain individuals into the U.S. on a case-by-case basis.

Termination of CHNV Parole Programs

On March 25, 2025, DHS issued a notice announcing the "Termination of Parole Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans," effectively ending the categorical parole programs established in 2022 and 2023 for individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, along with their immediate family members. These programs, often referred to as CHNV parole programs, have now been discontinued.

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On May 30, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court permitted DHS to terminate parole under CHNV programs. As of June 12, 2025, DHS notified affected parolees and revoked related employment authorization. DHS has stated no new requests for parole under the CHNV parole programs will be processed from this point forward.

Beginning October 1, 2026, H.R.1 narrows federal full scope Medicaid eligibility to U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals, Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders), Cuban/Haitian Entrants, and COFA migrants (see [SHO 26-001](#)). Section 1903(v)(5) of the Social Security Act did not make any changes to emergency Medicaid coverage authorized under section 1903(v)(2) or coverage under the CHIPRA 214 option authorized under section 1903(v)(4).

Cuban and Haitian Entrants

The Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (REAA), Section 501(e)(2) provides that Cuban/Haitian Entrants includes nationals of Cuba or Haiti, who are not subject to a final non-appealable and legally enforceable removal order, if parole is expired or terminated, as long as they have not received a final order of removal. Cuban/Haitian Entrants are eligible for federal full scope Medicaid. The termination of parole for this group will have no impact on their federal full scope eligibility or full federal participation under H.R. 1 because they remain eligible as a Cuban/Haitian Entrant.

Nicaraguans and Venezuelans Parolees

Under H.R. 1, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans will no longer be eligible for federal full scope Medicaid under the new QNC eligibility rules for federal full scope Medicaid. Today, when a person loses their parolee status, and they do not have another satisfactory immigration status, they are no longer eligible for federal full scope Medicaid. They may have an immigration status eligible for state full scope Medi-Cal under another immigration category group, such as Permanently Residing in the United States Under Color of Law (PRUCOL), Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP), and Adult Expansion Freeze. Beginning January 1, 2026, DHCS froze new Medi-Cal enrollments for adults ages 19 and above who qualified for full-scope, state-funded Medi-Cal under the Adult Expansion initiative but lacked satisfactory immigration status.

Change in Circumstance Redetermination

As a reminder, counties must redetermine the eligibility of members between regular renewals of eligibility whenever they receive reliable information or otherwise become aware of a reported change in circumstances. A change in immigration status is considered a change in circumstance. The county must first use any available information in the case record to electronically re-verify the member's immigration status through Verify Lawful Presence or Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements. If the member's immigration status makes them ineligible for federal full scope Medicaid, the county must evaluate the member for state full scope Medi-Cal, such as Permanently Residing in the United States Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) or Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP) DHCS redetermination policy is outlined in ACWDL [22-33](#).

Adult Expansion Freeze

If a member loses their federal full scope Medicaid eligibility, they must be re-evaluated for state full scope Medi-Cal, including the Adult Expansion, regardless of immigration status. If the member is determined to have no eligible status, they may be eligible under the Adult Expansion, regardless of immigration status. The member would retain their full scope Medi-Cal if they had active eligibility prior to January 1, 2026. Starting January 1, 2026, new Adult Expansion applicants are only eligible for restricted scope.

Citizenship/Immigration Status Coding Reminder

Citizenship and immigration status verification requirements will be tracked using the Citizen/Alien Indicator, Alien Eligibility Code, and Date of Entry/Grant Date in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). Therefore, it is critical that counties and CalSAWS take the steps necessary to ensure that MEDS is updated with all necessary citizenship/immigration status coding based on the outcome of the citizenship or immigration verification process.

If an individual's immigration status cannot be verified, and the necessary information or documentation has not been provided by the end of the 90-day Reasonable

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Opportunity Period, the county must update the record to reflect the individual as undocumented and ensure that the MEDS Citizenship/Alien Indicator is set to "U."

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this letter, please contact the Immigration Unit at MCEDImmigrationUnit@dhcs.ca.gov. County questions regarding policy guidance should be sent to MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah Crow, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division
Department of Health Care Services