

The background features a purple-tinted image of medical equipment, including a stethoscope and a line graph with a y-axis labeled 3, 6, 9, 12, 15. The text is overlaid on this background.

# Older Adult Full Scope Expansion

Full Scope Medi-Cal for Individuals  
50 Years of Age or Older

February 17, 2022

# Authority

- » Assembly Bill (AB) 133 (Chapter 143, Statutes of 2021), amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 14007.8 to expand eligibility for full scope Medi-Cal to individuals who are 50 years of age or older, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, if otherwise eligible.
- » Implementation May 1, 2022
- » Policy Guidance is posted in ACWDL 21-13 <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medicaid/eligibility/letters/Documents/21-13.pdf>

# System Readiness

## **Subject to approval of systems readiness:**

- » The California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS) and the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) will implement the system functionality to determine full scope Medi-Cal eligibility for the Older Adult Expansion population on May 1, 2022.
- » The SAWS will initiate a batch process, beginning in April 2022, to transition Older Adult Expansion eligible individuals from restricted scope Medi-Cal to full scope Medi-Cal effective May 1, 2022.

# Populations Impacted

- » **New enrollee population** – Includes individuals 50 years of age or older who are eligible for Medi-Cal, do not have satisfactory immigration status for full scope Medi-Cal, (or are unable to verify citizenship) and are not yet enrolled in Medi-Cal.
- » **Transition population** – Includes individuals 50 years of age or older who are currently enrolled in restricted scope Medi-Cal.

# Age Policy

## New Enrollee & Transition Populations

**Individuals who turn 50 anytime in the month will be eligible for the entire month.**

» For example, individuals who turn 50 years of age between May 1, 2022 and May 31, 2022 are considered age 50 for the entire month of May 2022, and are eligible for full scope coverage under the Older Adult Expansion. The same rule applies to applicants and beneficiaries that turn 50 years old in subsequent months.

# Scope of Benefits

## » **Restricted Scope Medi-Cal**

- » Often called emergency Medi-Cal
- » Covers limited services: emergency, pregnancy related, and long term care

## » **Full Scope Medi-Cal**

- » Provides the full range of benefits available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries

# Full Scope Benefits

- » Alcohol and drug use treatment
- » Dental care
- » Emergency care
- » Family planning
- » Foot care
- » Hearing aids
- » Medical care
- » Medicine
- » Medical supplies
- » Mental health care
- » Personal attendant care and other services that help people stay out of nursing homes
- » Referrals to specialists, if needed
- » Tests
- » Transportation to doctor and dental visits and to get medicine at the pharmacy
- » Vision care (eyeglasses)

# Retroactive Medi-Cal Eligibility

**New enrollees can request retroactive Medi-Cal benefits for up to three months prior to the month of application.**

- » Restricted scope retroactive Medi-Cal benefits will be available for the months prior to the Older Adult Expansion implementation.
- » Full scope retroactive Medi-Cal benefits will be available beginning the month of the Older Adult Expansion implementation, **May 1, 2022.**

# Notices

DHCS has developed three notices with frequently asked questions (FAQs) that will be translated into the Medi-Cal threshold languages.

- » First Notice (General Information Notice)
- » Second Notice (Notice of Action/NOA Snippets)
- » Third Notice (Managed Care Enrollment Notice)

The Older Adult Expansion individual will receive the translation that corresponds with the written language or alternative format indicated on their MEDS record.

# First Notice

- » General Information Notice and FAQ
- » Will be mailed to the restricted scope population expected to transition to full scope on May 1, 2022
- » Will be mailed March 7 through March 11, 2022
- » Counties will provide the First Notice & FAQ to individuals who apply after February 23, 2022 and up until implementation on May 1, 2022.

# Second Notice Notice of Action

## **Existing Beneficiaries:**

- » Triggered by the SAWS batch to transition restricted scope beneficiaries into full scope.
- » Will be generated beginning April 9, 2022

## **New Applicants:**

- » Will be generated when an eligibility determination is made.

# Third Notice Managed Care Enrollment Notice

## Managed Care Enrollment Notice and FAQ

- » Will be mailed to the restricted scope population expected to transition to full scope on May 1, 2022
- » Expected to be mailed in April 2022

# Outreach

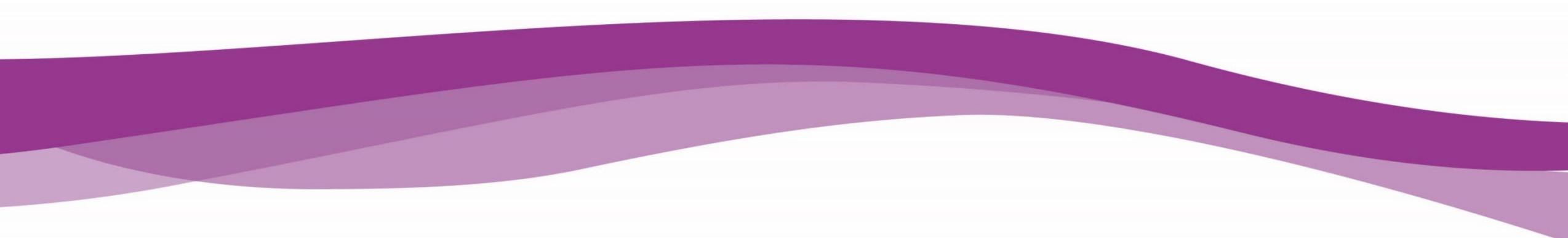
- » Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter MEDIL 22-02 <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/letters/Documents/I22-02.pdf> provides global outreach messaging for the Older Adult Expansion and is posted on the DHCS website.
- » DHCS highly recommends counties utilize the messaging and integrate it into their outreach and social media campaigns.
- » DHCS has shared the global outreach language broadly for use by Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, other State departments, Medi-Cal providers, and other community partners for use in their outreach activities.

# Questions about immigration and the Medi-Cal program

**The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) cannot answer questions about immigration or “public charge”.**

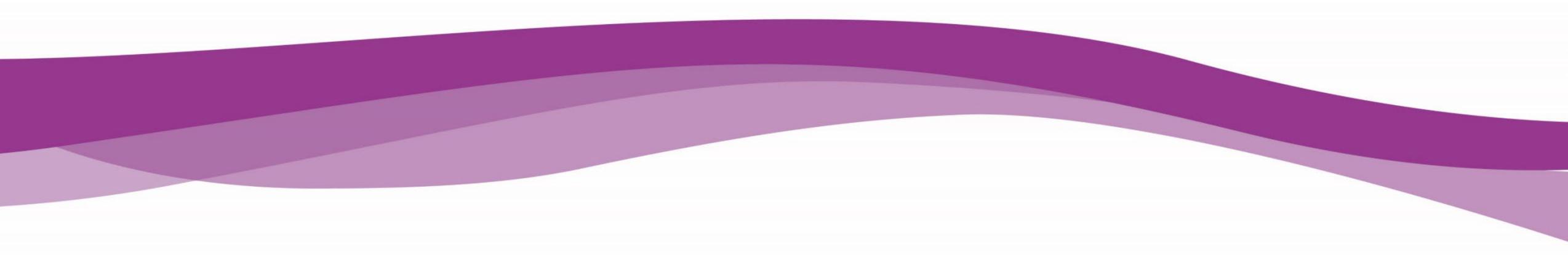
- » The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) funds qualified nonprofit organizations to give services to immigrants who live in California. There is a list of these organizations at <https://bit.ly/immigration-service-contractors>
- » For immigration information and resources, go to California’s Immigrant Guide at <https://immigrantguide.ca.gov/>
- » To learn about public charge, go to the California Health and Human Services Agency Public Charge Guide at <https://bit.ly/calhhs-public-charge-guide>
- » Guía de carga pública de la California Health and Human Services Agency en español en <https://bit.ly/calhhs-Public-Charge-Guide-Spanish>

# **Older Adult Expansion Contact Information**

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in various shades of purple, ranging from a deep magenta to a lighter lavender, positioned below the main title and above the contact information.

**[OlderAdultExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:OlderAdultExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov)**

# For More Information

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in various shades of purple and magenta, spanning the width of the page below the main heading.

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medical/eligibility/Pages/OlderAdultExpansion.aspx>