

DATE: January 15, 2025

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information

Letter No.: I 25-03

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

SUBJECT: DISCONTINUANCES AND REMINDERS DURING WILDFIRE STATE OF  
EMERGENCY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND VENTURA COUNTY

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is for the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide important reminders to counties about continuing coverage for Medi-Cal members affected by the California wildfires.

On January 7, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a [State of Emergency](#) in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties in response to the wildfires. DHCS subsequently issued [MEDIL 25-02](#) containing reminders on policies for applicants and members affected by natural disasters.

In addition to the reminders provided in [MEDIL 25-02](#), counties are instructed to immediately:

- **Delay all manual discontinuances** in Los Angeles County and Ventura County for instances where a member did not provide required documents and allow additional time to provide required documents. This includes for members who report not receiving their mail or are unable to provide documents due to an evacuation order. If the member is unable to provide the required documents, the County Eligibility Workers (CEWs) shall accept a signed and dated affidavit, under penalty of perjury, in place of the requested verification documentation.

The CEWs shall document the reason for the delay in discontinuing benefits in the case file and shall include the following statement for auditing purposes: "Delayed discontinuance of Medi-Cal or CHIP benefits approved due to state or federally declared major public health crisis or natural disaster."

- **Immediately restore eligibility** back to the date of discontinuance to any members discontinued through batch processes, when the member informs the county that they were affected by the wildfires in the Governor's State of Emergency.

January 15, 2025

- **Reminder:** Self-attestation of being affected by the wildfire must be accepted and no further verification is required.

The CEWs shall document the reason for the restoration of benefits in the case file and shall include the following statement for auditing purposes: “Reinstated Medi-Cal or CHIP benefits approved due to state or federally declared major public health crisis or natural disaster.”

- **Prioritize communications from Clinic Health Navigators** that reach out to counties when assisting members affected by the wildfires.

The CEWs shall document the reason for the restoration of benefits in the case file and shall include the following statement for auditing purposes: “Reinstated Medi-Cal or CHIP benefits approved due to state or federally declared major public health crisis or natural disaster.”

**Important Reminders:** Counties should prioritize applications and restorations for Medi-Cal members affected by the wildfires. Counties may accept a signed and dated affidavit (including telephonic), under penalty of perjury, to verify California residency and income from applicants who are unable to provide necessary verifications due to the disasters.

Please refer to the following All County Welfare Directors Letters or MEDIL for additional information:

- [MEDIL 25-02](#) – Reminders to Counties Due to the California Wildfires
- [ACWDL 19-01](#) – Exceptions due to Public Health Crisis or Disaster,
- [MEDIL 17-16](#) – Processing Applications from Individuals Affected by Disasters, and
- [ACWDL 15-36](#) – Guidance to Counties on Treatment of Applications/Redeterminations in Disaster Areas and Treatment of Disaster Assistance for Modified Adjusted Gross Income and Related Information

County questions regarding policy guidance should be sent to [MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Sarah Crow, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division