

General Information

Q: What aid codes will be assigned to those with Express Lane Eligibility (ELE)?

A: Adults 7U, Children 7W. Other aid codes will be used at a later time.

Q: If a client comes to a county social services office with their Express Lane letter for assistance enrolling in Medi-Cal, will they be enrolled that same day?

A: Yes. Counties can go into the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) and activate the eligibility the same day if requested by means of an immediate need online MEDS transaction. Regular online MEDS transactions are processed overnight for use the next business day.

Q: If a client is enrolled in CalFresh and has a 'pending' status in Medi-Cal, can they enroll through ELE?

A: Counties must use the existing CalFresh case information to satisfy the needed verifications to complete the eligibility determination process on the pending application. The Express Lane option would not be used in this instance.

Q : What is the process for verifying citizenship and identity for enrolled individuals?

A : For the most part, ELE eligible individuals have undergone citizenship verifications related to their CalFresh enrollment. In some cases, additional verification will be needed. For example, if an individual does not have a valid Social Security Number (SSN), they will need to provide a valid SSN prior to enrollment into Medi-Cal.

Q: What are the ages of children who will receive ELE notices?

A: Under 19 years old.

Q: Of the more than 150,000 children for ELE, does DHCS have data on their current insurance status or all of these children uninsured?

A: DHCS does not have data on their insurance status beyond whether they are currently enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medicare. Other insurance coverage will not prevent them from enrolling through ELE.

Q: After a 12 month period of ELE, if an individual is no longer eligible for Medi-Cal (i.e. through a MAGI determination), does this trigger a special enrollment period for purchasing a qualified health plan (QHP) through Covered California?

A: A MAGI determination will be done after 12 months. Individuals will be eligible for a special enrollment period for purchasing a QHP offered by Covered California if they are determined no longer eligible for Medi-Cal.

Q: If a Medi-Cal application was submitted prior to receiving the ELE notice, will that create a problem or will this ELE notice negate the Medi-Cal application?

A: The individual and county should work the original Medi-Cal application and not use the ELE option.

Q: How long does ELE take to become active in MEDS?

A: If the individual opts into Medi-Cal by calling the number on the letter or using the website, the transactions will be posted into MEDS within one or two business days. If the individual opts in by mailing the form in, the transaction will be posted to MEDS within one to two business days of the letter request being processed. If the individual has the county social services office process their ELE, a regular transaction will be posted to MEDS the next business day or an immediate need transaction will be posted the same day.

Q: What other low income state funded programs might get ELE?

A: DHCS has looked at extending ELE to in state only programs – Every Woman Counts, Genetically Handicapped, etc. However, Federal partners have provided feedback that because these populations are not all clearly below 138% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), using ELE will be more complicated. At this time there are no plans to extend ELE to these other programs; however, if this changes, DHCS will be sure to make state level partners aware. DHCS is evaluating the option of adding the parents of Medi-Cal children to Medi-Cal through ELE.

Scenarios

Q: If a beneficiary is approved for ELE in middle of the month, will they be on Fee for Service Medi-Cal (FFS) for the first entire month or enrolled in a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan?

A: They will be on FFS the first month and Managed Care will commence the following month.

Q: If a February application is processed in March, when will 7U be effective? Application date February, or date approved March?

A: The month the individual opts into Medi-Cal is the month in which coverage begins.

Also, if the individual is eligible for CalFresh based on the CF 285 (CalFresh application), and have checked the box they want Medi-Cal, that is the month their Medi-Cal benefits will begin.

Q: Some cases are active in MEDS with 7U yet there is a CalHEERS pending application. What should we do with the application?

A: Counties shall process the pending CalHEERS applications using the CalFresh case information to satisfy the needed verifications to complete the eligibility determination process, to the extent possible. If the person is found eligible, the individual will then receive a Medi-Cal aid code and no longer be part of the Express Lane program. If the individual is found ineligible for Medi-Cal, the county must discontinue the beneficiary and provide notice and appeals rights, unless the application provides a basis for eligibility on some other basis. Please see [ACWDL 14-06](#) for more information.

Q: DHCS will be forwarding a list of cases pending in CalHEERS who had active CalFresh. Since counties/consortia are currently working on pending CalHEERS cases, if they find a case that has active CalFresh can they use 7U/7W or do they have to wait for the list from DHCS?

A: Use the information available in the CalFresh case to satisfy as many of the pending verifications in the CalHEERS case as possible and continue to work the pending CalHEERS case. The CalFresh case information should be able to satisfy the residency, income, and citizenship data elements. Counties should not being the ELE option in this instance – they should be working the pending case from CalHEERS.

Q: How do we provide undocumented individuals ELE into Medi-Cal?

A: Express Lane is only for individuals with satisfactory citizenship and immigration statuses. If an individual with unsatisfactory status asks the county social services office for ELE, the county shall have the individual complete the Request for Tax Household Information (RFTHI) form.

Q: If a CalFresh application has documented children and undocumented parents, can we provide the children ELE into Medi-Cal and send the parents the RFTHI?

A: Yes, the children can go on Express Lane as long as they meet the aid code and program requirements outlined in [ACWDL 14-06](#). The parents would then need to complete the RFTHI.

Q: DHCS advised to use the CalFresh case number when inputting into MEDS, yet so far the cases seen have used the CIN (client identification number). Is there some reason a CIN number cannot be used?

A: Counties can use the CIN or CalFresh case number, whichever is easier for tracking purposes. Just remember, these cases will only be in MEDS only, not the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS).

Q: Assume a customer was discontinued for failure to provide semiannual reporting. When the customer is reinstated, is ELE still viable?

A: As written in [ACWDL 14-06](#), if a change of circumstance renders the individual ineligible for CalFresh, counties must initiate a MAGI determination and send the RFTHI. The individual will remain on the Express Lane aid code until the MAGI determination is completed.

If an individual is removed from CalFresh for a failure to complete their Semi-Annual Reporting form, then reinstated into CalFresh, this individual can also be reinstated to into Medi-Cal using the same Express Lane aid code the individual was previously on.

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 14005.37(i), this reinstatement must be done within 90 days. The individual's Medi-Cal renewal date continues to be counted from the month in which initial ELE was determined.

Q: According to ACWDL 14-06, Express Lane, a list detailing who was sent ELE notices is coming to the counties for comparison with CalHEERS. How is the list going to be delivered, when and to whom?

A: This is one-time list of who received the ELE mailing and who also have a pending CalHEERS case. Please note: this is NOT a list of who enrolled. This list was provided to the consortium and will be further distributed to the counties by the consortium.

A separate monthly list, provided by DHCS to the consortium and further distributed to the counties, will detail those individuals that have opted into ELE and are receiving Medi-Cal benefits. Counties can use this list to track which CalFresh cases are also receiving Medi-Cal benefits, since these ELE cases will not be in SAWS and counties will only have visibility to them via MEDS.