



## **NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST**

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

### **PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADD ENHANCED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SERVICES AS A PREVENTIVE SERVICE**

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) 24-0052 by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). SPA 24-0052 proposes to add Enhanced Community Health Worker (CHW) Services as a Rehabilitative Mental Health Service, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Service, and Expanded SUD Service. Enhanced CHW Services are tailored preventive services for Medi-Cal members living with significant behavioral health needs.

County behavioral health programs will have the option to implement Enhanced CHW Services as a Specialty Mental Health Service (SMHS), Drug Medi-Cal (DMC), and/or Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) service. To be eligible for Enhanced CHW Services, a member must meet access criteria for SMHS, defined in BHIN [21-073](#); access criteria for DMC services, defined in BHIN [21-071](#); and/or access criteria for DMC-ODS services, defined in BHIN [24-001](#).

The purpose of this SPA is to seek federal approval from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to add Enhanced Community Health Worker Services as a preventive Medi-Cal service. These changes support the objectives of DHCS' California Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) initiative. More information about BH-CONNECT can be found at <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/CalAIM/Pages/BH-CONNECT.aspx>.

DHCS anticipates that the total federal cost associated with these changes would be \$482,333 for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024-2025 and \$482,333 for FFY 2025-2026.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is January 1, 2025. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

### **Public Review and Comments**

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 24-0052 will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2024.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 24-0052 or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 24-0052 by submitting a request in writing to the mailing or email address listed below. Please identify SPA 24-0052 in the subject line or message making this request.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services  
Medi-Cal Behavioral Health – Policy Division  
ATTN: Ivan Bhardwaj  
MS 2702  
P.O. Box 997413  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Comments may also be emailed to [PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov). Please indicate SPA 24-0052 in the subject line or message including the comments.

To be assured DHCS considers the comments prior to submission of the SPA to CMS, comments must be received no later than September 28, 2024. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after September 28, 2024, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of SPA 24-0052 to CMS.