

CALAIM ENHANCED CARE MANAGEMENT POLICY GUIDE

Updated September 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	4
II.	WHAT IS ENHANCED CARE MANAGEMENT (ECM)?.....	6
	A. ECM and the PHM Program	7
III.	ECM IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.....	9
IV.	ECM POPULATIONS OF FOCUS (Updated January 2026)	11
	A. Detailed Population of Focus Definitions (Updated January 2026).....	12
V.	CORE SERVICE COMPONENTS OF ECM	56
	A. Overview of ECM Core Service Components.....	56
VI.	PROGRAM OVERLAPS AND EXCLUSIONS	63
	A. 1915(c) Waiver Programs.....	68
	B. Services Carved Out of Managed Care	68
	C. Services Carved into Managed Care	76
	D. Dual Eligible Members (Updated September 2026)	80
	E. Other Programs	82
	F. Programs Serving Pregnant & Postpartum Individuals.....	85
vii.	ECM PROVIDER NETWORK.....	88
	A. Development of a Diverse ECM Provider Network (Updated January 2026)	88
	B. ECM Provider Directory	93
	C. Requirements to Be an ECM Provider	93
	D. Requirement to have a Care Management Documentation System (Updated January 2026)	98
	E. ECM Provider Payment	99
VIII.	ENGAGING MEMBERS IN ECM.....	100
	A. Members for ECM.....	100
	B. ECM Referrals for Members (Updated January 2026).....	100
	C. MCP Identification of Members.....	103
	D. Authorizing ECM for MCP Members (Updated January 2026).....	104
	E. ECM Streamlined Authorization Requirements (Updated January 2026)	106

F. Utilization Management Authority for ECM: (Added September 2026).....	112
G. Prime & Subcontractor Authorization Alignment	113
H. Automatically Authorizing ECM for Members Who Receive ECM and Change their Plan Selection/Enrollment.....	113
I. Assignment to an ECM Provider	114
J. Initiating Delivery of ECM.....	116
K. Discontinuing Delivery of ECM.....	118
IX. DATA SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS & DATA SHARING TO SUPPORT ECM.....	120
A. Data System Requirements.....	120
B. Data Sharing Requirements for MCPs.....	121
C. Data Sharing Requirements for ECM Providers.....	122
X. OVERSIGHT OF ECM PROVIDERS.....	122
A. MCP Requirements.....	122
B. Subcontracting Agreements.....	124
XI. DHCS OVERSIGHT OF ECM	125
A. Model of Care (MOC) and Approval Process.....	125
B. Use of Data to Monitor ECM	126
C. JSON Monitoring Process (Updated September 2026).....	127
D. Requirements to Track Outreach.....	128
E. ECM Provider Reporting in 274.....	128
XII. APPENDICES.....	129
Appendix A: ECM Implementation Dates by County.....	129
Appendix B: Access Criteria for SMHS, DMC-ODS, and DMC.....	131
Appendix C: Definitions for the Purposes of the Justice-Involved Population of Focus.....	134
Appendix D: Existing Aid Codes and Eligibility Groups for Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare Population of Focus	138
Appendix E: DMC & DMC-ODS Counties (as of January 2026).....	140
Appendix F: CCS & CCS WCM Counties (as of January 2026)	141
Appendix G: Data & Reporting Guidance Documents.....	142

I. INTRODUCTION

This California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Policy Guide is intended to serve as a resource for Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) in the implementation of ECM. The Policy Guide provides a comprehensive overview of ECM as well as additional operational guidance for MCPs.

CalAIM is an initiative of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of Medi-Cal Members by implementing delivery system, program, and payment reforms across the Medi-Cal program. A key feature of CalAIM is the statewide introduction of the ECM managed care benefit and a menu of Community Supports, which, at the option of an MCP and a Member, can substitute for covered Medi-Cal services as cost-effective alternative services. MCPs are responsible for administering both ECM and Community Supports in close collaboration with their network of community-based Providers. DHCS expects MCPs to prioritize contracting with locally-based providers who address equity gaps and are culturally responsive to their community to the extent they meet the required capabilities for delivering ECM benefits.

ECM and Community Supports have been developed from lessons learned, as well as MCP and Provider experience, in the Whole Person Care (WPC) Pilots and Health Homes Program (HHP). Both WPC and HHP led the way in providing a set of intensive care coordination services that spanned multiple delivery systems to provide a person-centered approach to care. These initiatives also pushed the boundaries of a traditional health care delivery approach to begin formally considering the impact of social drivers of health (SDOH) on health outcomes and experience of care in Medi-Cal.¹

DHCS' adoption of ECM and Community Supports on a statewide scale supports the highest-need Medi-Cal MCP Members. ECM and Community Supports are anchored in the community, where services can be delivered in an in-person manner by community-based ECM and Community Supports Providers, to the greatest extent possible. While ECM and Community Supports may both be appropriate for certain

¹ Refer to the [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 21-009 \(Revised\)](#) or superseding APL for more information.

Members, they are separate initiatives, and some Medi-Cal Members will qualify for only ECM or only Community Supports. For detailed information about Community Supports, please refer to the separate [Community Supports Policy Guide](#), Volume I and Volume II.

ECM is an integral component of DHCS' Population Health Management (PHM) Program under CalAIM. The PHM Program is designed to ensure that all Members have access to a comprehensive set of services based on their needs and preferences across the continuum of care, ranging from wellness and prevention to ECM for those with the highest health and social needs. For more on the PHM Program, see the [PHM Policy Guide](#) and [DHCS' PHM webpage](#).

Each MCP is required to develop and submit for DHCS approval an ECM and Community Supports Model of Care (MOC). The MOC is each MCP's detailed plan for providing ECM and Community Supports in accordance with DHCS' requirements. Each MCP's MOC includes its overall approach to ECM and Community Supports; its detailed policies and procedures for partnering with Providers, including non-traditional Medi-Cal Providers and those who are outside of the MCP networks but provide relevant services to ECM-eligible Members, for the administration of ECM and Community Supports; its ECM and Community Supports Provider capacity; and the MCP Policies and Procedures that will define its arrangements with its ECM and Community Supports Providers. Starting in 2023, the MOC should also include information about how the MCP is identifying and internally tracking key performance indicators for successful growth of ECM, such as the volume of referrals from providers and others, and self and family referrals. Part of the purpose of this tracking is to ensure that the majority of ECM referrals originate from community-based sources.

DHCS is committed to data-driven oversight of ECM and expects MCPs to have a data-driven approach to their implementation and monitoring of ECM. To meet this objective, DHCS is doing a thorough and regular review of inbound MCP data submitted via the monthly JSON file submission and will be analyzing ECM encounter data, when fully available. DHCS expects MCPs to regularly perform oversight and robust benefit management of ECM to ensure delivery of services with fidelity to the guidance presented in this Policy Guide, and to maintain program integrity and quality. Consistent communication with partners and stakeholders is also key to DHCS' plans for monitoring, targeting technical assistance, and modifying program policies and procedures. DHCS is in continuous communication with MCPs, Providers, and other stakeholders whose work intersects with ECM, through the PHM Advisory

Group, CalAIM Implementation Advisory Group, and other forums for stakeholder feedback on implementation.

The requirement for MCPs to implement ECM is derived from the [MCP Contract](#), the ECM APL ([APL 21-012](#)) or superseding APL, and [DHCS' ECM and Community Supports Standard Provider Terms and Conditions](#). This Policy Guide is intended to serve as a comprehensive resource for MCPs administering ECM, as well as for other key stakeholders involved in ECM, including Providers, counties, and community-based organizations (CBOs).

Updates will be published as needed and posted on [DHCS' ECM and Community Supports webpage](#), where stakeholders can also find other resources. MCPs and other stakeholders may direct their questions to DHCS using the following email address: EnhancedCareManagement@dhcs.ca.gov.

II. WHAT IS ENHANCED CARE MANAGEMENT (ECM)?

ECM is a whole-person, interdisciplinary approach to care that addresses the clinical and non-clinical needs of Members with the most complex medical and social needs. ECM provides systematic coordination of services and comprehensive care management that is community based, interdisciplinary, high touch and person centered. DHCS' vision for ECM is to coordinate all care for Members who receive it, including across the physical and behavioral health delivery systems. ECM is a statewide Medi-Cal managed care benefit that was being phased in according to the schedule given in Section III below.

DHCS has long understood that the need for care management and coordination increases with clinical and social complexity and has worked for several years to build capacity for a more comprehensive approach to care management and coordination in Medi-Cal. In 2016, DHCS launched the WPC Pilots as part of its Medi-Cal 2020 1115 waiver. WPC Pilots tested interventions to coordinate physical, behavioral and social services in a patient-centered manner, including interventions that address SDOH such as improving access to housing and supportive services, and have built significant infrastructure to ensure local collaboration for improved outcomes. In 2018, DHCS launched the Health Homes Program (HHP). HHP served eligible Medi-Cal Members with complex medical needs and chronic conditions and coordinated the full range of

physical health, behavioral health and community- based long-term services and supports (LTSS).

ECM builds on both the design and the learning from the WPC Pilots and HHP. ECM, with Community Supports, replaces both initiatives, scaling up the interventions to form a statewide care management approach that is a key component of the overall PHM Program.

ECM offers comprehensive, whole person care management to high- need, high-cost Medi-Cal Managed Care Members, with the overarching goals of:

- » Improving care coordination;
- » Integrating services;
- » Facilitating community resources;
- » Addressing SDOH;
- » Improving health outcomes; and
- » Decreasing inappropriate utilization and duplication of services.

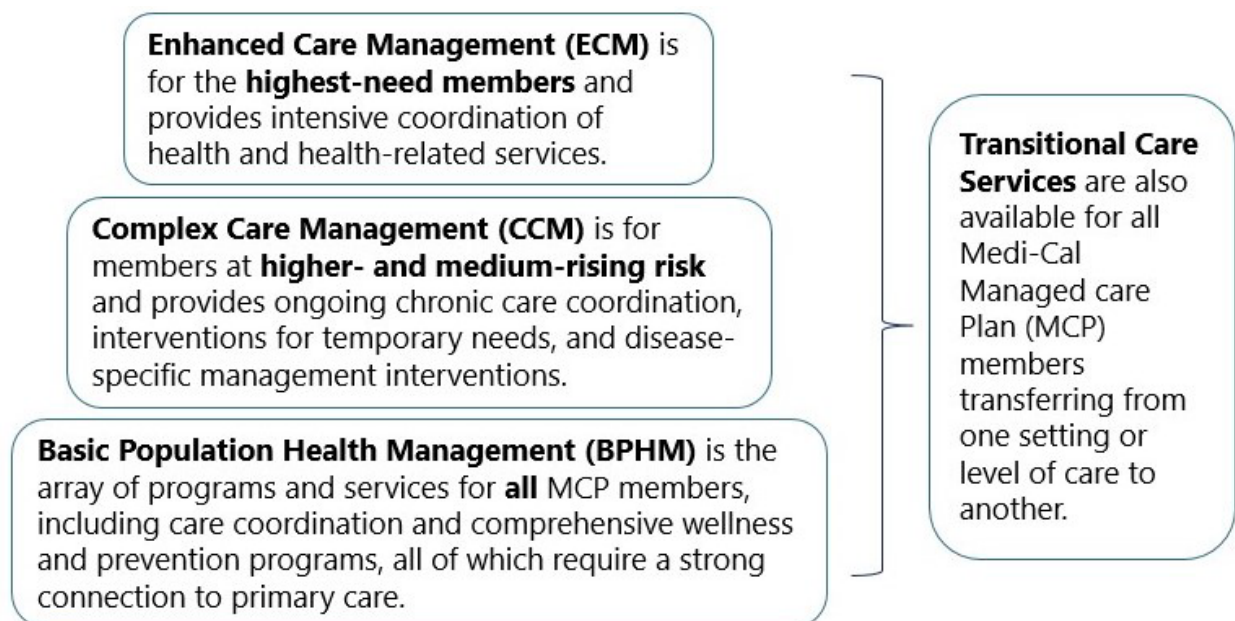
A. ECM and the PHM Program

On January 1, 2023, DHCS launched a new, comprehensive **Population Health Management (PHM) Program** as part of CalAIM. ECM is one component of that overarching program. Under the PHM Program, MCPs and their Network Providers and partners (such as local health jurisdictions and county welfare agencies) are to work together to be responsive to individual Member needs within the communities they serve while working within a common framework and expectations. The PHM Program is designed to ensure that all Medi-Cal managed care Members have access to a comprehensive set of services based on their needs and preferences across the continuum of care, with ECM intended for Members with the highest needs on that CalAIM Care Management Continuum. Two other care management programs exist within the Continuum, including Complex Care Management (CCM) for higher- and medium-risk Members and Basic Population Health Management (BPHM) for all Members. See Figure 1 below outlining the CalAIM Care Management Continuum and the [PHM Policy Guide](#) for more information.

DHCS is also building **Medi-Cal Connect**, a statewide data analytics solution and tool for population health management including ECM. When fully operational, Medi-Cal

Connect will provide MCPs, Providers, counties, Members, and other authorized users with access to comprehensive data on Members' health history, needs, and risks, including historical administrative, medical, behavioral, dental, and social service data and other program information. Medi-Cal Connect will use these data to support risk stratification, segmentation and tiering, assessment and screening processes, and analytics and reporting functions. Medi-Cal Connect will also improve data accuracy and timeliness by providing members with the ability to update their information and improve DHCS' ability to understand population health trends and the efficacy of various PHM interventions and strengthen oversight. For more information about PHM, refer to the [PHM Policy Guide](#) and [DHCS' PHM webpage](#).

Figure 1: CalAIM Care Management Continuum



III. ECM IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Below is the most up to date ECM Implementation Timeline. Notice to MCPs and stakeholders will be provided in the event the timeline is modified. For more information, visit [DHCS' ECM and Community Supports webpage](#).

Go Live Timing	Populations of Focus ^{2 3}
January 1, 2022 (Counties that participated in WPC, HHP or both)	» Adults and their Families Experiencing Homelessness⁴ » Adults At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or Emergency Department (ED) Utilization (formerly "High Utilizers") » Adults with Serious Mental Health and/or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Needs » Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration (some WPC counties)
July 1, 2022 (Counties that participated in neither WPC nor HHP)	» Adults and their Families Experiencing Homelessness » Adults At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or ED Utilization

² ECM has been available for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) from the launch of ECM if they meet the eligibility criteria for any existing Population of Focus. In July 2023, children and youth with I/DD will also be eligible for ECM if they meet the eligibility criteria for any existing Population of Focus. See Section VI. Program Overlaps and Exclusions for more details about individuals with I/DD receiving Regional Center services.

³ CM has been available to pregnant and postpartum adults from the launch of ECM if they meet the eligibility criteria for any existing Population of Focus. In July 2023, youth who are pregnant or postpartum will also be eligible for ECM if they meet the eligibility criteria for any existing Population of Focus.

⁴ In the period between January 2022 and July 2023, ECM is available to adults and their dependent children experiencing homelessness. With the launch of ECM for children and youth, the definition will expand for children, youth, and families.

Go Live Timing	Populations of Focus ^{2 3}
	» Adults with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs
January 1, 2023 (Statewide)	» Adults Living in the Community and At Risk for Long Term Care (LTC) Institutionalization » Adult Nursing Facility Residents Transitioning to the Community
July 1, 2023 (Statewide)	» Children and Youth Populations of Focus • Homeless Families or Unaccompanied Children/Youth Experiencing Homelessness • Children and Youth At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or ED Utilization • Children and Youth with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs • Children and Youth Enrolled in California Children’s Services (CCS) or CCS Whole Child Model (WCM) with Additional Needs Beyond the CCS Condition • Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare
January 1, 2024 (Statewide)	» Birth Equity Population of Focus » Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration⁵ (statewide, inclusive of the former WPC counties that already went live on January 1, 2022)

⁵ In January 2023, the [CalAIM 1115 justice initiative waiver request](#) was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

IV. ECM POPULATIONS OF FOCUS (UPDATED JANUARY 2026)

To be eligible for ECM, Members must be enrolled in a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan⁶ and meet at least one of the ECM Populations of Focus definitions described below:

Sr No.	ECM Populations of Focus	Adults	Children & Youth
1a	Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: <i>Adults without Dependent Children/Youth Living with Them Experiencing Homelessness</i>	X	
1b	Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: <i>Homeless Families or Unaccompanied Children/Youth Experiencing Homelessness</i>	X	X
2	Individuals At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or ED Utilization (<i>Formerly "High Utilizers"</i>)	X	X
3	Individuals with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs	X	X
4	Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration	X	X
5	Adults Living in the Community and At Risk for LTC Institutionalization	X	
6	Adult Nursing Facility Residents Transitioning to the Community	X	
7	Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS or CCS WCM with Additional Needs Beyond the CCS Condition		X
8	Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare ⁷		X
9	Birth Equity Population of Focus	X	X

⁶ Medi-Cal recipients with a Share of Cost, excluding long-term care share of cost, are excluded from managed care and are thus not eligible for ECM.

⁷ The population from age 21 to age 26 is likely a smaller population and DHCS does not report ECM data as 'Adult -Child Welfare POF'

A. Detailed Population of Focus Definitions (Updated January 2026)

The Populations of Focus definitions given below supersede the definitions originally described in the [CalAIM Proposal](#) of January 2021. Each Population of Focus includes a detailed definition for the Population of Focus with eligibility criteria; examples of eligible Members; and operational guidance to support implementation. MCPs must use the eligibility criteria provided to evaluate Members and **may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM**. For example, an MCP may not require that the ECM provider have a certain number of contacts with the Member as a condition of authorization. In the Populations of Focus definitions, “**adult**” is defined as an individual who is 21 years of age or older, and a “**child or youth**” is defined as an individual under 21. Consequently, the Children and Youth-specific definitions for ECM apply up to age 21, with limited exceptions as called out below for youth with a history of involvement with the child welfare system. When a Member under 21 is served in ECM and does not meet the adult ECM criteria upon turning 21, the Member should not be disenrolled from ECM due to aging out alone; rather, the ECM Provider and MCP should apply the MCP’s usual, DHCS-approved “graduation” criteria to determine when the Member is ready to disenroll.

1. Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness are among the highest-need and most vulnerable individuals in Medi-Cal, in that they lack access to shelter and food, both of which are critical to health. These individuals often have extensive medical and behavioral health needs that are difficult to manage due to the social factors that influence their health. This can result in reduced quality of life and high utilization of avoidable, costly services in EDs and inpatient settings that could be avoided with more timely and appropriate care management and potentially the provision of Community Supports. ECM provides the needed link between physical and behavioral health care and connection to housing and other resources associated with Social Drivers of Health (SDoH). In addition, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by homelessness in California and nationally, making ECM for this Population of Focus a critical tool in achieving racial health equity.

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria (Updated January 2026):

This Population of Focus went live for homeless adults and families with the launch of ECM in 2022. Eligibility criteria was broadened to include unaccompanied children and youth, as well as whole families, with the launch of ECM for children and youth in July 2023, as laid out below.⁸

Eligibility Criteria Applicable from January 2026 and Onwards

a. Adults (whether or not they have dependent children/youth living with them) who:

- (1) Are experiencing homelessness, defined as meeting one or more of the following conditions⁹:
 - (i) Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
 - (ii) Having a primary residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
 - (iii) Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter, designed to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
 - (iv) Exiting an institution into homelessness (regardless of length of stay in the institution);
 - (v) Will imminently lose housing in next 30 days;

⁸ From 2022 until June 30, 2023, children and youth were eligible only as part of a family unit with a qualifying adult meeting the Individuals Experiencing Homelessness POF definition.

⁹ This definition of homelessness is based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 42 CFR § 11302 - General definition of homeless individual with the modification to Clause (v) timeframe for an individual who will imminently lose housing has been extended from 14 days (HHS definition) to 30 days. The wording of this definition has also been slightly modified for clarity, relative to the originally released definition.

(vi) Fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions relating to such violence;

AND

(2) Have at least one complex physical, behavioral, or developmental need, with inability to successfully self-manage, for whom coordination of services would likely result in improved health outcomes **and/or** decreased utilization of high- cost services.¹⁰

OR

(3) Members authorized for Transitional Rent¹¹

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

As of July 2023, the ECM eligibility criteria for this Population of Focus also includes children and youth, as shown below. The purpose of these modifications is to ensure that ECM captures the breadth of unsafe, substandard, and insecure living conditions that families, children, and youth may experience. To do this, the Population of Focus eligibility criteria are modified for children and youth from 45 CFR 11431a McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act's definition of "at risk of homelessness." The California Department of Education (CDE) uses a similar definition of homelessness to identify students in need of housing support. DHCS continues to strengthen partnerships with CDE, such as the requirement for MCPs and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to enter into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) per the upcoming Medi-Cal Managed Care contract procurement going live in January 2024.

b. Homeless Families or Unaccompanied Children/Youth Experiencing Homelessness

¹⁰ Pregnant and postpartum individuals who are homeless are considered to have met this definition.

¹¹ Refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide \(Volume II\)](#) for further Transitional Rent policy guidance.

(In Effect July 1, 2023, and Onwards)

Children, Youth, and Families with members under 21 years of age who:

- (1) Are experiencing homelessness, as defined above in (a) under the modified [HHS 42 CFR Section 11302](#) "Homeless" definition;

OR

- (2) Sharing the housing of other persons (i.e., couch surfing) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or abandoned in hospitals (in hospital without a safe place to be discharged to to), as modified from the 45 CFR 11434a McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition of "at risk of homelessness" ¹²

OR

- (3) Members authorized for Transitional Rent ¹³

Notes on the (b) Definition:

- » Children, youth, and families do not need to meet the additional "complex physical, behavioral, or developmental need" criteria noted above in Clause (2) for adults in (a).
- » Clause (2) for children, youth, and families in (b) is modified from the 45 CFR 11434a McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition of "at risk of homelessness" ¹⁴ and is included in this Population of Focus to ensure ECM captures the breadth of unsafe, substandard, and insecure living conditions that Members, particularly children and youth, may experience.

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

¹² See [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)

¹³ Refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide \(Volume II\)](#) for further Transitional Rent policy guidance.

¹⁴ See [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)

ii. Examples of Eligible MCP Members Under this Population of Focus (Updated January 2026):

- » Member over age 21 experiencing homelessness who has complex health care needs as a result of unmanaged medical, psychiatric, or SUD-related conditions.
- » Member with complex health care needs as a result of medical, psychiatric or SUD-related condition, who have recently received an eviction notice and will imminently lose housing in the next 30 days.
- » Youth who has been excluded from home due to their gender identity or sexual orientation and is now temporarily living with the family of a friend (e.g., couch surfing).
- » Parent and child who are fleeing domestic violence from a spouse at home.
- » A pregnant person or person within 12 months postpartum experiencing homelessness.

iii. Operational Guidance:

Identification:

- » As for all ECM Populations of Focus, MCPs must establish policies and procedures that allow Network Providers to refer Members to the MCP for ECM if they suspect eligibility criteria are met and track key performance indicators to monitor and improve the volume of provider referrals.
- » Engagement in ECM for this population may include street outreach or coordinating with shelters, Homeless Services Providers, Recuperative Care Providers, Community Partners (e.g., Homeless Coordinated Entry Systems) and other service Providers with experience working with homeless individuals and families.
 - Members and their families may self-refer to ECM.
 - MCPs are expected to utilize data from their regional Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to determine which of their members are experiencing homelessness and should be referred for ECM.

Outreach and Engagement (Updated January 2026):

As is true for all ECM Lead Care Managers, ECM requires engagement with the Member in the community or at Provider locations. Street medicine provides an opportunity to provide care to individuals who are experiencing homelessness by

meeting them where they are. Separately from ECM, DHCS issued a [Street Medicine All Plan letter 24-001](#) to clarify how street medicine providers may utilize Presumptive Eligibility in mobile clinics, street teams or other locations to be able to provide immediate access to Medi-Cal Services. Street medicine providers may be ideally suited to conduct outreach and engage with Members who are experiencing homelessness, whether serving as ECM Lead Care Managers within their own teams or handing off to other ECM Providers who will take on the longitudinal role.

MCPs are strongly encouraged to conduct outreach to Members potentially eligible for ECM within family homeless shelters and coordinate with homeless outreach teams and other entities where families are known to be experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Examples of these entities may include local housing and homelessness programs serving families or pregnant or postpartum people, Head Start, schools, local WIC agencies, diaper banks, food banks, county First 5s, and CBOs supporting pregnant and postpartum people or families experiencing intimate partner violence.

Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan:

For this Population of Focus, the Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan should specifically address housing needs, in addition to any medical and/or social needs identified, and appropriate interventions to address these for the ECM Lead Care Manager to help connect the Member to sources of housing support, including (but not limited to) the pre-approved Community Supports. MCPs should ensure that ECM Providers serving members of this Population of Focus have detailed and up to date information about how to refer Members to housing Community Supports, including eligibility criteria and the operation of lifetime limits, where applicable.

Per federal requirements, if the Member has LTSS needs, the care plan must be developed by an individual who is trained in person-centered planning, using a person-centered process;¹⁵ should consider and reflect what is important to the Member regarding their preferences for the delivery of LTSS (for example, specific treatment goals, services or functional needs the Member prefers to prioritize).

¹⁵ As established in [42 CFR § 438.208](#) and [42 CFR § 441.301](#).

Examples of Applicable ECM Services for this Population of Focus (Updated January 2026):

For this Population of Focus, ECM should include addressing barriers to housing stability by connecting Members and their families to housing, health and social support resources. Examples of applicable services for this Population of Focus to be included in ECM include (but are not limited to):

- » Facilitating access to housing-related Community Supports to identify housing and preparing individuals to secure and/or maintain stable housing, including housing that meets the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum individuals and families.
- » Maintaining regular contact with Members to ensure there are not gaps in the activities designed to address an individual's health and social service needs and swiftly addressing any gaps to ensure progress toward regaining health and function.
- » Coordinating and collaborating with various health and social services providers, including Regional Centers and county First 5s,¹⁶ including sharing data (as appropriate) to facilitate better-coordinated whole-person care.
- » Supporting Member treatment adherence, including scheduling appointments, appointment reminders, coordinating transportation, ensuring connection to public benefits, identifying barriers to adherence and accompanying Members to appointments, as needed.
- » Utilizing best practices such as Housing First, Harm Reduction, Progressive Engagement, Motivational Interviewing, and Trauma Informed Care.
- » For homeless families, MCPs are strongly encouraged to work with ECM Providers to serve the family unit together through one ECM team, whenever possible and appropriate.

¹⁶ **County First 5s** are local, county-based entities in each of California's 58 counties to provide essential resources and services at the local level to support child development, care, and education of children up to age five. Please visit the [First 5](#) webpage for additional information.

Community Supports (Updated January 2026): MCPs are strongly encouraged to offer the housing- related Community Supports to Members who enroll in ECM under this Population of Focus.¹⁷

- » Transitional Rent provides up to six months of rental assistance in interim and permanent settings. When the MCP authorizes a Member for Transitional Rent, it must also authorize the Member for ECM. The MCP is required to ensure that the ECM Provider conducts weekly in-person outreach visits to the Member.¹⁸ Transition Navigation Services, Housing Deposits, and Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services provide support to achieve long-term housing.
- » (Housing Trio) Housing Transition Navigation Services, Housing Deposits, and Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services provide support to achieve long-term housing.
- » Recuperative Care (Medical Respite) and Short-Term Post-Hospitalization Housing provide recovery-focused housing. Short-Term Post-Hospitalization Housing sunsets December 31, 2026
- » Medically Tailored Meals/Medically-Supportive Food, Day Habilitation Programs, or Sobering Centers may also address the needs of this Population of Focus, depending on individual circumstances.

Provider Contracting (Updated January 2026):

- » MCPs must contract with ECM providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities to serve as ECM Providers. As suggested above, MCPs are encouraged to contract with street medicine providers and other organizations specializing in serving individuals experiencing homelessness to serve as ECM Providers, provided they meet all other ECM Provider requirements. MCPs are also encouraged to contract with housing providers that meet

¹⁷ For the comprehensive menu of Community Supports services and their corresponding service definitions, refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide](#), Volume I (non-housing) and Volume II (housing).

¹⁸ Refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide \(Volume II\)](#) for further Transitional Rent policy guidance on automatic ECM authorization, guidance on ECM Provider outreach, and implementation timeline.

the needs of individuals from pregnancy through 12 months postpartum, including with family shelters, to ensure the individual has a safe place to live during pregnancy and through 12 months postpartum. Please refer to Section VII. ECM Provider Network below for more information.

- » MCPs may develop specific payment models (e.g., bundled rates) to reimburse ECM Providers for ECM delivered to a family.

2. Individuals At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or Emergency Department (ED) Utilization

In 2022, DHCS renamed the “High Utilizers” ECM Population of Focus to “Individuals At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or Emergency Department (ED) Utilization,” to reflect that ECM for this Population of Focus aims to reduce avoidable care in costly settings and settings that are of higher acuity than would be necessary with earlier and more whole-person care interventions and approaches.

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria:

a. Adults At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or ED Utilization

Adults who meet one or more of the following conditions:

- (1) **Five or more** emergency room visits in a **six-month** period that could have been avoided with appropriate outpatient care or improved treatment adherence;¹⁹
- (2) **Three or more** unplanned hospital and/or short-term skilled nursing facility (SNF) stays in a six-month period that could have been avoided with appropriate outpatient care or improved treatment adherence.

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

For this POF, MCPs may choose to authorize ECM for individuals who are at risk for avoidable hospital or ED utilization and who would benefit from ECM but who may not meet the numerical thresholds specified above. This flexibility is

¹⁹ Including appropriate timing, interventions within outpatient care settings, care plan development, communication with the Member, interdisciplinary care team, or referrals.

in addition to and does not displace the numerical thresholds provided in the eligibility criteria.

b. Children and Youth At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or ED Utilization

Children and Youth who meet one or more of the following conditions:

- (1) **Three or more** ED visits in a **12-month** period that could have been avoided with appropriate outpatient care or improved treatment adherence;²⁰
- (2) **Two or more** unplanned hospital and/or short-term SNF stays in a **12-month** period that could have been avoided with appropriate outpatient care or improved treatment adherence.

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

For this POF, MCPs may choose to authorize ECM for individuals who are at risk for avoidable hospital or ED utilization and who would benefit from ECM but who may not meet the numerical thresholds specified above. This flexibility is in addition to and does not displace the numerical thresholds provided in the eligibility criteria.

ii. Examples of Eligible MCP Members under this Population of Focus:

- » An adult with repeated incidents of avoidable ED visits in a six-month period who has a medical, psychiatric or SUD-related condition requiring intensive coordination beyond telephonic intervention.
- » An adult with repeated incidents of avoidable ED visits in a six-month period who has significant functional limitations and/or adverse SDOH that impede them from navigating their health care and other services.
- » A child with repeated incidents of ED visits in a 12-month period to address untreated asthma that could have been avoided with improved inhaler and nebulizer treatment.
- » Siblings and their adult parent(s) with repeated incidents of avoidable ED visits in a 12-month period due to unsafe housing conditions and/or other adverse

²⁰ Including appropriate timing, interventions within outpatient care settings, care plan development, communication with the Member, interdisciplinary care team, or referrals.

SDOH that impede their caregiver from navigating their health care and other services. In this example, ECM could be provided to the family as a whole.

- » Youth with repeated avoidable inpatient hospitalizations in a 12-month period due to a behavioral health condition.

iii. Operational Guidance:

Identification:

- » MCPs must use the numerical thresholds described in eligibility criteria (a) and (b) above to identify Members in this Population of Focus. MCPs should have a consistent approach (e.g. algorithms or other methodologies) for identifying eligible Members.
- » MCPs should utilize a “rolling” lookback period based on the most recent month of adjudicated claims data. Effective January 1, 2023, when all MCPs are expected to use Admission, Discharge, Transfer (ADT) feed data, whenever available, across their PHM Programs, MCPs should use ADT feed data to identify members potentially eligible for ECM in a timelier fashion.
- » ED visits that result in an inpatient stay should only count as one inpatient visit.
- » This flexibility is in addition to and does not displace the numerical thresholds provided in the eligibility criteria.
- » Members and their families may self-refer to ECM.
- » MCPs are currently required to report Ambulatory Care: Emergency Department Visits (AMB-CH) (a National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) metric required in [CMS’ 2023 and 2024 Child Core Set Measures](#)) and should align efforts to identify and serve this ECM Population of Focus with improvement on these metrics.

Outreach and Engagement:

Under PHM requirements, by January 1, 2023, MCPs are responsible for knowing when all Members are admitted, discharged or transferred and must assign a single point of contact/care manager to ensure all transitional care services are complete for all high risk Members, as defined in the [PHM Policy Guide](#). MCPs are responsible for ensuring that ECM Providers have access to or are provided ADT feed data information for enrolled Members to allow them to manage transitions as part of ECM.

As is true for all ECM Lead Care Managers, ECM requires face-to-face engagement with the Member in the community or at Provider locations. ECM Providers may choose to embed staff directly within EDs to identify Members who are eligible for this

Population of Focus and coordinate closely with ED staff. MCPs may also or alternatively embed their own staff to perform the same function and hand off to an ECM Provider for further assessment.

Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan:

The assessment and care planning process should identify the drivers of the ED or inpatient episodes in detail, which may extend beyond conditions into specific social needs. Since repeat ED utilization is often a result of lack of access to usual care, special attention should be given (including research with the MCP, as needed) to the Member's primary care provider (PCP) and connection to that PCP, or selection of a different PCP. Similarly, any gaps in access to specialists that may have driven the admission should be carefully assessed and addressed with the MCP. As part of its monitoring and oversight of ECM, DHCS will be reviewing medical conditions/diagnoses associated with avoidable ED utilization within members of this Population of Focus.

Per federal requirements, if the Member has LTSS needs, the care plan must be developed by an individual who is trained in person-centered planning, as noted above under Population of Focus 1.

Examples of Applicable ECM Services for this Population of Focus:

- » Ensure there are not gaps in the activities designed to avoid institutionalization or hospitalization and swiftly addressing those gaps to ensure the individual can remain healthy in the community.
- » Ensure the identification of, and consistent engagement with, the Member's PCP and other specialists and behavioral health clinicians (as needed) to ensure appropriate outpatient treatment for underlying medical conditions.
- » Connecting to housing-related Community Supports to identify housing and prepare individuals for securing and/or maintaining stable housing, if needed, and connecting to other social services to address social factors that influence the individual's health outcomes.
- » Connecting the family, caretakers and circles of support to resources regarding the Member's conditions to assist them with providing support for the Member's health.
- » Referring the Member and family to community services, including but not limited to county First 5s.
- » Supporting Member treatment adherence, including scheduling appointments, appointment reminders, coordinating transportation, ensuring connection to

public benefits, identifying barriers to adherence and accompanying Members to appointments, as needed.

Community Supports:

MCPs are strongly encouraged to connect Members of this Population of Focus to Community Supports where the underlying driver(s) of ED or inpatient utilization are social needs. For children with uncontrolled asthma, Asthma Remediation has a particularly compelling evidence base for reducing the need for emergency care.²¹

Provider Contracting:

MCPs must contract with ECM Providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities they serve. The appropriate ECM Provider for this Population of Focus will depend on specific needs, as well as the Member's preferences. Generally speaking, grounding ECM in primary care for this population is likely to make sense where possible, to establish a strong tie to usual and routine care grounded in trusted relationships. Please refer to Section VII. ECM Provider Network below for more information.

3. Individuals with Serious Mental Health and/or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Needs

Medi-Cal MCP Members with serious mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) needs, as defined below, have disproportionately high rates of chronic physical health conditions as well as complex social needs. For children and youth, a number of social conditions and risk factors (e.g., exposure to trauma or other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)) often present as behavioral health needs. Enrolling this child and youth Population of Focus into ECM is critical to addressing risk early and averting long-term chronic illness.

CalAIM includes a suite of changes to the Medi-Cal behavioral health system to advance whole-person, accessible, high-quality care, including updates to the criteria to access specialty mental health services (SMHS). On January 1, 2022, DHCS implemented criteria for enrollees to access SMHS, medical necessity requirements, and other coverage requirements. See Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN)

²¹ Marshall, E.T., Guo, J., Flood, E., Sandel, M.T., Sadof, M.D., Zotter, J.M. [Home Visits for Children with Asthma Reduce Medicaid Costs. Preventive Chronic Disease. February 2020.](#)

no. 26-002²² or superseding BHIN for more information. Aligning the ECM Population of Focus eligibility criteria with this new SMHS access criteria ensures Members who are at high risk for mental health disorders, in addition to those already diagnosed, are eligible for ECM.

Implementation of ECM for this Population of Focus is designed to provide Members with a trusted Lead Care Manager who can coordinate and help integrate care and services, bridging across delivery systems. Care management through ECM may also help some MCP Members receive SMHS through the county's Mental Health Plan (MHP) who may have been undiagnosed or otherwise not yet connected to the services they need.

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria:

a. Adults with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs

Adults who:

- (1) Meet the eligibility criteria for participation in, or obtaining services through:
 - (i) SMHS delivered by MHPs;
 - (ii) The Drug Medi-Cal Organization Delivery System (DMC-ODS) **OR** the Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) program;²³

AND

- (2) Are experiencing at least one complex social factor influencing their health (e.g., lack of access to food, lack of access to stable housing, inability to work or engage in the community, high measure (four or more) of ACEs based on screening, former foster youth, history of recent contacts with law enforcement related to mental health and/or substance use symptoms;

AND

- (3) Meet one or more of the following criteria:

²² [BHIN 26-002 Access Criteria](#)

²³ Further information on access criteria for the SMHS for adults and children can be found in [BHIN 21-073](#) or superseding BHIN and for the DMC-ODS delivery system in [BHIN 24-001](#) or superseding BHIN . The medical necessity criteria for DMC services can be found in [California Code of Regulations, Title 22, § 51341.1](#) and [BHIN 21-071](#) or superseding BHIN . See also Appendix B of this Policy Guide.

- (i) Are at high risk for institutionalization,²⁴ overdose, and/or suicide;
- (ii) Use crisis services, EDs, urgent care, or inpatient stays as the primary²⁵ source of care;
- (iii) Experienced two or more ED visits or two or more hospitalizations due to serious mental health or SUD in the past 12 months;

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

b. Children and Youth with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs

Children and Youth who:

- (1) Meet the eligibility criteria for participation in, or obtaining services through one or more of:
 - (i) SMHS delivered by MHPs;
 - (ii) The DMC-ODS **OR** the DMC program.

No further criteria are required to be met for children and youth to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus.

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

i. Examples of Eligible MCP Members Under this Population of Focus

- » A Member who is pregnant, has the highest levels of complex health care needs as a result of psychiatric or SUD-related conditions, and who is experiencing one complex social factor influencing their health.
- » A Member who is a former foster youth who has a psychiatric or SUD-related condition and is currently using EDs as the primary source of care.
- » A child or youth who screens positive for four or more ACEs in their primary care practice and meets the access criteria for SMHS services but has not been linked

²⁴ "Institutionalization" in this context is broad and means any type of inpatient, SNF, long-term, or ED setting.

²⁵ From December 2022, modified from "sole" to "primary."

to care and does not have the family or social support needed to further evaluate or address their needs.

- » A child or youth who is receiving services from the SMHS, DMC–ODS, and/or DMC delivery systems.

i. Operational Guidance

Identification:

- » As for all ECM Populations of Focus, MCPs must establish policies and procedures that allow Network Providers to refer patients to the MCP for ECM if they suspect eligibility criteria are met. For children and youth, MCPs should establish robust referral pathways with all pediatric providers and should work to develop referral pathways with schools and childcare settings. DHCS expects to reflect these expectations in forthcoming updated MOU guidance to be released in 2023.
- » Effective January 1, 2023, when all MCPs are expected to use ADT feed data when available across their PHM Programs, MCPs should use ADT feed data to identify potentially eligible members in a timelier fashion.
- » MCPs and MHPs are required to enter into MOUs that define and describe in greater detail covered services and populations; screening, assessment and referral processes; care coordination requirements; oversight responsibilities of the MCP and MHP; and data and information sharing procedures, among other items. At the time of this update, DHCS is updating the MOU guidance to align with upcoming January 2024 Medi-Cal Managed Care contract procurement and will encompass federal and state developments, including strengthening requirements on referrals to ensure Members receive needed care and the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) [Data Exchange Framework](#). Updated requirements will require that county MHPs should have specific procedures for their providers and contractors to identify and refer to MCPs clients who meet criteria for this Population of Focus.
- » Members are not required to be enrolled in, or have accessed services through, SMHS, DMC-ODS, or DMC to be eligible for ECM.
- » Members and their families may self-refer to ECM.
- » MCPs may identify Members who meet this Population of Focus definition through analysis of Non-Specialty Mental Health Services and SUD services that are covered under MCPs, such as alcohol and drug screening; assessments; brief interventions; referral to treatment for members aged 11 and older; and

medications for addiction treatment, as described in [APL 22- 005](#) or superseding APL. Analysis of this data allows identification of Members who might meet SMHS/DMC-ODS/DMC thresholds.

- » MCPs are encouraged to partner with child care settings and LEAs to create referral pathways to help support identification of ECM eligible children and youth.

Outreach and Engagement:

ECM requires engagement with the Member in the community or at Provider locations. In instances where the Member's behavioral health provider, such as a county contracted SMHS or DMC / DMC-ODS Provider, is also their ECM Provider, ECM services could be provided wherever they receive behavioral health services.

Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan:

ECM is a whole person care management benefit which includes coordinating the medical and social needs beyond the Member's mental health or SUD conditions. Thus, when serving as ECM Provider, the county behavioral health agency and/or its subcontracted SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS Providers must also document and manage those needs beyond the clients' mental health or SUD needs.

When a county behavioral health agency or its contracted provider is also serving as an ECM Provider, MCPs must avoid imposing assessment requirements that are duplicative of the SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS screening domain requirements. In practice, this might require MCPs to develop modified assessment policy/templates. The county behavioral health agency or its contracted provider may start by utilizing the SMS/DMC/DMC-ODS screening domain requirements (as described in [BHIN 23-068](#) or any superseding guidance) and add any missing component (i.e., physical health required for "whole person" ECM assessment).

[BHIN 23-068](#) or superseding BHIN seeks to streamline and standardize clinical documentation requirements across Medi-Cal, SMHS, DMC, and DMC-ODS services by allowing creation of progress notes to document treatment and care plans, including for the required SMHS Targeted Case Management (TCM) care planning documentation elements. MCPs must not impose care planning documentation requirements that duplicate existing SMHS/DMC/DMC- ODS Provider processes, but instead work with the county behavioral health agency and/or their subcontracted SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS Providers to meet both ECM and SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS care planning requirements in a way that leverages existing documentation processes. Specifically, the county behavioral health agency and/or their subcontracted

SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS Providers may use the progress note approach as the method of recording the ECM care plan as long as the following principles are taken into account:

- » ECM is a whole person care management benefit, which includes coordinating the medical and social needs beyond the Member's mental health or SUD conditions. Thus, the county behavioral health agency and/or its subcontracted SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS Providers must also document and manage those needs beyond the clients' mental health or SUD needs.
- » If the county behavioral health agency and/or their subcontracted SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS Providers use the progress note approach, they must be able to communicate the content of the full care plan to other providers and to the Member themselves, in order to meet ECM requirements. MCPs must reflect these provisions on recording an ECM care plan in their contracts with counties.

Examples of Applicable ECM Services for this Population of Focus:

- » Facilitating regular culturally and linguistically appropriate contact with Members to ensure there are not gaps in the activities designed to avoid institutionalization or hospitalization and swiftly addressing those gaps to ensure the individual can remain in the community.
- » Facilitating referral for Members and their families to home and community supports for early childhood, infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH), such as county First 5s.
- » Connecting to housing-related Community Supports to identify housing and prepare individuals for securing and/or maintaining stable housing, if needed, and connecting to other social services to address social factors that influence the individual's health outcomes.
- » Supporting the Member's behavioral health recovery goals with related improvements in physical and oral health and long-term services and supports.
- » Connecting the family, caretakers and circles of support to resources regarding the Member's conditions to assist them with providing support for the Member's health and behavioral health.
- » Coordinating and collaborating with various health, behavioral health, developmental disability and social services Providers, including sharing data (as appropriate).

- » Supporting Member treatment adherence, including scheduling appointments, appointment reminders, coordinating transportation, ensuring connection to public benefits, identifying barriers to adherence and accompanying Members to appointments, as needed.
- » Identifying and coordinating among other care managers across delivery systems who have been assigned to assist the individual with any aspect of their health and related social needs.
- » Understanding and identifying root causes of a Member's behavioral health need, particularly with children and youth who may not have a diagnosed SMHS or DMC-ODS/DMC condition but require additional supports and care due to family dynamics, social situations, historical trauma, and other concerns, all requiring a multi-agency approach and solution to appropriately address for the child or youth.

Community Supports:

MCPs are strongly encouraged to offer Community Supports to Members who enroll in ECM under this Population of Focus. Doing so can enhance care and prevent costly and unnecessary hospitalizations. Each Member will have different needs and functional limitations.²⁶ While nearly all Community Supports may be relevant for individuals with SMI or serious emotional disturbance (SED) depending on their needs, examples of Community Supports that Members of this Population of Focus may benefit from include:

- » Sobering Centers (including ensuring communication and coordination between ECM Providers and Sobering Centers for assigned members receiving Community Supports sobering center services).
- » Housing Transition Navigation Services.
- » Housing Deposits.
- » Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services.
- » Short-Term Post-Hospitalization Housing.

²⁶ For the comprehensive menu of Community Supports services and their corresponding service definitions, refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide](#), Volume I (non-housing) and Volume II (housing).

- » Medically Supportive Food/Meals/Medically Tailored Meals.

Provider Contracting (Updated January 2026):

MCPs must contract with ECM Providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities they serve. Members in this Population of Focus are also likely receiving SMHS services through county MHPs and/or SUD services through DMC- ODS or DMC programs. Therefore, it is important for MCPs to coordinate with county behavioral health agencies and providers to ensure continuity of care and nonduplication of care management services with ECM. As such, the DHCS MCP contract **requires that MCPs must prioritize contracting with county behavioral health agencies or their subcontracted providers to serve as ECM Providers**, provided they agree and are able to coordinate all services needed by the Member, not just behavioral health services; and unless the Member (or their parent, guardian, or caretaker) desires a different ECM Provider. Please refer to Section VII. ECM Provider Network below for more information.

When MCPs are not able to contract with the county behavioral health agency or its subcontracted provider as the ECM Provider, the ECM Provider for a Member within this population should have experience and expertise working with individuals with serious mental health needs and SUD, as well as the ability to adequately coordinate services across multiple delivery systems. MCPs are also encouraged to contract with behavioral health providers and their care teams who meet the needs of individuals from pregnancy through 12 months postpartum.

For the children and youth in this Population of Focus, given the broader ECM eligibility criteria, it is possible that the county MHPs or their subcontracted Providers may not have sufficient capacity to serve all ECM eligible children and youth. MCPs should work closely with the county behavioral health agency to determine which sub-populations would best be served by a county behavioral health ECM Provider (e.g., those with ongoing mental health or SUD needs) versus an alternative community- based provider that may be better poised to meet the underlying social and other needs of the Member (e.g., a dyadic services provider integrated with the Member's primary care clinic).

4. Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration

Many Members transitioning from incarceration have disproportionately high physical and behavioral health care needs that require ongoing treatment and medication maintenance when they are released into the community. Individuals re-entering the community often experience a lack of continuous physical and behavioral health care which results in a deterioration of their physical and behavioral health conditions,

increased use of EDs and inpatient settings, and, in some instances, a return to incarceration.

On January 26, 2023, California became the first state in the nation to receive federal approval to offer a targeted set of Medicaid services to Medi-Cal-eligible youth and adults in state prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities for up to 90 days prior to release. Through a [federal Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver](#) approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHCS will work with implementing partners to establish a coordinated community reentry process that will assist people leaving incarceration in connecting to the services they need prior to release and upon reentering their communities.

Care management is a critical component of the CalAIM Justice Involved Reentry Initiative, which is intended to (1) support the coordination of services delivered during the pre-release period and upon reentry; (2) ensure smooth linkages to services and supports; and (3) ensure arrangement of appointments and timely access to appropriate care delivered in the community. The care management model begins with pre-release care management services available during the 90 days prior to an individual's release, which are paid on an FFS basis by Medi-Cal. The pre-release care manager is required to closely coordinate with the individual's post-release ECM provider— if the pre-release and post-release care managers are not the same person – to ensure continuity of care between the pre- and post-release periods. The ECM Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration Population of Focus went live **January 1, 2024**.

To ensure alignment across pre-release care management and post-release ECM, the Eligibility criteria for the Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration Population of Focus listed below and detailed in Appendix C aligns with the eligibility criteria for individuals who are incarcerated to receive targeted pre-release Medi-Cal services. Therefore, all Members who have received pre-release services will be eligible for this ECM POF. However, members do not need to have received pre-release services to be eligible for this Population of Focus if they meet the eligibility criteria (e.g., if they were released from a correctional facility prior to go-live of pre-release services).

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria:

a. Adults Transitioning from Incarceration

Adults who:

- (1) Are transitioning from a correctional facility (e.g., prison, jail, or youth correctional facility) or transitioned from correctional facility within the past 12 months;

AND

- (2) Have at least one of the following conditions (See Appendix C for definitions):
 - (i) Mental illness;
 - (ii) Substance Use Disorder (SUD);
 - (iii) Chronic Condition/Significant Non-Chronic Clinical Condition;
 - (iv) Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD);
 - (v) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI);
 - (vi) HIV/AIDS;
 - (vii) Pregnant or Postpartum

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

b. Children and Youth Transitioning from a Youth Correctional Facility

Children and youth under 21 or former foster youth between 18 and 26 who are transitioning from a youth correctional facility or adult jail/prison or transitioned from being in a youth correctional facility or adult jail/prison within the past 12 months. No further criteria are required to be met for Children and Youth to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus.

ii. Examples of Eligible MCP Members Under this Population of Focus (Updated January 2026):

- » A Member who has a SUD diagnosis, was incarcerated 3 months ago in a county jail for 2 days, did not receive pre-release services while incarcerated, and was referred to the MCP by a federally qualified health center (FQHC).
- » A Member who has HIV, was incarcerated in a California state prison for two years, was found eligible for and received targeted pre-release services which included pre-release care management and began receiving post-release ECM services beginning the day of their release.

- » A Member who is pregnant or within 12 months postpartum and is transitioning from a jail.
- » A youth Member was incarcerated in a youth correctional facility for 30 days, was found eligible for and received targeted pre-release services, and began receiving post-release ECM services beginning the day of their release.

iii. Operational Guidance:

For detailed operational guidance on the implementation of ECM for this Population of Focus, please reference the CalAIM Policy and Operational Guide for Justice-Involved initiative [CalAIM-JI-Policy-and-Operations-Guide-Foundational-Guidance](#)

5. Adults Living in the Community and At Risk for LTC Institutionalization

Intensive care coordination through ECM can help adults continue to reside in the community who would otherwise have entered into an institutional setting for care.

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria:

Adults Living in the Community and At Risk for LTC Institutionalization

Adults who:

- (1) Are living in the community who meet the SNF Level of Care (LOC) criteria;²⁷ **OR** who require lower-acuity skilled nursing, such as time-limited and/or intermittent medical and nursing services, support, and/or equipment for prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of acute illness or injury;²⁸

AND

- (2) Are actively experiencing at least one complex social or environmental factor influencing their health (including, but not limited to, needing assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), communication difficulties, access to food, access to stable housing, living alone, the need for conservatorship or guided decision-making, poor or

²⁷ As established in the [California Code of Regulations § 51335](#).

²⁸ Criteria adapted from the [2020 Medi-Cal Long-Term Care At Home proposal](#).

inadequate caregiving which may appear as a lack of safety monitoring);²⁹

AND

- (3) Are able to reside continuously in the community with wraparound supports (i.e., some individuals may not be eligible because they have high-acuity needs or conditions that are not suitable for home-based care due to safety or other concerns).

Notes on the Definition:

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

- » **Living in the Community.** Members who meet this Population of Focus may live in independent housing, Residential Care Facilities, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs), or any other dwelling that meets the requirements established in the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Final Rule.³⁰ This includes those receiving the ALFT Community Support.
- » **Exclusions.** Adults living in the community who are at risk of institutionalization into Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF)³¹ and subacute care facilities³² are excluded from this Population of Focus.

ii. Examples of Eligible MCP Members Under this Population of Focus:

- » A 65-year-old Member with cancer who underwent surgery for Gastrostomy tube placement; the Member needs assistance with Gastrostomy tube feedings and maintenance of the site, personal care services and medication administration.

²⁹ Criteria adapted from the [Community-Based Health Home eligibility criteria](#).

³⁰ CMS [Final Rule 79 FR 2947](#), Medicaid Program; State Plan Home and Community- Based Services, 5-Year Period for Waivers, Provider Payment Reassignment, and Home and Community-Based Setting Requirements for Community First Choice and HCBS Waivers; [42 CFR § 441.301\(c\)\(4\) and \(5\)](#).

³¹ Definition and more information about [Intermediate Care Facilities \(ICFs\)](#) located is located on the Department of Developmental Services website.

³² Definition and more information about [subacute care facilities](#) is located on the DHCS website.

- » A 75-year old Member who was recently discharged from the hospital after suffering a stroke; the Member lives alone and will need In Home Supportive Service (IHSS) services, nursing visits for medication management, meal preparation, potentially additional personal care services beyond what IHSS may authorize, and coordination of transportation to a rehabilitation clinic for bi- weekly physical and occupational therapy services.

iii: Operational Guidance:

Identification:

- » Referrals are expected to be the predominant pathway MCPs identify Members who may be eligible for ECM through this Population of Focus. MCPs are encouraged to leverage existing and develop new partnerships with Providers who have experience serving Members who meet this Population of Focus eligibility criteria and are thus well positioned to make referrals. This includes but is not limited to Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, Home Health Agencies, Centers for Independent Living, IHSS Providers, and other HCBS Waiver Providers.
- » Members and their families may self-refer to ECM.
- » Effective January 1, 2023, when all MCPs are expected to use ADT feed data, when available, across their PHM Programs, MCPs should use ADT feed data to identify potentially eligible members in a timelier fashion.
- » MCPs are encouraged to establish relationships with Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies.³³ Each county in California has an APS agency specifically dedicated to helping elder and dependent adults, and regularly meet with individuals in their homes. These agencies may serve as a useful referral source.
- » MCPs may also utilize existing Member data, establish regular data sharing arrangements with contracted Providers, or leverage 1915(c) HCBS waiver program wait lists to identify Members who may meet this Population of Focus definition. MCPs may use previous SNF LOC determinations to confirm Member eligibility. The 1915(c) waiver programs³⁴ require Members to meet the SNF LOC criteria to be eligible for participation. As such, SNF LOC determination may have already been made for some Members who meet this Population of Focus.

³³ Please review the [APS Offices by County](#) list for more information.

³⁴ [Assisted Living Waiver \(ALW\)](#), [Home and Community Based Alternatives \(HCBA\) Waiver](#), and [Multipurpose Senior Services Program \(MSSP\) Waiver](#).

- » Member choice and preferences must be considered during the identification and eligibility determination process before enrolling Members into ECM, when assigning them to an ECM Provider, and when designing the Member's care plan.

Comprehensive Assessment & Care Management Plan:

Once a Member is enrolled in ECM, a comprehensive assessment should be conducted, and care plan developed, as described in Section V. Core Service Components of ECM. As part of the assessment, MCPs must include DHCS' standardized LTSS referral questions ³⁵ to identify and refer Members who may have LTSS needs, unless the Member has already answered these questions. Assessments should be conducted face-to-face and in the community whenever possible.

Per federal requirements, if the Member has LTSS needs, the care plan must be developed by an individual who is trained in person-centered planning, using a person-centered process. ³⁶ Thus, for this Population of Focus, the ECM Lead Care Manager must meet these requirements. The care plan should consider and reflect what is important to the Member regarding their preferences for the delivery of LTSS (for example, specific treatment goals, services or functional needs the Member prefers to prioritize). As for all ECM Populations of Focus, the care plan should incorporate the Member's needs across all delivery systems inclusive of LTSS, and must contain the services and supports that will ensure the Member is setup to live continuously in the community.

Community Supports:

MCPs are strongly encouraged to offer Community Supports to Members who enroll in ECM under this Population of Focus. ³⁷ Doing so can enhance care, prevent costly and unnecessary hospitalizations, and help Members live continuously in the community. Each Member will have different needs and functional limitations. Community Supports that may be particularly beneficial include:

- » Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (Home Modifications).
- » Respite Services.

³⁵ As established in [APL 17-013](#) or superseding APL.

³⁶ As established in [42 CFR § 438.208](#) and [42 CFR § 441.301](#).

³⁷ For the comprehensive menu of Community Supports services and their corresponding service definitions, refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide](#), Volume I (non-housing) and Volume II (housing).

- » Personal Care and Homemaker Services.
- » Medically Tailored Meals/Medically Supportive Food.

ECM Provider Contracting:

MCPs must contract with ECM Providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities they serve. The ECM Providers who may be best to equipped to serve this Population of Focus may include, but are not limited to, CBAS Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, Home Health Agencies, Alzheimer's Association, and Centers for Independent Living. Please refer to Section VII. ECM Provider Network below for more information.

6. Adult Nursing Facility Residents Transitioning to the Community

Intensive care coordination through ECM can help nursing facility residents transition safely into the community.

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria:

Adult Nursing Facility Residents Transitioning to the Community

Adult nursing facility residents who:

- (1) Are interested in moving out of the institution; **AND**
- (2) Are likely candidates to do so successfully; **AND**
- (3) Are able to reside continuously in the community.

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

Notes on the Definition:

- » **Able to Reside Continuously in the Community.** Members transitioning to the community may need to return to the hospital or SNF intermittently for short admissions (potentially due to changes in medical conditions or other acute episodes). They should not be precluded from being considered able to reside continuously in the community. This includes members receiving the ALFT and the Community or Home Transition Services Community Support.

- » **Exclusions.** Individuals residing in ICFs³⁸ and subacute care facilities³⁹ are excluded from this Population of Focus.

ii. Examples of Eligible MCP Members Under this Population of Focus:

- » A 70-year-old Member with multiple chronic conditions and social needs who has been residing in a SNF for the past 6 months after recovering from a stroke; the Member currently does not have a residence to return to but has indicated on the Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment that they would like to transition back to the community. As far as the facility knows, the Member does not have family supports.
- » A 58-year-old Member with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) who has been residing in a SNF for the past year; prior to their admission into the SNF, they had been living with family members; recently, they expressed an interest to their SNF care coordinator in returning home.

iii. Operational Guidance:

Identification:

- » MCPs can rely on referrals, analysis of their own data, or direct data feeds from and relationships with SNFs or other Providers to identify Members who may be eligible for this Population of Focus.
- » Members and their families may self-refer to ECM.
- » Effective January 1, 2023, when all MCPs are expected to use ADT feed data, when available, for their PHM Programs, MCPs should use ADT feed data to identify potentially eligible members in a timelier fashion.
- » One of the pathways MCPs can leverage is the MDS, which is part of the federally mandated process for clinical assessment of all residents in certified nursing facilities. MDS assessments are completed for all residents, regardless of source of payment, and are required on admission to the nursing facility, periodically, and upon discharge.⁴⁰ Section Q of the MDS uses a person-centered approach to ensure that all individuals residing in the SNF have the opportunity to indicate their interest in receiving long term care in the least

³⁸ Definition and more information about [Intermediate Care Facilities \(ICF\)](#) is located on the Department of Developmental Services website.

³⁹ Definition and more information about [subacute care facilities](#) is located on the DHCS website.

⁴⁰ See [MDS 3.0 Public Reports](#).

restrictive setting possible.⁴¹ MCPs who have access to MDS assessment data are encouraged to analyze responses to Section Q on a regular basis to identify Members who may be eligible for this Population of Focus.

- » MCPs are encouraged to leverage existing and develop new partnerships with SNFs and Providers who have experience serving Members who meet this Population of Focus, and are thus well positioned to make referrals. This includes but is not limited to Area Agencies on Aging, and California Community Transitions (CCT) Money Follows the Person (MFTP) Lead Organizations. MCPs should also institute data sharing requirements with their contracted SNF Providers.

Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan:

The assessment and care management plan processes for Members who meet this Population of Focus are expected to be time intensive. MCPs must assess Members against criteria to determine who could be successful to reside continuously in the community, which may include but is not limited to functional status, the availability of appropriate services and resources in the community, existing support systems, and safety. DHCS encourages MCPs to use the CCT assessment tool for this Population of Focus. This tool is already being used across the state to successfully transition Members from SNFs into home and community-based settings, and could serve as a helpful resource.

The development of the care plan for a Member to transition from SNF to the community is an effort that will require considerable planning. The ECM Care Manager is responsible for identifying all resources to address all needs of the Member, including coordinating with local housing agencies and identifying the least restrictive community housing option, ongoing medical care that may be needed, and other community-based services to ensure a Member will be able to transition and reside continuously in the community. The development of the care plan should be led by the ECM Lead Care Manager and involve the Member, their family and friends (as requested), legal representative (as applicable), and the interdisciplinary care team, the SNF facility discharge planner, and any other relevant clinical, behavioral health, and social work staff.

Per federal requirements, if the Member has LTSS needs, the care plan must be developed by an individual who is trained in person-centered planning, using a person-

⁴¹ See [CMS 3.0 Manual](#)

centered process.⁴² Thus, for this Population of Focus, the ECM Lead Care Manager must meet these requirements. The care plan should consider and reflect what is important to the Member regarding their preferences for the delivery of LTSS (for example, specific treatment goals, services or functional needs the Member prefers to prioritize). As for all ECM Populations of Focus, the care plan should incorporate the Member's needs across all delivery systems inclusive of LTSS, and must contain the services and supports that will ensure the Member is setup to live continuously in the community.

Community Supports:

MCPs are strongly encouraged to offer Community Supports to Members who enroll in ECM under this Population of Focus.⁴³ Doing so can enhance care, prevent costly and unnecessary hospitalizations, and help Members live continuously in the community. Each Member will have different needs and functional limitations. Community Supports that may be particularly beneficial include:

- » Community Transition Services/Nursing Facility Transition to a Home.
- » Nursing Facility Transition/Diversion to Assisted Living Facilities, such as RCFE and Adult Residential Facilities (ARF).
- » Medically Tailored Meals/Medically-Supportive Food
- » Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (Home Modifications)
- » Personal Care and Homemaker Services
- » Respite Services

A Member can receive ECM and can also simultaneously receive the care management included in these Community Supports services. For MCPs offering these Community Supports services, they are encouraged to assign the same Community Supports Provider as the ECM Provider, so long as the Community Supports Provider is contracted as an ECM Provider, and is therefore able to coordinate all services needed. If a different Community Supports Provider and an ECM Provider are both serving a Member at the same time, the ECM Provider remains primarily responsible for the

⁴² As established in [42 CFR § 438.208](#) and [42 CFR § 441.301](#).

⁴³ For the comprehensive menu of Community Supports services and their corresponding service definitions, refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide](#), Volume I (non-housing) and Volume II (housing).

overall coordination across the physical and behavioral health delivery systems and social supports.

Provider Contracting:

MCPs must contract with ECM Providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities they serve. MCPs are strongly encouraged to contract with CCT Lead Organizations to serve Members who meet this Population of Focus, as these Providers have existing relationships with community-based organizations, can coordinate community wrap around supports effectively, and have extensive knowledge of existing local community resources (e.g., housing wait lists). Please refer to Section VII. ECM Provider Network below for more information. See Section VI. Program Overlaps and Exclusions for interactions with programs for Medi-Cal MCP Members dually eligible for Medicare.

7. Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS or CCS Whole Child Model (WCM) with Additional Needs Beyond the CCS Condition

CCS and CCS WCM serve some of Medi-Cal's most vulnerable children. In addition to their physical health condition qualifying them for CCS/CCS WCM – such as cancer, cerebral palsy, and cystic fibrosis (see full eligibility criteria on the [DHCS website](#)) – these children often experience a high co-occurrence of social and behavioral health challenges beyond their CCS/CCS WCM qualifying condition. As a result, many children in CCS/CCS WCM work with multiple care/case managers to navigate many delivery systems, creating a need for the child's guardian or other advocate to navigate a variety of fragmented care delivery systems and discordant care plans. For this population, a dedicated ECM Lead Care Manager can help take the navigational burden off children and their families, while helping Providers from the varied delivery systems harmonize with the family-centered plan of care. ECM Care Managers act as the main point for contact for ECM and are responsible for whole- child care coordination between and among all participants in the child's care plan, thereby ensuring each child's needs are met.

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria:

Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS or CCS WCM with Additional Needs Beyond the CCS Condition

Children and youth who:

- (1) Are enrolled in CCS **OR** CCS WCM;

AND

- (2) Are experiencing at least one complex social factor influencing their health. Examples include (but are not limited to) lack of access to food; lack of access to stable housing; difficulty accessing transportation; high measure (four or more) of ACEs screening; history of recent contacts with law enforcement; or crisis intervention services related to mental health and/or substance use symptoms.

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

ii. Examples of Eligible MCP Members Under this Population of Focus (Updated January 2026):

- » Child enrolled in CCS due to their cerebral palsy and child's family requests assistance to address food insecurity within the child's household.
- » Child enrolled in CCS WCM due to traumatic injuries from a car accident and developed post-traumatic stress disorder due to the accident, and has a recent law enforcement interaction.
- » Pregnant youth enrolled in CCS due to their sickle cell disease and challenges accessing transportation for prenatal care appointments.
- » Toddler enrolled in CCS while in the hospital to treat recent lead poisoning and will continue receiving chelation medication on an outpatient basis. The child is clinically ready for hospital discharge, but cannot safely transfer home because the family cannot afford the necessary repairs to abate the environmental lead housing hazards identified by the local health department inspector.

iii. Operational Guidance:

Identification:

- » As for all ECM Populations of Focus, MCPs must establish policies and procedures that allow Network Providers to refer Members to the MCP for
- » ECM if they suspect eligibility criteria are met. Specialty Care Center (SCC) Coordinators, other Members of the child's SCC core team (including pediatricians, PCPs, specialty care providers, and others), and local CCS county offices, especially, may all submit referrals for Members they suspect are eligible for ECM.

- » Effective January 1, 2023, when all MCPs are expected to use ADT feed data, when available, across their PHM Programs, MCPs should use ADT feed data to identify potentially eligible members in a timelier fashion.
- » Members and their families may self-refer to ECM.
- » MCPs may also identify eligible Members for ECM through analysis of CCS/CCS WCM enrollment and additional data available to MCPs, including zcodes identifying SDOH and high measures on ACEs screening.
- » Children in CCS or CCS WCM are eligible to receive ECM if they meet the criteria of any other ECM Population of Focus, even if they do not have a complex social factor that causes them to meet the criteria in Clause (2) of this Population of Focus. For example, many children in CCS have a co- occurring behavioral health need; these children would be eligible for ECM.

Outreach and Engagement:

ECM requires engagement with the Member in the community or at Provider locations. In instances where the Member's CCS/CCS WCM Provider is also their ECM Provider, ECM services could be provided at their SCC or wherever they receive CCS/CCS WCM services.

Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan:

The ECM Provider is expected to leverage CCS' comprehensive assessment (includes psychosocial, cognitive, developmental assessing, and planning) and the care plan developed by CCS in developing the Member's ECM care management plan. Additional assessments may be needed to ensure the Member's ECM care management plan incorporates the Member's needs and strategies to address those needs across the areas of physical health care, mental health care, SUD care, community-based LTSS, oral health care, palliative care, social supports, SDOH care, and others.

The ECM Provider is expected to leverage CCS WCM's Individual Care Plan (ICP) (includes physical health care, mental health care, SUD care, home health needs, and Regional Center needs) when developing the Member's ECM care management plan. CCS WCM Members also undergo a risk stratification and annual assessment (includes general health status, recent health care utilization, health history, medical history, demographics, and social history) on Members' risk-levels and CCS eligibility determination, all of which should be considered when developing the Member's ECM care management plan.

Examples of Applicable ECM Services for this Population of Focus: For this Population of Focus, ECM should include addressing other needs that are not already

being met by CCS/CCS WCM. Examples of applicable ECM services for this population include (but are not limited to):

- » Facilitating access to the Environmental Accessibility Adaptions (Home Modifications) Community Support to have ramps and a stair lift installed in the Member's home (see more below).
- » Facilitating referral for Members and their families to home and community supports for early childhood, such as county First 5s.
- » Coordinating the transition from hospital to inpatient rehabilitation and to home after a traumatic injury.
- » Coordinating care across all applicable delivery systems (Medi-Cal Managed Care or Medi-Cal FFS; SMHS; DMC or DMC-ODS; Dental Managed Care or FFS; and Medi-Cal Rx) and care coordinators.

Community Supports:

MCPs are strongly encouraged to offer Community Supports to Members who enroll in ECM under this Population of Focus.⁴⁴ Doing so can enhance care and prevent costly and unnecessary hospitalizations. Each Member will have different needs and functional limitations. Below are a few examples of Community Supports that may be particularly beneficial:

- » Personal Care and Homemaker Services.
- » Environmental Accessibility Adaptions (Home Modifications).
- » Respite Services.
- » Medically Tailored Meals/Medically-Supportive Food.
- » Asthma Remediation.

Provider Contracting:

- » MCPs must contract with ECM Providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities they serve. Please refer to Section VII. ECM Provider Network below for more information.

⁴⁴ For the comprehensive menu of Community Supports services and their corresponding service definitions, refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide](#), Volume I (non-housing) and Volume II (housing).

- » If a child or youth is enrolled in both ECM and CCS/CCS WCM and their CCS/CCS WCM Provider elects to become a contracted ECM Provider, then the MCP should assign the CCS/CCS WCM Provider as that Member's ECM Provider, unless the Member (and/or their parent, guardian, caretaker) prefers a different ECM Provider.
- » MCPs that offer CCS WCM are expected to adhere to all ECM requirements including contracting with community-based Providers, even if CCS WCM is delivered in house at the MCP. Where it is appropriate, CCS WCM elements can be delegated to ECM Providers to ensure children and youth receive comprehensive, non-duplicated care across ECM and CCS WCM.

8. Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare ⁴⁵

Children and youth in California who are currently or were previously involved in Child Welfare Services provided through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) often experience an extraordinary amount of transition and fragmentation of health care, social support services, and adult advocates in their childhoods. Research supports that those negative impacts which occur during these experiences may affect their physical and mental health beyond childhood. Many of the children in child welfare have co-occurring mental health and substance use treatment needs that are often unmet due to the challenge of navigating multiple and siloed service delivery systems. ECM Care Managers act as the main point for contact for ECM and are responsible for whole-child care coordination between and among all participants in the child's care plan, thereby ensuring each child's needs are met.

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria:

Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare

Children and youth who meet one or more of the following conditions:

- (1) Are under age 21 and are currently receiving foster care in California;
- (2) Are under age 21 and previously received foster care in California or another state within the last 12 months;
- (3) Have aged out of foster care up to age 26 (having been in foster care on their 18th birthday or later) in California or another state;

⁴⁵ ECM is a Medi-Cal managed care benefit and only available to Members enrolled in Managed Care.

- (4) Are under age 21 and are eligible for and/or in California's Adoption Assistance Program;
- (5) Are under age 18 and are currently receiving or have received services from California's Family Maintenance program within the last 12 months.

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization of ECM.

Notes on the Definition:

- » Foster care is defined in California by [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) 11400\(f\)](#) as the "24-hour out-of-home care provided to children whose own families are unable or unwilling to care for them, and who are in need of temporary or long-term substitute parenting."
- » California's [Adoption Assistance Program](#) is defined by [WIC 16120](#) and available to children under age 18 or under age 21 if the child has a mental or physical disability that warrants the continuation of assistance, per [WIC 16120\(d\)](#) Adoption Assistance Program provides financial and medical coverage with the goal of facilitating the adoption of children who otherwise may have remained in long-term foster care. Adoption Assistance Program is provided for up to five years.
- » California's Family Maintenance program is defined by [WIC 16506](#) as services that "shall be provided or arranged for by county welfare department staff in order to maintain the child in his or her own home." Family Maintenance provides strength-based, family-focused services to support a child or youth remaining in a safe, secure, stable home. Services are only eligible up to age 18.

ii. Examples of Eligible MCP Members Under this Population of Focus (Updated January 2026):

- » A Member under age 21 who is currently receiving foster care services.
- » A Member under age 21 who has received foster care services any time in the last 12 months.
- » A Member up to age 18 (or under age 21 for children with a "mental or physical disability") who is eligible for and/or are in California's Adoption Assistance Program.
- » A Member up to age 18 who is receiving (or has received in the last 12 months) Family Maintenance services.

- » A Member under age 21 who is currently receiving foster care services and is pregnant or within 12 months postpartum.

iii. Operational Guidance:

Identification:

- » Members and their families may self-refer to ECM.
- » MCPs have access to aid codes and eligibility groups that can help identify children and youth involved in child welfare, specifically for children receiving foster care, children with an approved relative caregiver, children who are in the former foster care youth eligibility group, children who are in the Adoption Assistance Program (see Appendix D for more information on the aid codes and eligibility groups). MCPs will need to access other information and data to help identify children eligible for ECM through this Population of Focus who are eligible for or enrolled in Family Maintenance or they were eligible for Adoption Assistance Program but not enrolled.
- » California Wraparound Care Coordinators, Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC) Public Health Nurses, other support staff of these programs, county child welfare program staff, and any local program supporting children involved in child welfare all may submit referrals for members they suspect are eligible.

Outreach and Engagement:

ECM requires engagement with the Member in the community or at ECM Provider locations. In instances where the Member's California Wraparound Care Coordinator or HCPCFC Public Health Nurses is also their ECM Provider, ECM services could be provided where the Member receives California Wraparound or HCPCFC services.

For Members who also have a Child Family Team (CFT) through California Wraparound, the ECM Provider is expected to consult with them and keep them informed as appropriate.

Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan:

For children enrolled in California Wraparound or HCPCFC, the ECM Provider is expected to leverage the comprehensive assessments conducted and the care plans developed by California Wraparound (called a "Wraparound Plan") and HCPCFC (called a "care plan" and coupled with a "Health Education Passport" to document medical and education information) in developing the Member's ECM care management plan. The California Wraparound Plan is developed in partnership with the CFT and includes clinical and nonclinical information. The HCPCFC care plan includes an assessment of medical,

dental, developmental, behavioral, personal and child welfare history, and other applicable SDOH care.

Additional assessments may be needed to ensure the Member's ECM care management plan incorporates the Member's needs and strategies to address those needs across the areas of physical health care, mental health care, SUD care, community-based LTSS, oral health care, palliative care, social supports, SDOH care, and others.

Examples of Applicable ECM Services for this Population of Focus: For this Population of Focus, ECM should include addressing other needs that are not already being met by California Wraparound or HCPCFC. Examples of applicable ECM services for this population include (but are not limited to):

- » Facilitating enrollment in SNAP.
- » Facilitating referral for Members and their families to home and community supports for early childhood, such as county First 5s.
- » Supporting enrollment in educational opportunities and grants, such as Cal Grant B for Foster Youth and Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program.
- » Assisting the Member with scheduling appointments with their PCP and coordinating referrals to specialists.
- » Ensuring the Member's foster parents have the resources and knowledge to monitor the Member's medication-assisted treatment to address a SUD.

Community Supports:

- » MCPs are strongly encouraged to offer Community Supports to Members who enroll in ECM under this Population of Focus.⁴⁶ Doing so can enhance care and prevent costly and unnecessary hospitalizations. Each Member will have different needs and functional limitations. Below are a few examples of Community Supports that may be particularly beneficial:
- » Day Habilitation Programs.
- » Medically Tailored Meals/Medically-Supportive Food.

⁴⁶ For the comprehensive menu of Community Supports services and their corresponding service definitions, refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide](#), Volume I (non-housing) and Volume II (housing).

- » Environmental Accessibility Adaptions (Home Modifications).
- » Asthma Remediation
- » Transitional Rent [Transitional Housing Programs](#)
- » Respite Services
- » Personal Care and Homemaker Services

Provider Contracting:

- » MCPs must contract with ECM Providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities they serve. Please refer to Section VII. ECM Provider Network below for more information.
- » If a child or youth is already enrolled in California Wraparound or HCPCFC and requires ECM services, MCPs should verify whether any of the Members' other care management providers are contracted to provide ECM. If so, the MCP should assign one of these providers as that Member's ECM Provider whenever possible, unless the Member (and/or their parent, guardian, caretaker) prefers a different ECM Provider. This approach can decrease both fragmentation and coordination burden across multiple teams.

9. Birth Equity Population of Focus ⁴⁷

Pregnant and postpartum individuals often require care that is accessed across many delivery systems to support themselves and their newborn. Pregnant and postpartum individuals can receive ECM if they qualify under any of the ECM Populations of Focus, including those that already are in effect as of January 1, 2022, and those that will go into effect in future months. Given the significant racial and ethnic disparities in maternal outcomes in California, effectively addressing the needs of this population is a critical part of DHCS' health equity vision.

Starting January 1, 2024, the Birth Equity Population of Focus will go live to address known disparities in health and birth outcomes in racial and ethnic groups with high

⁴⁷ ECM has been available to pregnant and postpartum adults from the launch of ECM if they meet the eligibility criteria for any existing Population of Focus. In July 2023, youth who are pregnant or postpartum will also be eligible for ECM if they meet the eligibility criteria for any existing Population of Focus. See Section VI. Program Overlaps and Exclusions for more details about individuals who are pregnant and postpartum and eligible for ECM and receiving services from existing care management programs.

maternal morbidity and mortality rates. DHCS added this Population of Focus in 2022 in recognition that living within communities subject to historically poor birth outcome disparities related to social inequity is itself a risk factor that can be addressed through comprehensive, whole-person care management. DHCS is announcing this change simultaneous with the launch of Children and Youth Population of Focus in recognition of the tie between investment in perinatal care and outcomes for children and youth, especially those who are zero to three years of age.

i. Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria:

Birth Equity Population of Focus (Adults and Youth)

Adults and youth who:

- (1) Are pregnant **OR** are postpartum (through 12 months period);

AND

- (2) Are subject to racial and ethnic disparities as defined by [California public health data on maternal morbidity and mortality](#).

No further criteria are required to be met to qualify for this ECM Population of Focus. MCPs may not impose additional eligibility requirements for authorization

Notes on the Definition:

- » The Birth Equity Population of Focus went live on January 1, 2024.
- » Clause (1) with “pregnant or are postpartum,” with “postpartum” period defined as the 12 month period following the last day of the pregnancy (irrespective of whether live or still birth delivery, or spontaneous or therapeutic abortion).
- » Clause (2) is identified based on the California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) most recent State public health data available on the [Women/Maternal Dashboard Home Page](#) (including the [Pregnancy Related Mortality](#), [Selected Maternal Complications](#), and [Severe Maternal Morbidity](#) Dashboards).

ii. Examples of Eligible MCP Members Under this Population of Focus:

- » Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, or Pacific Islander Member who is pregnant or postpartum (up to 12 months) and does *not* qualify for ECM through another Population of Focus (*go live on January 1, 2024*).

iii. Operational Guidance

Identification (Updated January 2026):

- » MCPs must work to identify eligible Members for this Population of Focus as soon as they become aware of a Member's pregnancy (e.g., encounter data, Provider records or reports). MCPs must have strategies in place to support timely identification of a Member's pregnancy and not rely solely on claims and encounter data, which have significant lag time.
- » DHCS and MCPs collect race and ethnicity data at multiple interventions (e.g., eligibility, enrollment, Provider recorded). MCPs will be expected to leverage any data source available to them in order to identify pregnant and postpartum (up to 12 months) individuals who may experience health disparities with maternal morbidity and mortality (aligned with Clause (2)).
- » MCPs should partner with local programs serving pregnant and postpartum individuals to help with identification, including Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP), Black Infant Health (BIH) Program, California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI), county First 5s, Indian Health Program, American Indian Maternal Support Services (AIMSS), CDPH's California Home Visiting Program (CHVP), CDSS' CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP), county behavioral health programs, local Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) agencies, local food banks, local diaper banks, and CBOs supporting individuals experiencing intimate partner violence.
- » As for all ECM Populations of Focus, MCPs must establish policies and procedures that allow Network Providers to refer patients to the MCP for ECM if they suspect eligibility criteria are met. MCPs should specifically focus on establishing robust referral pathways with all maternity care providers, including midwives, doulas, and hospitals to identify and refer eligible Members.
- » Effective January 1, 2023, when all MCPs are expected to use ADT feed data, when available, across their PHM Programs, MCPs should use ADT feed data to identify potentially eligible members in a timelier fashion.
- » Members and their families may self-refer to ECM. While Members may self-refer, MCPs are responsible for reviewing eligibility to ensure authorizations are only for individuals that meet eligibility criteria.

Outreach and Engagement:

- » ECM requires engagement with the Member in the community or at Provider locations. In instances where the Member is also enrolled in a local pregnant or postpartum program (i.e., CPSP, BIH Program, PEI, First 5, AIMSS, CHVP,

HVP) and that program is also their ECM Provider, ECM services could be provided where the Member receives those services.

- » In instances where the Member is enrolled in a local pregnant or postpartum program (i.e., CPSP, BIH Program, PEI, First 5, AIMSS, CHV, HVP) and that program is not their ECM Provider, the ECM Provider is expected to consult with the local pregnant or postpartum program and keep them informed as appropriate.

Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan:

- » For Members enrolled in CPSP, the ECM Provider is expected to leverage the comprehensive assessments conducted by CPSP, including the CPSP individualized care plan and postpartum assessment, in developing the Member's ECM care management plan. ⁴⁸ The CPSP individualized care plan is reassessed at each trimester with a strengths-based assessment.
- » Additional assessments may be needed to ensure the Member's ECM care management plan incorporates the Member's needs and strategies to address those needs across the areas of physical health care, mental health care, SUD care, community-based LTSS, oral health care, palliative care, social supports, SDOH care, and others.
- » A Member who qualifies for ECM through this Population of Focus would not be disenrolled from ECM simply because their pregnancy and/or postpartum period concludes. Rather, just as any other Member enrolled in ECM, a Member who is enrolled in ECM through this Population of Focus would only disenroll if they meet graduation criteria.

Examples of Applicable ECM Services for this Population of Focus:

For this Population of Focus, ECM should include addressing the needs of the pregnant or postpartum individual to ensure the best health and lifelong outcomes for them, as well as their newborn or infant. Examples of applicable ECM services for this Population of Focus include (but are not limited to):

- » Facilitating access to Community Supports that will help the pregnant or postpartum individual as they prepare for or recover from labor and delivery, including housing and food-related Community Supports.

⁴⁸ At this time, BIH Program, CPEI, and AIMSS do not have detailed care management plans that are established for Members enrolled in the program.

- » Coordinating the transition from hospital to home after labor and delivery and with various health and social services providers, including sharing data (as appropriate), to facilitate better-coordinated whole-person care.
- » Supporting Member treatment adherence, including scheduling prenatal and postpartum appointments and well-child visits, appointment reminders, coordinating transportation, ensuring connection to public benefits, identifying barriers to adherence and accompanying Members to appointments, as needed.
- » Connecting the pregnant or postpartum individual, their partner, and/or their family with resources regarding the Member's conditions to assist them with providing support for the Member's health and newborn or infant's health, including but not limited to facilitating referral for Members and their families to home and community supports for early childhood, such as county First 5s.
- » Coordinating care across all applicable delivery systems (Medi-Cal Managed Care or Medi-Cal FFS; SMHS; DMC or DMC-ODS; Dental Managed Care or Dental FFS; and Medi-Cal Rx) and care coordinators.

Community Supports:

MCPs are strongly encouraged to offer Community Supports to Members who enroll in ECM under this Population of Focus.⁴⁹ Doing so can enhance care and prevent costly and unnecessary hospitalizations. Each Member will have different needs and functional limitations. Below are a few examples of Community Supports that may be particularly beneficial:

- » Housing Transition Navigation Services.
- » Housing Deposits.
- » Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services.
- » Transitional Rent.
- » Medically Tailored Meals/Medically-Supportive Food.

⁴⁹ For the comprehensive menu of Community Supports services and their corresponding service definitions, refer to the [Community Supports Policy Guide](#), Volume I (non-housing) and Volume II (housing).

Provider Contracting (Updated January 2026):

MCPs must contract with ECM Providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities they serve. Please refer to Section VII. ECM Provider Network below for more information.

There are no limitations on who can be an ECM Provider for this Population of Focus. There are natural fits on who this Provider type could be to best support pregnant and postpartum individuals, such as OB/GYNs (Obstetrics /Gynecology), Family Medicine Physicians, Midwives, Doulas, Community Health Representatives (CHRs), or Promotoras. There are also existing California programs that support pregnant and postpartum individuals including home visiting programs,⁵⁰ ⁵¹CPSP, BIH Program, PEI, Indian Health Program, AIMSS, county behavioral health programs, local WIC agencies, and CBOs supporting individuals experiencing intimate partner violence. Given these programs' perinatal expertise, MCPs should conduct outreach to these programs to encourage them to serve as an ECM Provider and support pregnant and postpartum individuals already receiving care through these programs in order to receive additional support, as needed, through ECM (see Section VI. Program Overlaps and Exclusions).

DHCS has recently introduced a Doula benefit in Medi-Cal. Members receiving doula services who also qualify for ECM are not be precluded from receiving ECM as long as the MCP ensures that Providers do not receive duplicative reimbursement for the same services provided to the same Member. Doula services are available to any birthing individual in Medi-Cal, whereas ECM eligibility is limited to a qualifying Population of Focus. Doulas and ECM Care Coordinators are envisioned to have separate and distinct roles, though if eligible (see Section VII. ECM Provider Network), doulas are welcome to contract with MCPs as ECM Providers. To learn more about DHCS' new Medi-Cal covered doula benefit, see the [DHCS Doula Services webpage](#).

⁵⁰ CDPH operates the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) and provides infrastructure, support, and funding for evidence-based home visiting programs statewide. As of December 2022, CHVP has approved three evidence-based home visiting models: Healthy Families America (HFA), Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), and Parents as Teachers (PAT). See more on these programs [here](#).

⁵¹ CDSS operates the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP) and provides infrastructure and supervision, with administration provided by participating California counties. CDSS permits counties to adopt HVPs that align with the [U.S. HHS' evidence-based home visiting requirements](#).

V. CORE SERVICE COMPONENTS OF ECM

A. Overview of ECM Core Service Components

The goal of ECM is to coordinate all primary, acute, behavioral, developmental, oral, social needs, and long-term services and supports for Members, including participating in the care planning process, regardless of setting. ECM activities should become integrated with other care coordination processes and functions, and in most cases, the ECM Provider must assume primary responsibility for coordination of the Member's needs, including collaboration with other coordinators who operate in a more limited scope.

ECM is intended to be interdisciplinary, high touch, person centered and provided primarily through in-person interactions with Members where they live, seek care and prefer to access services. Members who will be eligible for ECM are expected to be among the most vulnerable and highest-need Medi-Cal Managed Care Members. It will be critical for ECM Providers to establish strong relationships with these Members (and their parent, caregiver, guardian if applicable), and this will occur most effectively through in-person interactions in locations most convenient for the Member. When in-person communication is unavailable or does not meet the needs of the Member, the ECM Provider is permitted to use alternative methods (including innovative use of telehealth) to provide culturally appropriate and accessible communication in accordance with Member choice. As the managed care benefit becomes more established, DHCS will be interested, in the course of its monitoring, in understanding the efficacy between ECM Provider location-based in-person interactions vs. community/home-based interactions.

This section describes the seven ECM core services. The core components of ECM that are universal for all Populations of Focus include (1) Outreach and Engagement; (2) Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan; (3) Enhanced Coordination of Care; (4) Health Promotion; (5) Comprehensive Transitional Care; (6) Member and Family Supports; and (7) Coordination of and Referral to Community and Social Support Services. Notably, the nuances of supports and services provided through ECM will vary based on the needs of the Member. The ECM provider is expected to provide all of the services as enumerated and not only a subset of these services.

1. Outreach and Engagement

MCPs are responsible for identifying (or accepting referrals for) Members who are eligible for ECM. MCPs will then assign every Member authorized for ECM to an ECM Provider. ECM Providers are responsible for reaching out to, and engaging, assigned Members. DHCS will be monitoring rates of ECM penetration for each Population of Focus as a key marker of the managed care benefit's efficacy; MCPs should track key performance indicators to ensure that Member outreach and engagement strategies do not perpetuate health disparities and, in fact, help address disparities by race, ethnicity, Healthy Places Index, and other factors. This monitoring and oversight approach is aligned with the State's approach broadly with the CalAIM Program, as well as the Incentive Payment Program (IPP).

MCPs must develop comprehensive outreach Policies and Procedures as part of the MOC. Activities in the Outreach and Engagement core service can include, but are not limited to:

- a. Attempting to locate, contact and engage Members (and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian) who have been identified as good candidates to receive ECM services, promptly after assignment.
- b. Using multiple strategies for engagement, as appropriate and to the extent possible, including direct communications with the Member (and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian), such as in-person meetings where the Member lives, seeks care or is accessible; mail, email, texts and telephone; community and street-level outreach; follow-up if the Member presents to another partner in the ECM network; or using claims data to contact Providers the Member is known to use.
- c. Using an active and progressive approach to outreach and engagement until the Member (and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian) is engaged.
- d. Documenting outreach and engagement attempts and modalities.
- e. Utilizing educational materials and scripts developed for outreaching and engaging Members, as appropriate.
- f. Sharing information between the MCP and ECM Providers, to ensure that the MCP can assess Members for other programs if they cannot be reached or decline ECM.
- g. Providing culturally and linguistically appropriate communications and information to engage Members (and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian) and

ensuring that such approaches build trust with communities that have historically been underserved in the Medi-Cal program.

2. Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan

After the initial step of successful engagement with an ECM Member, a comprehensive assessment should be conducted and a care plan developed. As part of the assessment, MCPs must include DHCS standardized LTSS referral questions ⁵² to identify and refer Members who may have LTSS needs, unless the Member has already answered these questions. This process involves the ECM Members (and their parent, caregiver, guardian) as well as appropriate clinical input in developing a comprehensive, individualized, person-centered care plan. The care plan is based on the needs and desires of the Member and should be reassessed based on the Member's individual progress or changes in their needs and/or as identified in the care plan. The care plan must incorporate the Member's needs in the areas of physical health, mental health, SUD, community-based LTSS, oral health, palliative care, social supports and SDOH. Comprehensive care management may include case conferences to ensure that the Member's care is continuous and integrated among all service Providers.

Activities in the Comprehensive Assessment and Care Management Plan core service must include, but are not limited to:

- a. Engaging with each Member (and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian) authorized to receive ECM primarily through in-person contact.
- b. When in-person communication is unavailable or does not meet the needs of the Member, the ECM Provider must use alternative methods (including innovative use of telehealth) to provide culturally appropriate and accessible communication in accordance with Member (and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian) choice.
- c. Identifying necessary clinical and non-clinical resources that may be needed to appropriately assess Member health status and gaps in care, and may be needed to inform the development of an individualized Care Management Plan.
- d. Developing a comprehensive, individualized, person-centered care plan with input from the Member (and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian) as appropriate to prioritize, address, and communicate strengths, risks, needs, and goals. The

⁵² Current LTSS questions are those established in [APL 17-013](#) or superseding APL.

care plan must also leverage Member strengths and preferences and make recommendations for service needs.

- e. In the Member's care plan, incorporating identified needs and strategies to address those needs, including, but not limited to, physical and developmental health, mental health, dementia, SUD, LTSS, oral health, palliative care,
- f. necessary community-based and social services, and housing.
- g. Ensuring the Member is reassessed at a frequency appropriate for the Member's individual progress or changes in needs as determined in collaboration with the ECM Provider, and/or as identified in the Care Management Plan. **DCHS does not require an annual reassessment for Members. Rather, DHCS requires that MCPs ensure each Member is reassessed at a clinically appropriate frequency.** The need for reassessment should be balanced with associated administrative burden for ECM Providers. MCPs should avoid imposing blanket reassessment timeframes and should instead consider the use of other tools, including data sharing and chart audits, to maintain visibility on care plans and Member progress.
- h. Ensuring the Care Management Plan is reviewed, maintained, and updated under appropriate clinical oversight.

3. Enhanced Coordination of Care

Enhanced Coordination of Care includes the services necessary to implement the care plan. Enhanced Coordination of Care services must include, but are not limited to:

- a. Organizing patient care activities, as laid out in the Care Management Plan; sharing information with those involved as part of the Member's multi-disciplinary care team; and implementing activities identified in the Member's Care Management Plan.
- b. Maintaining regular contact with all Providers that are identified as being a part of the Member's multi-disciplinary care team, whose input is necessary for successful implementation of Member goals and needs. Further, in alignment with the PHM BPHM requirements, the assigned ECM Lead Care Manager is responsible for ensuring that the Member has an assigned PCP and that they are engaging with that PCP for appropriate care. Enhanced Coordination of Care may include case conferences in order to ensure that the Member's care is continuous and integrated among all service Providers.

- c. Ensuring care is continuous and integrated among all service Providers and referring to and following up with primary care, physical and developmental health, mental health, SUD treatment, LTSS, oral health, palliative care, and necessary community-based and social services, including housing, as needed.
- d. Providing support to engage the Member in their treatment, including coordination for medication review and/or reconciliation, scheduling appointments, providing appointment reminders, coordinating transportation, accompaniment to critical appointments, and identifying and helping to address other barriers to Member engagement in treatment.
- e. Communicating the Member's needs and preferences in a timely manner to the Member's multi-disciplinary care team in an effort to ensure safe, appropriate and effective person-centered care.
- f. Ensuring regular contact with the Member (and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian) when appropriate, consistent with the care plan and to ensure information is shared with all involved parties to monitor the Member's conditions, health status, care planning, medications usages and side effects.

4. Health Promotion

As established in the [PHM Policy Guide](#) the assigned ECM Lead Care Manager is responsible for ensuring that BPHM is in place as part of the Members' care management.⁵³ BPHM includes Health Promotion services to encourage and support Members receiving ECM to make lifestyle choices based on healthy behavior, with the goal of motivating Members to successfully monitor and manage their health. Health Promotion services can include, but are not limited to:

- a. Working with Members to identify and build on successes and potential family and/or support networks.
- b. Providing services, such as coaching, to encourage and support Members to make lifestyle choices based on healthy behavior, with the goal of supporting Members' ability to successfully monitor and manage their health.
- c. Supporting Members in strengthening skills that enable them to identify and access resources to assist them in managing their conditions and preventing other chronic conditions.

⁵³ See the [PHM Policy Guide](#) Section E. Providing PHM Program Services & Supports.

- d. Linking Members to resources for smoking cessation, management of Member chronic conditions, self-help recovery resources and other services based on Member needs and preferences.
- e. Using evidence-based practices, such as motivational interviewing, to engage and help the Member participate in and manage their care.

5. Transitional Care Services

Transitional Care Services include services intended to support Members and their families and/or support networks as Members transfer from one setting or level of care to another, including, but not limited to discharges from hospitals, institutions, other acute care facilities, and SNFs to home- or community-based settings, Community Supports, post-acute care facilities, or LTC settings. Services include supporting Members' transitions from discharge planning until they have been successfully connected to all needed services and supports. Additionally, ECM Providers should provide information to the hospital discharge planners or discharging facility staff about ECM so that collaboration on behalf of the Member can occur in as timely a manner as possible and that the member does not receive two different discharge planning documents. Transitional Care Services can help avoid unnecessary readmissions. Transitional Care Services include, but are not limited to:

- a. Knowing, in a timely manner, each Member's admission, discharge, or transfer to or from an ED, hospital inpatient facility, SNF, residential or treatment facility, incarceration facility, or other treatment center and communicating with the appropriate care team members. MCPs are responsible for ensuring that ECM Providers have access to or are provided ADT feed data information for enrolled Members to provide transitional care services for ECM Members.
- b. Developing strategies to reduce avoidable Member admissions and readmissions. Examples include ensuring timely prior authorizations and discharges, establishing agreements and processes to promptly notify to the Member's Lead Care Manager, who will ensure all Transitional Care Services are complete, including but not limited to: ensuring discharge risk assessment and discharge planning document is created and shared with appropriate parties; planning timely scheduling of follow-up appointments with recommended outpatient Providers and/or community partners; conducting medication reconciliation or Closed Loop Referrals, developing policies to arrange transportation for transitional care, including to medical appointments, as per

Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) policy and procedures; and easing the Member's transition by addressing their understanding of rehabilitation activities, self- management activities and medication management.

- c. For Members who are experiencing or are likely to experience a care transition, the ECM Lead Care Manager is responsible for:
 - i. Developing and regularly updating a discharge planning document for the
 - ii. Member; this includes facilitating discharge instructions developed by a
 - iii. hospital discharge planner or discharge facility staff.
 - iv. Ensuring the completion of discharge risk assessment and coordinating any follow up provider appointments and support services to facilitate safe and appropriate transitions from one setting or level of care to another.
 - v. Coordinating medication review/reconciliation.
 - vi. Providing adherence support and referral to appropriate services.

For more information about transitional care more broadly (for those in and not in ECM), refer to the [PHM Policy Guide](#), Section E. Providing PHM Program Services and Supports: c. Transitional Care Services.

6. Member and Family Supports

Member and Family Supports include activities that ensure the ECM Member and family/support are knowledgeable about the Member's conditions, with the overall goal of improving their adherence to treatment and medication management.

Member and Family Supports could include, but are not limited to:

- a. Documenting a Member's authorized parent, caregiver, guardian, other family member(s) and/or other authorized support person(s) and ensuring all required authorizations are in place to ensure effective communication between the ECM Providers; the Member and/or their Member's authorized parent, caregiver, guardian, other family member(s) and/or other authorized support person(s), as applicable.
- b. Conducting activities to ensure the Member and/or parent, caregiver, guardian, other family member(s) and/or other authorized support person(s) are knowledgeable about the Member's condition(s), with the overall goal of improving the Member's care planning and follow-up, adherence to treatment,

and medication management, in accordance with federal, state, and local privacy and confidentiality laws.

- c. Ensuring the Member's ECM Lead Care Manager serves as the primary point of contact for the Member and/or parent, caregiver, guardian, other family member(s) and/or other authorized support person(s)
- d. Identifying supports needed for the Member and/or their parent, caregiver, guardian, other family member(s) and/or other authorized support person(s) to manage the Member's condition and assist them in accessing needed support services and assist them with making informed choices.
- e. Providing for appropriate education of the Member parent, caregiver, guardian, other family member(s) and/or other authorized support person(s) about care instructions for the Member.
- f. Ensuring that the Member parent, caregiver, guardian, other family member(s) and/or other authorized support person(s) has a copy of his/her care plan and information about how to request updates.

7. Coordination of and Referral to Community and Social Support Services

Coordination of and Referral to Community and Social Support Services involves determining appropriate services to meet the needs of Members receiving ECM, to ensure that any present or emerging social factors can be identified and properly addressed. Coordination of and Referral to Community and Social Support Services could include, but are not limited to:

- a. Determining appropriate services to meet the needs of Members, including services that address SDOH needs, including housing, and services offered by Contractor as Community Supports.
- b. Coordinating and referring Members to available community resources and following up with Members (and/or parent, caregiver, guardian) to ensure services were rendered (i.e., "closed-loop referrals").

VI. PROGRAM OVERLAPS AND EXCLUSIONS

ECM will coordinate all care for the highest-risk Members with complex medical and social needs, including across the physical and behavioral health delivery systems.

For ECM Members, the ECM Lead Care Manager serves as the key individual who identifies the need for additional services (e.g. Community Supports, food and nutrition resources, early childhood services), places referrals, and coordinates services, all while coordinating the Member's broader clinical and nonclinical care. The ECM Lead Care Manager must know every component of the Member's needs and services and ensure that they are coordinated.

Many Members who will be eligible for ECM may already be receiving some care management through other programs. In many of these instances, ECM managed care benefit will be additive, improve management of care across delivery systems, and comprehensively address any unmet medical and/or social needs. DHCS has determined three approaches for how ECM may overlap with existing programs that provide care management/care coordination services. Below is a summary of the programs that have been considered and the three potential approaches.

Figure 2: Summary Of Approaches to ECM Overlaps/Non Duplication (Updated September 2026)

Category	Other Programs	Enrolled in both ECM and the other program	Enrolled in either ECM or the other program	Not eligible to enroll in ECM
1915(c) Waivers	Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)		✓	
	Assisted Living Waiver (ALW)		✓	
	Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver (HCBA)		✓	
	Medi-Cal Waiver Program (formerly the HIV/AIDS Waiver)		✓	
	HCBS Waiver for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) (HCBA-DD)		✓	

Category	Other Programs	Enrolled in both ECM and the other program	Enrolled in either ECM or the other program	Not eligible to enroll in ECM
	Self-Determination program for Individuals with I/DD		✓	
Services Carved out of Managed Care	California Children's Services (CCS) in Classic Counties (i.e., not Whole Child Model)	✓		
	County based Targeted Case Management (TCM)			✓
	Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Targeted Case Management (TCM)	✓		
	SMHA Intensive Care Coordination for Children (ICC)	✓		
	Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) and Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Care Coordination & Management Programs	✓		
	Full Service Partnership (FSP)	✓		
	Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPFC)	✓		
	In Home Supportive Services (IHSS)	✓		
	Genetically Handicapped Person's Program (GHPP)	✓		
Services Carved into Managed Care	CCS Whole Child Model (WCM)	✓		

Category	Other Programs	Enrolled in both ECM and the other program	Enrolled in either ECM or the other program	Not eligible to enroll in ECM
	Managed Care Plan Complex Care Management (CCM)		✓	
	Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS)	✓		
Health Plans and Programs for Dual Eligible Members	Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP)			✓
	Medicare Advantage plan (not D-SNP)	✓		
	Original Medicare	✓		
	Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)			✓
	If in any other excluded program (e.g. 1915c or CCT program), regardless of Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage enrollment		✓	
Other Programs	California Community Transitions (CCT) Money Follows the Person (MFTP)		✓	
	Hospice			✓
	California Wrap Around	✓		

Category	Other Programs	Enrolled in both ECM and the other program	Enrolled in either ECM or the other program	Not eligible to enroll in ECM
	Regional Center Program	✓		
Programs Serving Pregnant and Post-Partum Individuals	Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP)	✓		
	Black Infant Health (BIH) Program	✓		
	California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI)	✓		
	Indian Health Program/American Indian Maternal Support Services (AIMSS)	✓		
	CHPH Home visiting program (CHVP)	✓		
	CDSS CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP)	✓		

Ultimately, MCPs are responsible for ensuring non-duplication of services provided through ECM and any other program(s). As such, MCPs should regularly check available data feeds to evaluate which of their Members might be enrolled in other programs that provide care coordination. In addition, MCPs should establish processes and requirements to ensure ECM Providers ask Members about their participation in other programs as part of the in-person comprehensive assessment and care planning process. If ECM is being provided in addition to an existing care management program, the existing program must not be discontinued.

The section below offers additional guidance about the relationship between ECM and the other programs.

A. 1915(c) Waiver Programs

California has six 1915(c) waivers, including Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), Assisted Living Waiver (ALW), Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver, Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP) (formerly HIV/AIDS Waiver), HCBS Waiver for I/DD (HCBA-DD), Self-Determination Program for Individuals with I/DD.

Adult, child, and youth MCP Members can be enrolled in ECM or in a 1915(c) waiver program, not in both at the same time.

- » 1915(c) waiver programs provide services to many Medi-Cal Members who will likely also meet the eligibility criteria for ECM (by belonging to at least one of the Populations of Focus).
- » There are comprehensive care management components within the 1915(c) waiver programs that are duplicative of ECM services.
- » As such, Members who are receiving 1915(c) services have a choice of continuing 1915(c) services or receiving ECM services.
- » Members who are on a wait list for a 1915(c) waiver program are likely good candidates to receive ECM until a slot in a 1915(c) waiver program becomes available.
- » If a Member is receiving ECM and then a slot to enroll in a 1915(c) waiver program becomes available, the MCP should ensure that the Member has the choice of whether they will continue receiving ECM or enroll in the 1915(c) waiver program.
- » The MCP should provide education to the Member about their options, including describing what is available through ECM managed care benefit compared with 1915(c) waiver programs, so the Member can make an informed decision.

B. Services Carved Out of Managed Care

1. California Children's Services (CCS):

Child and youth MCP Members can be enrolled in ECM and CCS. ECM enhances and/or coordinates across the case/care management available in CCS. MCP must ensure non-duplication of services between ECM and CCS.

- » CCS is a joint statewide program administered by DHCS and county health departments and is “carved out” of the broader Medi-Cal program. Children and youth enrolled in CCS (up to 21 years old) with CCS-eligible medical conditions receive diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management, physical and occupational therapy, and authorized medical equipment.
- » Each CCS Member is supported by a paneled core team consisting of: Medical Director/Physician, SCC Coordinator, Registered Nurse, Medical Social Worker, and Registered Dietitian. The qualifications and responsibilities of each team member can be found in the [CCS Manual of Procedures](#).
- » CCS medical case management service components include:
 - Intake: Conducting health and psychosocial assessment; developing care plan (including required coordination across organizations) and social work plan.
 - Ongoing treatment and patient follow-up: Conducting periodic reassessments; coordinating, referring, and monitoring all services and follow ups as outlined in the patient care plan; convening team conferences to coordinate decision making and delivery of health care services.
 - Patient and family teaching: Soliciting family (and child when mature enough) participation and collaboration in plan of care; providing education to parents and family members about the system of care and services (including social services) available.
 - Multidisciplinary comprehensive team assessments: Maintaining documentation of assessments/reassessments and medical emergency plan.
 - Transition support: Planning for the transition of youth to adult services by the age of 14 including sources of medical, vocational, financial, and support services and safety planning for youth with disabilities.
- » ECM enhances, but does not displace, CCS. MCPs are expected to work with local county CCS offices to ensure that Members receiving ECM services do not receive duplicative CCS services. Specifically, MCPs are required to demonstrate how they will prevent duplication in their respective MOC.
- » For more information on CCS, see the [CCS Manual of Procedures \(Chapter 3.37: Provider Core Standards\)](#), [DHCS' Information About CCS Brief](#), [DHCS' CCS](#)

[Program Overview webpage](#), and [DHCS' CCS Medical Therapy Program webpage](#).

2. County-Based Targeted Case Management (TCM)⁵⁴ (Updated September 2026)

Until June 30, 2024, adult, child, and youth MCP Members who qualify for both ECM and County-based TCM can be enrolled in both programs. **Beginning July 1, 2024, Members who meet ECM POF criteria should be enrolled in ECM and may no longer be enrolled in ECM and County-based TCM programs at the same time except for a one-year exception from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 for cases where the Member is receiving County-based TCM (1) for addressing a communicable disease or (2) for the sole purpose of receiving a home visiting program supporting the healthy development and well-being of children and families, as described further below.** Until that time, ECM may enhance and/or coordinate across the case/care management available in County-based TCM. This change is being made consistent with the fact that virtually all Medi-Cal beneficiaries will be served in the Managed Care delivery system by 2024. By making ECM available for MCP Members, DHCS is intentionally aiming to promote comprehensive care management while reducing the number of different care managers involved in managing a Member's care.

- » The TCM program is an optional Medi-Cal program funded by federal and local funds, serving approximately 13,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries each year across 5 target populations. TCM became a covered Medi-Cal benefit effective January 1, 1995 and provides comprehensive case management services to eligible Medi-Cal Members of defined targeted populations. TCM reimburses local governmental agencies (LGAs) for the federal share of costs (typically 50%) for case management services, with DHCS administering reimbursement.
- » Most Medi-Cal beneficiaries who qualify for County-based TCM will also qualify for ECM once all ECM Populations of Focus are live in 2024.
- » DHCS' expectations for coordination between programs **prior to July 1, 2024** are as follows:
 - MCPs are responsible for analyzing whether TCM is duplicative of ECM at the county program level and at the Member level.

⁵⁴ County-based TCM is distinct from TCM provided as a component of SMHS, which is covered below.

- ECM can be additive to TCM **where TCM is not comprehensive** (e.g., in a county that offers specific homelessness interventions via TCM but without coordination of other health and social needs).
 - If an MCP determines that the TCM **is comprehensive** and therefore substantially duplicative of ECM, the MCP must ensure that individuals do not receive both in that county.
 - MCPs are expected to work with Local Governmental Agencies (LGAs) to ensure that Members receiving ECM services do not receive duplicative TCM services.
- » DHCS' expectations **from July 1, 2024 onward** are as follows:
- **General rule of no dual enrollment between ECM and County- based TCM:** For MCP Members who are identified as eligible for both County-based TCM and ECM:
 - ECM should be the first option for comprehensive care management. All Members who meet ECM Population of Focus criteria should be referred to the Member's MCP for ECM authorization. The LGA is encouraged to become an ECM Provider under contract with the MCP, and MCPs are encouraged to contract with LGAs as ECM Providers. DHCS will continue to assess
 - MCPs' ECM networks for adequacy and inclusion of LGA providers.
 - County-based TCM providers may continue providing TCM to the small number of Members who are eligible for TCM but ineligible for ECM such as adults and youth who are pregnant and postpartum who qualify for County-based TCM and are not eligible for the ECM Birth Equity POF, or children and youth who qualify for County-based TCM and are not eligible for the ECM Children and Youth POFs.
 - MCPs are strongly encouraged to contract with current County-based TCM providers who are becoming ECM Providers.

3. Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Targeted Case Management (TCM):

MCP Members receiving SMHS TCM from counties can also be eligible for and receive ECM services. MCPs are required to work with counties to identify Members receiving SMHS TCM and ensure non-duplication of services.

- » Counties administer the SMHS program, which is “carved out” of the broader Medi-Cal program under the authority of a 1915(b) waiver approved by CMS. The SMHS waiver program is administered locally by each county’s MHP, and each MHP provides, or arranges for, SMHS for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, including SMHS TCM and Peer Supports.
- » SMHS TCM encompasses services that assist a beneficiary to access needed medical, alcohol and drug treatment, educational, social, prevocational, vocational, rehabilitative, or other community services. The service activities include: communication, coordination, and referral; monitoring service delivery to ensure beneficiary access to services and the service delivery system; monitoring of the beneficiary's progress; placement services; and plan development. TCM includes the following assistance:
 - Comprehensive assessment and periodic reassessment (annual basis or shorter as appropriate) of individual needs to determine the need for
 - establishment of TCM services to access any medical, educational, social, or other services.
 - Development and periodic revision of client plan.
 - Referral and related activities to help an eligible individual obtain needed services including activities that help an individual with medical, alcohol and drug treatment, social, educational Providers or other programs and services that are capable of providing needed services.
 - Monitoring and follow up activities that are necessary to ensure the Client Plan is implemented and adequately addresses the individual's needs.

Further information about SMHS TCM services can be found under [State Plan Supplement 1 to Attachment 3.1-A – Targeted Case Management \(TCM\) Services for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries that Meet Medical Necessity Criteria for TCM Covered as Part of the Specialty Mental Health Services Program \(2012\)](#).

4. SMHS Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) for Children

Child and youth MCP Members can both be enrolled in ECM and receive SMHS ICC. ECM enhances ICC and coordinates across the case/care management available in SMHS ICC. The MCP is required to work with the county to ensure non-duplication of services between ECM and SMHS ICC.

- » SMHS ICC is a statewide intensive form of SMHS TCM (see above) that facilitates the assessment of, care planning for, and coordination of services for children and youth with more intensive needs who are in or at risk of placement in residential or hospital settings, but could be effectively served in the home and community.
- » SMHS ICC service components include:⁵⁵
 - Planning and assessment of strengths and needs: The ICC coordinator is responsible for working within the CFT to ensure that plans from any of the system partners (MHPs, child welfare, juvenile, probation, education, etc.) are integrated to comprehensively address the identified goals and objectives.
 - Reassessment of strengths and needs: The ICC Coordinator and the CFT should reassess the strengths and needs of children and youth and
 - their families, at least every 90 days, and as needed.
 - Referral, monitoring and follow up activities: The ICC coordinator conducts referral, linkages, monitoring, and follow up activities, to ensure that the child's/youth's needs are met.
 - Transition: When the child or youth has achieved the goals of his/her client plan, the CFT should engage in developing a transition plan for the child/youth and family, to promote long-term stability.
- » For Members receiving both ECM and ICC, ECM Providers work closely with the ICC coordinator and any other care management providers for the Member to organize the CFT and coordinate care across all care management programs and systems. ECM Providers are encouraged to reach out the ICC coordinator to define roles and responsibilities for the Member.

⁵⁵ Refer to [Medi-Cal Manual For ICC](#) (January 2018) for more information about SMHS ICC program and services provided.

5. Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) and Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Care Coordination & Management Programs

Adult, child, and youth MCP Members can be enrolled in both ECM and receive DMC-ODS/DMC services. ECM enhances the DMC-ODS/DMC care coordination available and coordinates across the DMC-ODS/DMC Program and other services. MCP must ensure non-duplication of services between ECM and the DMC-ODS/DMC Program.⁵⁶

- » Care coordination for the DMC-ODS delivery system is provided to patients in conjunction with all levels of SUD treatment and consists of activities to provide coordination of SUD care, mental health care, and medical care, and to support the beneficiary with linkages to services and supports designed to restore the beneficiary to their best possible functional level. Care coordination includes one or more of the following components: ⁵⁷
 - Coordinating with medical and mental health care Providers to monitor and support comorbid health conditions.
 - Discharge planning, including coordinating with SUD treatment Providers to support transitions between levels of care and to recovery resources, referrals to mental health Providers, and referrals to primary or specialty medical Providers.
 - Coordinating with ancillary services, including individualized connection, referral, and linkages to community-based services and supports including but not limited to educational, social, prevocational, vocational, housing, nutritional, criminal justice, transportation, child care, child development, family/marriage education, cultural sources, and mutual aid support groups.

6. Full Service Partnership (FSP) (Funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA))

Counties who are ECM Providers can deliver ECM to individuals who are also enrolled in an FSP program. MCPs may not exclude Members from ECM because they are FSP

⁵⁶ Refer to Appendix E for an overview of counties participating in the DMC- ODS/DMC Programs.

⁵⁷ Additional information about DMC-ODS services can be found in [BHIN 24-001: DMC-ODS Requirements for the Period of 2022-2026](#) or superseding BHIN.

program participants. MCPs and counties that oversee the MHSA [funded](#) FSP programs must work together to share data and identify Medi-Cal managed care adult, child, and youth Members served by both programs and ensure non-duplication of services and funding between ECM and FSP programs.

Counties also have discretion to prioritize FSP program slots for individuals not eligible for ECM (e.g., because they are not Medi-Cal MCP Members, or they do not meet ECM Population of Focus criteria).

7. Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC)

Child and youth MCP Members can be enrolled in ECM and HCPCFC. ECM enhances and/or coordinates across the case/care management available in HCPCFC. MCP must ensure non-duplication of services between ECM and HCPCFC.

- » HCPCFC is a statewide public health nursing program that provides care management and coordination of medical, dental, developmental, and behavioral health for foster children, probation youth, and non-minor dependents.
- » HCPCFC is currently administered by a partnership with DHCS, CDSS, and county health departments under the Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP) program.
 - CHDP will sunset by July 1, 2024. DHCS has started the transition of moving HCPCFC into a stand-alone program. HCPCFC will *not* sunset with CHDP.
- » HCPCFC service components include:
 - Care planning: Evaluation of available information regarding physical, dental, developmental, and behavioral health; child welfare history; family history; and other social factors affecting the child's/youth's health. Development of a care plan which is shared with the youth's assigned case worker and substitute caregiver(s) as appropriate.
 - Ongoing care management and follow-up: Conducting periodic reassessments; psychotropic medication monitoring and oversight, coordinating, referring, and monitoring services and follow ups as applicable; Revising the care plan to reflect reassessment; Communicating progress with the assigned case worker and/or caregiver(s) as appropriate.

- Patient and family teaching: Soliciting family (and child when mature enough) participation and collaboration in plan of care; providing education to caregivers to support the objectives described in the plan of care.
- Care coordination: Facilitating the completion of the objectives identified in the plan of care.
- » ECM can be provided in addition to services provided by HCPCFC. MCPs are expected to work with local county HCPCFC management (Public Health, Health and Human Services depending on the jurisdiction) to ensure that Members receiving ECM services do not receive duplicative HCPCFC services. Specifically, MCPs are required to demonstrate how they will prevent duplication in their respective MOCs.

8. In Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Adult MCP Members who receive IHSS services are also eligible for ECM if they meet the ECM Population of Focus criteria.

9. Genetically Handicapped Person's Program (GHPP)

Adult MCP Members can be enrolled in ECM and the GHPP. ECM enhances and/or coordinates across the case/care management available in the GHPP. MCP must ensure non-duplication of services between ECM and the GHPP.

- » There are approximately 1,500 individuals enrolled in the GHPP across the state; approximately 650 of them are also enrolled in Medi-Cal Managed Care.
- » MCP Members participating in the GHPP can also receive ECM, so long as they also meet the eligibility criteria for ECM (by belonging to at least one of the Populations of Focus).

C. Services Carved into Managed Care

1. CCS Whole Child Model (WCM)

Child and youth MCP Members can be enrolled in ECM and CCS WCM. ECM enhances a child and youth's care coordination and fills the gaps across the case/care management provided by CCS WCM while reducing the navigational burden for families and children

needing services beyond these from other Providers. MCP must ensure non-duplication of services between ECM and CCS WCM.

- » CCS WCM is operated by MCPs in select counties, integrating Medi-Cal Managed Care and county CCS program administrative functions to provide comprehensive treatment of the whole child and care coordination in primary, specialty, and behavioral health for CCS-eligible and non-CCS eligible conditions. CCS WCM is “carved-in” to the broader Medi-Cal Managed Care program.
- » CCS WCM service components for medical case management include:
 - Screening and referrals: MCPs must refer potential CCS-eligible Members to county CCS program for CCS eligibility determination.
 - Risk level and needs assessment: MCPs must assess each CCS Member's risk level and needs by performing a pediatric risk assessment process (PRSP) to classify Members into high and low risk categories. MCPs must reassess a Member's risk level and needs annually at the CCS eligibility determination or upon a significant change to a Member's condition.
 - Members identified as high risk through the PRSP must be further assessed by telephonic and/or in-person communication or a risk assessment survey within 90 calendar days of enrollment to assist in the development of an ICP.
 - The risk assessment must address general health status and recent health care utilization, health history, specialty Provider referral needs, prescription medication utilization, specialized or DME needs, need for specialized therapies, limitation of ADLs or daily functioning, as well as demographics and social history.
 - The ICP must, at a minimum, include medical (primary care and CCS specialty) services, mental health (non-specialty mental health and/or county SMHS) services, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services, SUD (DMC-ODS or DMC) services, home health services, Regional Center services, and other medically necessary services.
 - Case management and care coordination: MCPs must provide case management and care coordination across the health care systems, including transitions among levels of care and interdisciplinary care teams. Care coordination also includes referrals to sub-specialists and

other services identified in the Member's ICP. MCPs must also ensure that information, education, and support is continuously provided to CCS-eligible Members and their families.

- Maintenance and transportation: MCPs must provide support for transportation and associated costs (e.g., meals, lodging) for family seeking transportation to a medical service related to their CCS-eligible condition.
- » Refer to Appendix F for an overview of counties participating in the CCS WCM and to [APL 23-034](#) or superseding APL for all requirements of MCPs participating in the CCS WCM program.
- » ECM can be provided in addition to WCM. MCPs are expected to ensure that Members receiving ECM services do not receive duplicative CCS WCM services. Specifically, MCPs are required to demonstrate how they will prevent duplication in their respective MOC. Where it is appropriate, CCS WCM elements can be delegated to ECM Providers to ensure children and youth receive comprehensive, non-duplicated care across ECM and CCS WCM.
- » For more information on CCS WCM, see the [APL 23-034](#) or superseding APL, [CCS WCM FAQs](#), and [DHCS' CCS WCM webpage](#).

2. Complex Care Management (CCM)

Effective January 1, 2023, MCPs will also be required to provide Complex Care Management (CCM) program and services under the PHM Program.⁵⁸ See Figure 1 in Section II above outlining the CalAIM Care Management Continuum.

CCM is a service for higher- and medium-risk MCP Members who need extra support to avoid adverse outcomes but who are not in the highest risk group designated for ECM. CCM provides both ongoing chronic care coordination and interventions for episodic, temporary needs, with a goal of regaining optimum health or improved functional capability in the right setting and in a cost-effective manner. MCPs are already required to provide CCM. MCPs will continue to be required to

⁵⁸ MCPs are still required to offer Basic and Complex Case Management for Medi-Cal Managed Care Members until January 1, 2023, when the PHM Program requirements are effective. Refer to Medi-Cal Managed Care Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment 11, Provision 1. Comprehensive Care Management Including Coordination of Care Services.

provide CCM in 2023, in line with the requirement that all MCPs must meet the NCQA PHM standards on January 1, 2023.

Following the Amended 2023 MCP Contract and in line with NCQA's requirements, MCPs must comply with the following requirements:

- » MCPs are allowed to determine their own eligibility criteria (within NCQA guardrails⁵⁹) based on the risk stratification process and local needs identified in the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) required under the PHM Program.
- » CCM must include a comprehensive assessment, a Care Management Plan, and a variety of interventions to meet the differing needs of high and medium-/rising-risk populations, such as care coordination for longer-term chronic conditions or disease-specific management programs.
- » MCPs must also assign a care manager for every Member receiving CCM to ensure all BPHM requirements and NCQA CCM standards are met. MCPs must provide the Member's PCP with the identity of a Member's assigned care manager (if the PCP is not assigned to this role) and a copy of the Member's Care Management Plan.

For children and youth under age 21, CCM must include EPSDT; all medically necessary services, including those that are not necessarily covered for adults, must be provided as long as they could be Medicaid-covered services.

MCPs must consider CCM to be an opt-out program – (i.e., Members may choose not to participate in CCM if it is offered to them), and MCPs may delegate CCM to Providers and other entities who are themselves NCQA-certified.

For more information about CCM, Refer to the [PHM Policy Guide](#), Amended 2023 MCP Contract, and [DHCS' CalAIM PHM webpage](#).

3. ECM and CCM Overlap Policy and Delegation

An individual cannot be enrolled in ECM and CCM at the same time; rather, CCM is on a care management continuum with ECM. CCM can be used to support Members who were previously served by ECM, are ready to step down, and who would benefit from CCM; but not all Members in CCM previously received ECM, and not all Members who

⁵⁹ See [NCQA 2021 Health Plan Accreditation PHM Standards. PHM 5: Complex Case Management](#).

step down from ECM require CCM. DHCS encourages MCPs to work with Providers to contract for a care management continuum of ECM and CCM programs, wherever possible, including as a way to maximize opportunities for Members to step down from ECM to CCM or BPHM under the care of a single Provider.

4. Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS)

Adult MCP Members can be enrolled in ECM and CBAS. ECM enhances and/or coordinates across the case/care management available in CBAS centers. MCP must ensure non-duplication of services between ECM and CBAS centers.

- » CBAS and ECM services are complementary.
- » ECM can offer comprehensive care management beyond the services provided through CBAS, which are primarily provided within the four walls of the CBAS center.
- » Given their connection to community resources, CBAS centers may also be well positioned to serve as ECM Providers.
- » If an individual is enrolled in both ECM and CBAS, and their CBAS Provider is a contracted ECM Provider, the MCP should assign that CBAS Provider to be the Member's ECM Provider, unless the Member prefers a different ECM Provider.

D. Dual Eligible Members (Updated September 2026)

Members dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal may be eligible for ECM through their Medi-Cal MCP if they meet the applicable Population of Focus criteria, and if they are **not** enrolled in any of the plans/programs listed below, as these plans/programs offer comprehensive care management that is duplicative of ECM services:

- » Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs), which include Medi-Medi Plans, SCAN Fully Integrated D-SNP (FIDE-SNP), and all other D-SNPs;
- » Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE); and
- » Any other excluded programs (e.g., 1915(c) waivers, CCT).

For dual eligible Members eligible for ECM and enrolled in a D-SNP, DHCS recognizes there is significant overlap across the D-SNP Model of Care (MOC) and ECM requirements, which could result in duplication and confusion for Members and care teams if a Member receives care management from both programs. Member care management is a primary function of D-SNPs.

Since January 1, 2026, all D-SNPs are required to provide California Integrated Care Management (CICM) to eligible Members. CICM is very similar to ECM, and builds upon a federally required care management program for D-SNP members. Plans can refer to the [DHCS CalAIM D-SNP Policy Guide webpage](#) for CICM requirements. The Care Coordination chapter of the D-SNP Policy Guide reflects the intent for D-SNPs to provide sufficient care management so that Members who would otherwise qualify for ECM through their MCP receive an equivalent level of care coordination through their D-SNP.⁶⁰

For Members who join a D-SNP and are already receiving Medi-Cal ECM from their MCP, D-SNPs shall provide ongoing continuity of care with existing Medi-Cal ECM providers, when possible, for up to 12 months. A D-SNP may offer a longer continuity of care period, but it is not required.

Figure 3: Overview of ECM Eligibility for Dual Eligible Members (Updated September 2026)

Medicaid & Medicare Delivery Model ⁶¹	ECM Eligible
FIDE-SNPs	No (b/c CICM provided)
PACE Programs	No (b/c similar provided)
Medi-Medi Plan (i.e. Medi-Cal MCP + EAE D-SNP)	No (b/c CICM provided)
Medi-Cal MCP + non-EAE D-SNP	No (b/c CICM provided)
Medi-Cal MCP + Regular MA Plan	Yes

⁶⁰ When a Member is enrolled in a D-SNP with a different parent organization than the Member's MCP, the MCP is still required to work with the D-SNP to help ensure effective care coordination across Medi-Cal benefits. To support these efforts, all D-SNPs and Medi-Cal MCPs in California are required to enter a care coordination point of contact in the D-SNP MCP Coordination Contact List (see the [D-SNP Policy Guide](#) for more information).

⁶¹ [Medicare Advantage Options for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries | DHCS](#)

Medicaid & Medicare Delivery Model ⁶¹	ECM Eligible
Medi-Cal MCP + Chronic Condition Special Needs Plan (C-SNP)	Yes
Medi-Cal MCP + Institutional Special Needs Plan (I-SNP)	Yes
Medi-Cal MCP + Original Medicare	Yes
Medi-Cal FFS + Original Medicare or Plan (<i>not MCP enrolled</i>)	No
Any other excluded program (e.g., 1915(c), CCT)	No

E. Other Programs

1. California Community Transitions (CCT) Money Follows the Person (MFTP)

MCP Members can be enrolled in ECM or in CCT MFTP, not in both at the same time.

- » However, importantly, the “Adult Nursing Facility Residents Transitioning to the Community” Population of Focus is modeled off of the CCT Program;
- » As such, MCPs are encouraged to contract with CCT Lead Organizations to leverage their expertise.

2. Hospice:

MCP Members receiving hospice are excluded from ECM.

3. California Wraparound

Child and youth MCP Members can be enrolled in ECM and California Wraparound. ECM enhances California Wraparound and coordinates across the case/care management available in California Wraparound. MCPs are expected to work with local California Wraparound County Coordinator⁶² to ensure that Members receiving ECM services do not receive duplicative California Wraparound services.

⁶² [Microsoft Word - Wraparound County Coordinator List - 12.12.24](#)

- » California Wraparound (also known as High Fidelity Wraparound) is a strengths- based, needs-driven planning process and approach that occurs in a team setting to engage children and youth involved in child welfare, probation, and/or county SMHS with their families to live and grow up in a safe, stable, permanent family environment.⁶³
- » California Wraparound service components include:⁶⁴
 - [Integrated Core Practice Model \(ICPM\)](#): Wraparound is aligned with ICPM, which includes principles and practices for serving children and youth in child welfare, behavioral health, and juvenile probation.
- » The CFT process is core to ICPM. CFT includes the child or youth, their family, and professionals. When a child enters foster care, a child welfare social worker uses a variety of strategies to engage the child or youth and their families and other team members. The CFT develops and follows a service plan.
 - The Child and Family Plan is tailored to each child, youth, and family based on their specific needs and goals and should:
- » Identify specific, incremental steps that move the child, youth, and family toward their specific goals and away from involvement with child welfare or probation agencies; and
- » Define the roles and responsibilities of each team.
 - California Wraparound must also include, family support, peer advocacy and leadership, mentoring and coaching, community resource development, service evaluation, and cross-system collaboration.
 - Some Wraparound services can be billed to SMHS, including but not limited to Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC, sometimes called Treatment Foster Care), Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS), ICC, case management, and rehabilitative services.

⁶³ Refer to [All County Information Notice No. I-52-15](#), [All County Letter 21-116/BHIN 21-061](#) or superseding BHIN, and [CDSS' California Wraparound webpage](#) for more information on California Wraparound.

⁶⁴ The High Fidelity Wraparound Standards are currently being updated with CDSS, DHCS, the University of California, Davis, and stakeholders. See the [draft version of the new California Wraparound Standards](#) for more information. CDSS and DHCS intend to issue a joint letter when the new California Wraparound standards are finalized.

County child welfare, probation, and behavioral health agencies, in consultation with their county's Interagency Leadership Team, are required to provide California Wraparound for children and youth in foster care exiting from a short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) to a family-based, setting by October 1, 2023, per WIC 4096.6. But California Wraparound is otherwise a voluntary program for counties to opt- in.

4. Regional Centers Programs for Individuals with I/DD

Adult, child, and youth with an I/DD who are served by a Regional Center can be enrolled in ECM and a Regional Center.⁶⁵ ECM enhances care for adults, children, and youth by improving care coordination and filling the gaps across the case/care management available from Regional Centers. MCP must ensure non-duplication of services between ECM and Regional Centers.

- » Regional Centers are community-based, non-profit agencies that operate statewide in California across 21 regions. Regional Centers are overseen by the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and provide assessments, determine eligibility for services, offer case management services, and develop, purchase, and coordinate services in each individual's Individual Program Plan.⁶⁶
- » To be eligible for Regional Center services, an individual must have an I/DD that begins before the individual's 18th birthday and that is expected to continue indefinitely and present a substantial disability. Regional Centers serve all ages of those who are eligible for services, from birth to end of life.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ I/DD for adults, children, and youth is defined in California by [WIC 4512\(a\)](#) as "a disability that originates before an individual attains 18 years of age, continues, or can be expected to continue, indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial disability for that individual. As defined by the Director of Developmental Services, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, this term shall include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism. This term shall also include disabling conditions found to be closely related to intellectual disability or to require treatment similar to that required for individuals with an intellectual disability, but shall not include other handicapping conditions that are solely physical in nature."

⁶⁶ Description and more information about [Regional Centers](#) is located on the Department of Developmental Services website.

⁶⁷ [Regional Center eligibility](#) information is located on the on the Department of Developmental Services website.

- » Regional Centers may contract with MCPs to serve as ECM Providers, and they may refer Members they believe may be eligible for ECM.
- » Individuals with I/DD who are not in a Regional Center are still eligible for ECM, so long as they meet the eligibility criteria for an existing Population of Focus (see Section IV. ECM Populations of Focus).
- » Individuals with I/DD receiving 1915(c) waiver services and those residing in an ICF-DD are not eligible for ECM. If a Member will be transitioning out of an ICF/DD Home, the restriction of duplicative services is removed, and the Member must be assessed to determine need/eligibility for ECM services.
- » Individuals with I/DD receiving 1915(c) waiver services and those residing in an ICF-DD are not eligible for ECM.

F. Programs Serving Pregnant & Postpartum Individuals

Adult and youth MCP Members participating in Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP), Black Infant Health (BIH) Program, California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI), Indian Health Program, American Indian Maternal Support Services (AIMSS), CDPH's California Home Visiting Program (CHVP), CDSS' CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP), and/or CDPH's Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program who meet the eligibility criteria of any ECM Population of Focus, including the Birth Equity Population of Focus, are eligible to receive ECM. MCPs are expected to work with the local administrators of each program to ensure Members do not receive duplicative ECM services. Providers serving these programs that meet the ECM Provider requirements detailed in Section VII. ECM Provider Network are encouraged to enroll as ECM Providers.

1. Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP)

[CPSP](#) serves low-income pregnant and postpartum individuals statewide that are enrolled in Medi-Cal from the start of pregnancy to 60 days postpartum. CPSP provides obstetric services, health education, nutrition services, case coordination including strengths-based assessments, individualized care planning (reassessed each trimester), and postpartum assessment. CPSP is provided to FFS enrollees, with Medi-Cal MCPs required to provide comparable CPSP services to Members. CPSP is administered by CDPH.

2. Black Infant Health (BIH) Program

[BIH Program](#) serves Black pregnant and postpartum (up to 6 months) living in select California counties and cities, regardless of income, starting at age 16. BIH provides prenatal and postpartum group sessions, case management (for those who cannot attend group sessions), skills-based interventions (e.g., stress management, empowerment, healthy behaviors), and individual client-centered life planning. BIH is administered by county agencies, with funding and oversight provided by CDPH.

3. California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI)

[California PEI](#) serves pregnant and parenting Black individuals and their partners, up to the child's first birthday. PEI complements the BIH program for whole family care with home visitation programs, group interventions, and fatherhood and partnership initiatives. California PEI is administered by county agencies, with funding and oversight provided by CDPH.

4. Indian Health Program/American Indian Maternal Support Services (AIMSS)

The [Indian Health Program](#) aims to improve the health status of American Indians living in urban, rural, and reservation or rancheria communities throughout California. As part of the Indian Health Program, [AIMSS](#) provides perinatal case management and home visitation services to American Indian pregnant and postpartum individuals through the infant's first year of life. The program assists program participants with receiving health care, education, emotional support, referrals to services (social and health), and follow-up visits. AIMSS is administered by the Primary, Rural, and Indian Health Department (PRIHD).

5. CDPH California Home Visiting Program (CHVP)

[CHVP](#) serves pregnant and newly parenting families with at least one risk factor, including domestic violence, inadequate income, unstable housing, less than 12 years of education, SUD concerns, and/or mental health related issues. CHVP services are provided by a Public Health Nurse or paraprofessional in the family's house. This is a voluntary program with services beginning prenatally or right after labor and delivery until about age three, with the number of visits based on the family's need.

CHVP services include, but are not limited to, teaching parenting skills, providing information and guidance on newborns and infants, providing referrals to community resources, and screening children for developmental delays and facilitating interventions. As of December 2022, there are three evidence-based home visiting models approved by CHVP, with participating counties adopting different models to fit their communities: [Healthy Families America \(HFA\)](#), [Nurse-Family Partnership \(NFP\)](#), and [Parents as Teachers \(PAT\)](#). CHVP is administered by CDPH with funding provided through the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.

6. CDSS CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP)

Home Visiting Program ([HVP](#)) is the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) voluntary home visiting program that serves individuals who are pregnant or parenting a child less than 24 months of age *and* are members of a CalWORKs assistance unit; parent or caretaker relative for a child-only case; pregnant individual who has applied for CalWORKs aid within 60 calendar days prior to reaching the second trimester of pregnancy and would be eligible for CalWORKs aid other than not having reached the second trimester of pregnancy; *or* an individual who is apparently eligible for CalWORKs second trimester of pregnancy; *or* an individual who is apparently eligible for CalWORKs aid. HVP services include, but are not limited to, prenatal, infant, and toddler care; infant and child nutrition; child developmental screening and assessments; parent education and child interaction; child development and care; job readiness and barrier removal; and treatment and supports for domestic violence and behavioral health concerns.

CDSS permits counties to operate HVP models that meet the U.S. HHS' [evidence-based home visiting model requirements](#). HVP is supervised by CDSS and administered by participating California counties.

7. CDPH Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Program (Updated January 2026)

In California, 84 [WIC local agencies](#) at over 500 sites across the state support pregnant and postpartum individuals and their families in accessing healthy food, nutrition education, and lactation supports and services. To be eligible, applicants' annual household income must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income

Guidelines and deemed to have a nutritional risk.⁶⁸ WIC local agencies, which include local health departments and non-profit agencies, provide nutrition education and counseling as well as breastfeeding support, and provide referrals to health care and other community resources. In addition, the WIC local agencies issue the California WIC Card for families to purchase specific foods that provide key nutrients needed by pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, infants and young children.

VII. ECM PROVIDER NETWORK

A. Development of a Diverse ECM Provider Network (Updated January 2026)

ECM is designed to be delivered by community-based ECM Providers that enter into contracts with MCPs. ⁶⁹All exceptional scenarios in which the MCP will provide ECM in-house must be approved by DHCS in advance, as described below in the “MCP Serving as ECM Provider” section.

ECM Providers may include, but are not limited to, the following entities:

- » Counties;
- » County behavioral health Providers;
- » PCPs or Specialist or Physician groups;
- » FQHCs;
- » Community Health Centers (CHCs);
- » CBOs;

⁶⁸ Medi-Cal and WIC have different federal poverty levels (FPL) for eligibility criteria. WIC’s [income eligibility criteria](#) includes at or below 185% of the FPL (or, \$28,952.50 annual income for a family size of one in 2025). Medi-Cal’s [income eligibility criteria](#) for a pregnant person includes at or below 213% of the FPL (or \$33,334.50 annual income for a family size of one in 2025) and up to 322% of the FPL (or \$50,393.00 annual income for a family size of one in 2025) using the from-conception-to-the-end-of-pregnancy CHIP-funded option. The [annual U.S. federal poverty levels](#) can be accessed on the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) website.

⁶⁹ To provide Members with ongoing care coordination provided in HHP and WPC Pilot counties before the launch of ECM in 2022, MCPs were expected to contract with each WPC Lead Entity or HHP Community-Based Care Management Entity (CB- CME) as an ECM Provider unless there was an applicable exception.

- » Hospitals or hospital-based Physician groups or clinics (including public hospitals and district and/or municipal public hospitals);
- » Rural Health Clinics (RHCs);
- » Indian Health Service Programs;
- » Intimate partner violence and domestic violence shelters and organizations (including those serving pregnant and postpartum individuals and families);
- » Local health departments;
- » Behavioral health entities;
- » Community mental health centers;
- » SUD treatment Providers;
- » CBAS Providers;
- » SNFs;
- » Organizations serving individuals experiencing homelessness;
- » Organizations serving justice-involved individuals;
- » Organizations serving pregnant and postpartum individuals (including organizations and entities with perinatal expertise in home visiting, intimate partner violence, behavioral health, nutrition services (including local WIC agencies), and housing;
- » CCS Providers;
- » Regional Centers;
- » County First 5s;
- » School-Based Health Centers; and
- » Other qualified Providers or entities that are not listed above, as approved by DHCS.

In order to ensure that the needs of all ECM Populations of Focus are met, **MCPs must contract with ECM Providers specializing in each of the specific Populations of Focus, who have an existing footprint in the communities they serve.** MCPs are discouraged from relying on a single type of provider.

DHCS also expects MCPs to work in close collaboration, and prioritize contracting with, counties – including county behavioral health systems (who often are the

primary Providers of services to a subset of Medi-Cal beneficiaries), and counties in their role as payers and providers of services to children.

ECM Providers do not have to have prior experience serving Medi-Cal MCP Members specifically. MCPs should determine what they deem as “sufficient experience” and should think creatively about how to engage Providers with POF-specific expertise.

DHCS is monitoring MCPs’ ECM and Community Supports networks for the inclusion of counties, as well as the inclusion of diverse provider types generally.

DHCS strongly encourages MCPs to form contracts with the following provider types:

Adult ECM Populations of Focus	Example Priority Provider Types
Adults with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs	» County Departments of Behavioral Health » Community-Based Behavioral Health and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers who also provide SMHS and/or » DMC/DMC-ODS services » Perinatal Providers with an Expertise in Behavioral Health (e.g., Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists)
Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness	» Street Medicine providers » Homeless Navigation Centers » Transitional Housing for Homeless Youth » Homeless Shelters and Domestic Violence Shelters for Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals and Families
Adult Birth Equity Population	» Maternity Providers (e.g., OB/GYNs, Family Medicine Physicians, Midwives, CPSP providers) » Organizations with Care Teams that include Doulas, Community Health Workers (CHWs), and Promotoras

Adult ECM Populations of Focus	Example Priority Provider Types
	» Home Visiting Providers » Dyadic Services Providers » Organizations that Provide Perinatal Behavioral Health Services with Care Teams that include Psychiatrists, Psychologists, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists » Local WIC Agencies
Adult Nursing Facility Residents Transitioning to the Community	» California Community Transitions Lead Organizations » Affordable Housing Communities » Memory Care, Assisted Living, and Independent Living Organizations » Alzheimer’s Association
Adults Living in the Community and At Risk for LTC Institutionalization	» CBAS Centers » Area Agencies on Aging » Home Health Agencies » Centers for Independent Living » Alzheimer’s Association » Memory Care, Assisted Living, and Independent Living Organizations

Children/Youth ECM Populations of Focus	Example Priority Provider Types
Children with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs (includes children with high ACEs scores)	» School-based clinics/BH providers » Public Health & Social Service Programs » CBOs serving children and families with social needs

Children/Youth ECM Populations of Focus	Example Priority Provider Types
	» County Behavioral Health Services
Children and Youth Enrolled in California Children's Services (CCS)	» CCS paneled providers, including specialty care centers, and pediatric acute care hospitals » CCS Classic Case Management providers
Children and Youth At Risk for Avoidable Hospitalization or ED Use	» School-based clinics » Medical providers depending on underlying reasons for ED utilization
Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare	» CBOs, Public Health & Social Service Programs: First 5, Help Me Grow, WIC, Black Infant Health Program, County Foster Care agencies, etc.
Children and Youth Birth Equity Population	» Maternity Providers (e.g., OB/GYNs, Family Medicine Physicians, Midwives, CPSP providers) » Organizations with Care Teams that include Doulas, Community Health Workers (CHWs), and Promotoras » Home Visiting Providers » Dyadic Services Providers » Organizations that Provide Perinatal Behavioral Health Services with Care Teams that include Psychiatrists, Psychologists, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists » Local WIC Agencies

B. ECM Provider Directory

1. MCPs are to list all ECM and Community Support Providers in the Provider Directory as Other Services Providers.
 - a. MCPs should specify if a Provider is an ECM, Community Supports Provider, or both.
 - b. MCPs' network directories should indicate which Population(s) of Focus each ECM Provider is equipped to serve.
 - c. DHCS recognizes some MCPs already have a section for Other Services Providers, while some MCPs may have to **create a new** "Other Services Providers" section.
2. MCPs will need to add a disclaimer in the Directory stating that both ECM and Community Supports require prior authorization and are limited to Members who meet specific eligibility criteria.
3. MCPs may use symbols denoting ECM or Community Supports Providers that may be listed in other sections of the Directory in lieu of listing Providers multiple times.

1. Formal Agreements with Other Entities

ECM Providers should also have formal agreements and processes in place to engage and cooperate with area hospitals, primary care practices, behavioral health Providers, Specialists, and other entities, including Community Supports Providers, to coordinate care as appropriate to each Member. MCPs have the discretion to determine which agreements are necessary or acceptable to meet this requirement, acknowledging that provider organizations will vary greatly in their capacity to share data outside their four walls.

C. Requirements to Be an ECM Provider

1. Culturally Appropriate and Timely Care

ECM Providers must have the capacity to provide culturally appropriate and timely in-person care management activities. ECM Providers and Lead Care Managers must meet Members where they are in terms of the physical location that is most convenient and desirable for the Member to engage in services and from a medical management and plan of care perspective. ECM Providers must be able to communicate with Members in a culturally and linguistically appropriate and

accessible way and be able to respectfully engage with Members who have been historically marginalized and/or are experiencing health disparities.

2. Screening, Enrollment, Credentialing, Revalidation, and Recredentialing Requirements (Updated September 2026)

During the provider screening, enrollment, credentialing, revalidation and recredentialing process and on a regular basis, MCPs are required to determine the exclusion and/or enrollment status. MCPs must do so in accordance with APL 22-013 (or superseding APL) and APL 21-003 or superseding APL, by verifying federal and State exclusion lists, no less than monthly.

Payments made by the MCP to an ECM provider – including for those that are not considered a Network Provider (i.e., the MCP has a letter of agreement or single case agreement) must only be made to those providers who have gone through the screening, enrollment, and revalidation process in accordance with APL 22-013 (or superseding APL).

i. Screening and Enrollment

Under federal Medicaid regulations, all enrolling and currently enrolled Medi-Cal providers must comply with federal disclosure, screening, monitoring, reporting and enrollment requirements outlined in 42 CFR Part 455. These requirements apply uniformly to all provider types, including those enrolled by DHCS, via another state-level enrollment pathway, or by the MCP.

MCPs are responsible for the screening, enrollment, revalidation, and credentialing, and recredentialing for all ECM providers in order to contract with the ECM provider as a Network Provider in accordance with in 42 CFR Part 455, the ECM Policy Guide, the MCP contract and APL 22-013 or superseding APL.

MCP Network Providers (including those that will operate as ECM or Community Supports Providers) are required to enroll as a Medi-Cal Provider only if there is a state-level enrollment pathway for them to do so.⁷⁰ For example, clinics, physician groups, nurse practitioner groups, etc, will enroll as a clinic, physician/nurse group, but will not separately enroll as ECM or CS. For-profit organizations delivering ECM and CS exclusively generally do not have an enrollment pathway. For those ECM and

⁷⁰ ECM Providers who serve the Justice-Involved POF are required to become a Medi-Cal enrolled provider. For details, see the [CalAIM-JI-Policy-and-Operations-Guide-Foundational-Guidance](#)

Community Supports Providers with a state-level Medi-Cal enrollment pathway, the process for enrolling is identical to any other provider. The Provider must enroll through the DHCS Provider Enrollment Division, or other state recognized pathway.

ii. Credentialing

As per the MCP contract, credentialing means the process of determining a Provider or an entity's professional or technical competence, and may include registration, certification, licensure, and professional association membership. APL 22-013 or superseding APL gives details on MCP credentialing requirements. MCPs must take any actions, as needed, in addition to the steps listed above under screening and enrollment to credential all ECM Providers, as appropriate to meet the requirements of APL 22-013 or superseding APL. MCPs may align screening and enrollment efforts with their credentialing efforts to reduce duplication of activities.

iii. Revalidation of Enrollment

To ensure that all enrollment information is accurate and up-to-date, MCPs must ensure all providers -resubmit and recertify the accuracy of their enrollment information as part of the revalidation process. As per APL 22-013 or superseding APL, MCPs must revalidate the enrollment of each of their Network Providers at least every 5 years. MCPs may align revalidation efforts with their re-credentialing efforts to reduce duplication of activities. MCPs are not required to revalidate providers that were enrolled through DHCS (i.e., the state-level enrollment pathway) or another MCP within the required timeframes. However, MCPs are required to ensure that the credentialing files demonstrate timeframes of screening, enrollment, revalidation, and recredentialing activities and indicate files are up to date.

iv. Recredentialing

As per APL 22-013 or superseding APL, DHCS requires each MCP to verify every three years that each Network Provider continues to possess valid credentials, as applicable. MCPs must review new applications from providers and verify the items listed under the Provider Credentialing section of APL 22-013 or superseding APL, in the same manner, as applicable. Re-credentialing must include documentation that the MCP has considered information from other sources pertinent to the credentialing process, such as quality improvement activities, Member grievances, and medical record reviews. The re-credentialing application must include the same attestation as contained in the provider's initial application.

v. Clarifying Relationship with Provider “Credentialing” Requirements of APL 22-013 or superseding APL

Many ECM and Community Supports Providers (e.g., housing agencies, medically tailored meal Providers) may not have a state-level enrollment pathway. These providers must enroll in the Medi-Cal program via a pathway that is approved by DHCS that meets all of the requirements in accordance with in 42 CFR Part 455, the ECM Policy Guide, the MCP contract and APL 22-013 or superseding APL.

DHCS does not set licensing requirements for ECM care managers. MCPs should use and build on the processes they have already established for reviewing the qualifications and experience of ECM Providers.

To include an ECM and Community Supports Provider in their networks when there is no state-level Medi-Cal enrollment pathway, MCPs are required to enroll the Provider or Provider organization, credential them and ensure they meet the standards and capabilities required to be an ECM or Community Supports Provider. MCPs must submit Policies and Procedures for how they will enroll, credential and ensure the qualifications of ECM and Community Supports Providers in their submission of Part 2 of the MOC. MCPs must create and implement their own processes to do this.

Criteria MCPs may want to consider as part of their process to ensure that the ECM provider is qualified to serve as an ECM provider include, but are not limited to:

- » Ability to receive referrals from MCPs for ECM or the authorized Community Supports;
- » Sufficient experience to provide services similar to ECM for Populations of Focus and/or the specific Community Supports for which they are contracted to provide;
- » Ability to submit claims or invoices for ECM or Community Supports using standardized protocols;
- » Business licensing that meets industry standards;
- » Capability to comply with all reporting and oversight requirements;
- » History of fraud, waste and/or abuse;
- » Recent history of criminal activity that endangers Members and/or their

families;⁷¹ and

- » History of liability claims against the Provider.

MCPs should also consider national accreditation and /or certification standards.

3. Program Integrity:

MCPs are required to ensure that ECM services are delivered in a manner that adheres to program integrity requirements. An MCP may immediately terminate its agreement with a Network Provider when the MCP conducts an internal investigation and determines there is credible evidence that the individual or entity has committed Fraud, Waste, or Abuse (FWA).⁷²

- » MCPs must notify DHCS Program Integrity Unit of all identified FWA as directed. Although MCPs may immediately terminate an individual or entity for this reason prior to notifying DHCS, MCPs must still ensure they have a sufficient provider network to deliver ECM services and ensure impacted Members are transferred to alternate Network Providers as appropriate to avoid delays in care. If MCPs cannot ensure access using Network Providers, they must authorize out-of-Network care for Members as appropriate.
- » MCPs should also apply pre-payment and other analytics to support program-integrity monitoring and prevent potentially fraudulent or abusive activities. MCPs and ECM Providers should routinely flag and report anomalies or patterns to support effective oversight.

4. MCP Delivering ECM Services Directly Rather than Contracting to Network Providers

If an MCP is unable to provide sufficient capacity to meet the needs of all ECM Populations of Focus in a community-based manner through contracts with ECM Providers, they may request written approval for a time-bound exception to use their

⁷¹ Note that ECM Providers serving the Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration Population of Focus may have lived experience with the justice system.

⁷² The definitions for "fraud," "waste," and "abuse" are separately defined in the MCP Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment I, Article 1.0 (Definitions). See also MCP Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment III, Subsection 1.3.2.D (Fraud Prevention Program); and See APL 21-003 "Medi-Cal Network Provider And Subcontractor Terminations" or superseding APL.

own staff to deliver ECM services.⁷³ ⁷⁴In these limited circumstances, MCP staff must also comply with all the requirements of being an ECM Provider (e.g., providing ECM services through in-person interactions and in the community). Any such request must be submitted in accordance with DHCS guidelines and must evidence one or more of the following:

- » There are insufficient ECM Providers, or a lack of ECM Providers with experience and expertise to provide ECM for one or more of the Populations of Focus in one or more counties;
- » There is a justified quality-of-care concern with one or more of the otherwise qualified ECM Providers;
- » Contractor and the ECM Provider(s) are unable to agree on contracted rates;
- » Potential ECM Provider(s) is/are unwilling to contract;
- » Potential ECM Provider(s) is/are unresponsive to multiple attempts to contract;
(For ECM Providers that have a state-level pathway to Medi-Cal enrollment)
Provider(s) is/are unable to comply with the Medi-Cal enrollment process; or
- » (For ECM Providers without a state-level pathway to Medi-Cal enrollment)
Provider(s) is/are unable to comply with Contractor's processes for vetting ECM Providers.

During any exception period approved by DHCS, the MCP must take steps to continually develop and increase the capacity of its ECM Provider Network. The initial exception period will be in effect no longer than one year. After the initial one- year period, the MCP must submit a new exception request to DHCS for DHCS review and approval on a case-by-case basis. Ultimately, these procedures have been established to align with the vision of providing ECM services through an in-person, community-based approach.

D. Requirement to have a Care Management Documentation System (Updated January 2026)

⁷³ For additional detail on ECM Provider network exceptions, see [Expectations for ECM Provider Networks & Approved Exceptions](#) (Updated January 1, 2023).

⁷⁴ DHCS expects those MCPs who transitioned from HHP in 2022 to have made efforts to shift previous models to a more community-based Provider approach. DHCS will continue monitoring MCPs timely progress.

ECM Providers must use a care management documentation system or process that supports the documentation and integration of physical, behavioral, social service and administrative data and information from other entities to support the management and maintenance of a Member care plan that can be shared with other Providers and organizations involved in each Member's care. Care management documentation systems may include Certified Electronic Health Record Technology, or other documentation tools that can: document Member goals and goal attainment status; develop and assign care team tasks; define and support Member care coordination and care management needs; gather information from other sources to identify Member needs and support care team coordination and communication; and support notifications regarding Member health status and transitions in care (e.g., discharges from a hospital or long-term care facility, housing status).

MCPs may not require ECM Providers to utilize an MCP portal for documentation of ECM services—MCPs must be able to accept data on documentation of ECM services when it is submitted in a standardized, machine-readable format.

However, MCPs may choose to offer access to their care management documentation system as an option for Providers. DHCS understands that requirements to use MCP portals can create duplicative documentation and be administratively burdensome to Providers. MCPs may continue to use their portals to exchange Member information lists and authorization information, but should not otherwise require Providers to use the portal.

E. ECM Provider Payment

MCPs must pay contracted ECM Providers for the provision of ECM in accordance with contracts established between MCPs and each ECM Provider. MCPs must ensure that ECM Providers are eligible to receive payment when ECM is initiated for any given Member. MCPs are expected to reimburse ECM Providers for outreach, including for unsuccessful outreach that did not result in a Member enrolling into ECM. MCPs are encouraged to tie ECM Provider payments to value, including payment strategies and arrangements that focus on achieving outcomes related to high-quality care and improved health status. In June 2023, DHCS launched a Supplemental Data Request (SDR) process to better understand the rates being paid by MCPs to ECM Providers and will use this data to inform future efforts to standardize thresholds which trigger payment.

DHCS' vision is that ECM Providers will submit encounters to MCPs for transmission to

DHCS. Providers that do not have these capabilities must be allowed to submit invoices to MCPs. DHCS has developed more comprehensive guidance that describes the minimum set of data elements required to be included in an invoice, available from the ECM Resource Directory.

ECM is subject to the standard reimbursement timelines as other Medi-Cal services. As specified in:

- » The Medi-Cal Managed Care Boilerplate Contract: MCPs must pay 90% of all clean claims within 30 days of the date of receipt and 99% of all clean claims within 90 days.
- » California Health and Safety Code Section 1371: MCPs must reimburse claims or any portion of any claim, as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 working days after receipt of the claim and are subject to interest payments if failing to meet the standards.
- » [APL 23-020](#) or superseding APL : MCPs must pay all claims within contractually mandated statutory timeframes and maintain sufficient claims processing/tracking/payment system capabilities. DHCS expects MCPs to pay clean claims within 30 days of receipt.

These requirements pertain to both invoices and claims submitted by ECM. MCPs are required to train their contracted network of ECM Providers on how to submit a clean claim and must have personnel available to troubleshoot issues with ECM Providers.

VIII. ENGAGING MEMBERS IN ECM

A. Members for ECM

MCPs are responsible for driving ECM enrollment through community-based referrals and by regularly and proactively identifying Members who may benefit from ECM and who meet the criteria for the Populations of Focus. To do this effectively, MCPs must consider Members' health care utilization; needs across physical, behavioral, developmental and oral health; health risks and needs due to SDOH; and LTSS needs.

B. ECM Referrals for Members (Updated January 2026)

DHCS is committed to standardizing key areas of ECM program design to reduce administrative burden, promote better community awareness of ECM, and improve

ECM access and uptake across the state. DHCS conducted extensive stakeholder feedback on early implementation of ECM across the state in 2023 which resulted in an ECM/Community Supports “[Action Plan](#)” and a published [ECM/Community Supports “Cheat Sheet”](#) summarizing the areas for standardization and reforms to streamline access to both services. Reforms to standardize ECM referrals and authorization are a key component of the ECM/Community Supports Action Plan.

Universal ECM Referral Standards: DHCS has created ECM Referral Standards to standardize and streamline ECM referrals made to MCPs from ECM Providers, healthcare providers, community partners, and other entities. **Effective January 1, 2025, all MCPs are required to operationalize guidance in the ECM Referral Standards,⁷⁵ including updating existing ECM referral forms to align with the guidance.** DHCS created ECM Referral Standards to improve the consistency of information collected by MCPs to process an ECM referral, so that entities making referrals to multiple MCPs have a predictable, common set of information they must send on each Member referred to ECM. This also is intended to support DHCS’ vision that the majority of ECM referrals originate from community-based sources (e.g. primary care providers, case managers, hospitals, social service providers, Medi-Cal Members, etc.), as these entities often have an existing relationship with the Member, and community-based referrals have demonstrated higher rates of ECM engagement/acceptance. These ECM Referral Standards build on – and supersede – previous [ECM Member Information Sharing Guidance](#) for ECM referrals (“Potential ECM Member Referral File”), which will be eliminated.

1. No Additional Documentation for ECM Referrals and Authorization:

MCPs may **not** require nor request community partners or ECM Providers to submit supplemental eligibility checklists, outreach authorization forms, ICD-10 codes, additional proof of homelessness, Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) forms, or other supplemental information beyond the information provided in the ECM Referral Standards to confirm eligibility and authorize ECM. Through stakeholder feedback, DHCS determined there was previously significant variation in the supplemental documentation MCPs requested from community referral partners and ECM Providers to verify a Member’s eligibility for ECM. Information outlined in the DHCS ECM Referral Standards are the only elements MCPs can require to determine Member eligibility and authorize ECM. MCPs may collect additional Member information for the purposes of supporting Member outreach and care coordination as long as this is

⁷⁵ For more information, see the [ECM Referral Standards and Form Templates](#).

distinct from the eligibility and authorization determination and does not disrupt the timing of the eligibility and authorization determination.

The ECM Referral Standards are designed to align with Closed-Loop Referral (CLR) for MCPs. DHCS CLR Implementation Guidance details MCP requirements for tracking, supporting and monitoring referrals to ECM and Community Supports. CLR implementation guidance is detailed in an [addendum](#) to the [PHM Policy Guide](#), updated in May 2025.

The primary mechanism for Member identification for ECM should be referrals from the community. MCPs must inform Members and their families, guardians and caregivers, ECM Providers, Community Supports Providers, other Providers, and CBOs about ECM, the ECM Populations of Focus, and the process to request ECM. MCPs must consider requests for ECM on behalf of Members from all of the entities described above. DHCS expects MCPs to source the majority of referrals for ECM from the community i.e., from the MCP's network of providers (inclusive of PCPs and other clinical Providers, ECM and Community Supports Providers) and other community-based referral sources, including the entities described above. **Thus, each MCP is expected to maintain and grow a strong process to receive and respond to referral requests, regardless of whether they originate from ECM Providers or from other entities.** For example, shelters, homeless services providers, recuperative care providers and other service providers will be better positioned to identify individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Similarly, county behavioral health plans will be well-positioned to refer adults with serious mental health and/or SUD needs who may benefit from ECM.

MCPs should actively monitor sources of referrals for ECM, levels of Member engagement/acceptance of ECM, and improving overall referral and engagement patterns to improve ECM utilization among eligible Members. As part of this monitoring, MCPs should track referral source mix in pursuit of having a majority of ECM referrals originate from community-based sources, rather than from the MCP itself. In addition, MCPs should actively assess which Members may have pre-existing relationships with certain ECM Providers and ensure that qualifying Members are being assigned to those ECM Providers with whom they have a relationship, independent of what the source of the referral is to ECM.

MCPs must have clear instructions for making referrals to ECM on their public-facing webpage(s). The MCP Evidence of Coverage Member Handbook and public-facing webpage(s) must include up to date Member and provider-facing information about

ECM, how to make a referral to ECM using the ECM Referral Standards, and how to request an assessment for ECM. MCPs must also ensure that call center staff receive training on ECM and are prepared to either complete an ECM referral or efficiently route callers to MCP staff who can support a caller in completing a referral to ECM.

MCPs are encouraged to work with other MCPs, [PATH Collaborative Planning and Implementation \(CPI\) Facilitators](#) and ECM Providers to improve community knowledge and awareness of ECM and educate key referral sources on pathways to making referrals to ECM using the ECM Referral Standards.

C. MCP Identification of Members

In addition to referrals, there are a number of potential data sources MCPs can leverage to identify Members for ECM, including but not limited to:

- » Enrollment data;
- » Encounter data;
- » Utilization/claims data;
- » Pharmacy data;
- » Laboratory results data;
- » Assessment data;
- » Clinical information on physical and/or behavioral health;
- » ADT feed data;
- » Local Health Information Exchange data;
- » Health Information Form (HIF)/Member Evaluation Tool (MET) data;
- » Utilization data from PCPs, including but not limited to results of the Individual Health Appointment, services, and screenings recommendation by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and American Academy of Pediatrics/Bright Futures;
- » Health Risk Stratification and Assessment survey for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (SPD);
- » Behavioral Health/SUD data, as available;
- » Regional Center data;

- » Child Welfare data (including foster care, Adoption Assistance Program, and Family Maintenance);
- » First 5 program data;
- » School-based health centers data and school absences data, as available;
- » School district McKinney-Vento Program eligibility screenings to identify students experiencing homelessness;
- » Risk stratification information for children in County Organized Health System (COHS) counties with CCS WCM programs;
- » Information about SDOH, including standardized assessment tools and/or ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases) codes;
- » Results from any available ACEs screening; and
- » Other cross-sector data and information, including housing, social services, criminal justice history and other information relevant to the ECM Populations of Focus (e.g., HMIS, available data from the education system).

Using data listed above, risk stratification and segmentation models performed by the plan will also be used to identify ECM Members. MCPs will need to rely on a combination of information provided by DHCS on a regular basis and data internal to the plan. DHCS provides encounter data, including physical and behavioral health utilization, to MCPs monthly in a standard file format. For example, to identify Members with a pattern of avoidable hospital or ED utilization, MCPs could rely on the frequency of utilization reflected in the data feeds from DHCS. Whenever feasible, MCPs should also consider any data or relevant characteristics provided as part of data exchanged between the MCP and Provider organizations.

D. Authorizing ECM for MCP Members (Updated January 2026)

Through the ECM and Community Supports [Action Plan](#), DHCS established priorities that streamline and standardize access to ECM and Community Supports for Members across Managed Care Plans, and outlined the areas of standardization in both services for MCPs, providers and community partners in the [ECM/Community Supports Cheat Sheet](#). The Action Plan identified improving ECM authorization processes as a high priority in order to streamline authorization processes for select Providers and enable services to be rendered immediately to ECM-eligible Members. In 2023, DHCS standardized authorization timeframes for ECM and emphasized the application of

agency guidance for processing authorizations in accordance with [APL 21-011](#) or superseding APL.

MCPs must implement streamlined authorization (formerly referred to as “presumptive authorization”) arrangements with select ECM Providers. In 2026, DHCS renamed “presumptive authorization” to “streamlined authorization” to clarify that the policy does not change existing requirements and authorities for MCPs to do full reviews of Members’ ECM eligibility and make authorization decisions and does not shift the authorization function to ECM Providers. However, the underlying streamlined authorization policy requirements did not change. The ECM streamlined authorization policy enables a subset of ECM Providers to initiate ECM services for a timeframe of 30 calendar days, so they can more rapidly engage Members in the care they need, as described below. DHCS is releasing updates to the ECM streamlined authorization policy in parallel to the ECM Referral Standards that together are designed to ease the administrative burden of the referral and authorization process on ECM Providers and community referral partners. The ECM streamlined authorization policy does not change existing requirements on ECM authorization timeframes and authorization processing requirements in [APL-21-011](#) or superseding APL (within five working days for routine authorizations and within 72 hours for expedited requests). ECM streamlined authorization is distinct from “presumptive eligibility” policies for Medi-Cal coverage for special populations (children, pregnant individuals, individuals experiencing homelessness) that enable some health care providers to apply for immediate, temporary health coverage under Medi-Cal for individuals.⁷⁶In practice, both policies can work together to serve some of Medi-Cal's most vulnerable populations.

Standard ECM Authorization Timeframes (Updated January 2026): For all Members authorized to receive ECM by their MCP, the initial authorization period will be 12 months and the reauthorization period will be 6 months. MCPs may not impose additional requirements for authorization of ECM services beyond the Population of Focus eligibility criteria specified by DHCS. For example, MCPs may not withhold an authorization until a care plan has been completed.

MCPs must follow the guidance below that was issued previously for all ECM authorization requests. The DHCS ECM Referral Standards and ECM streamlined

⁷⁶ For more see DHCS policy: [Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Program \(ca.gov\)](#), [Children’s Presumptive-Eligibility \(ca.gov\)](#), [Presumptive Eligibility \(ca.gov\)](#).

authorization policy do not change existing DHCS requirements outlined below. For requests from Providers, other external entities, Members or family:

- » **DHCS emphasizes that the MCP must ensure that authorization or a decision not to authorize ECM occurs as soon as possible (i.e., within five working days for routine authorizations and within 72 hours for expedited requests), in accordance with Exhibit A, Attachment 5, Provision 3, Timeframes for Medical Authorization and [APL 21-011](#) or superseding APL.**
- » Requirements for timely processing of authorization requests applies in **all** cases including requests for streamlined authorization; requests that are submitted individually or by batch, machine-readable file formats or alternative submission processes; requests submitted by Members and their families; ECM Providers, a Community Partner, and other referring entities.
- » If the MCP does not authorize ECM, the MCP must ensure the Member and the requesting individual or entity (as applicable) who requested ECM on a Member's behalf are informed of the Member's right to appeal and the appeals process by way of the Notice of Action (NOA) process as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 13, Provision 8, Denial, Deferral, or Modification of Prior Authorization Requests, and Attachment 14, Member Grievance and Appeal System, and [APL 21-011](#) or superseding APL.
- » For Members who were not authorized to receive ECM, the MCP must follow its standard Grievances and Appeals process outlined in Exhibit A, Attachment 14, Member Grievance and Appeal System, and [APL 21-011](#) or superseding APL.
- » To inform Members that ECM has been authorized, the MCP must follow its standard notice process outlined in Exhibit A, Attachment 13, Provision 8, Denial, Deferral, or Modification of Prior Authorization Requests, and [APL 21-011](#) or superseding APL.

E. ECM Streamlined Authorization Requirements (Updated January 2026)

The goal of ECM streamlined authorization arrangements is to allow select ECM Providers who are already contracted in the MCP's ECM Provider network to more rapidly initiate ECM services for Members and to increase certainty of MCP payment

during a 30-day streamlined authorization timeframe. The select ECM Providers eligible for streamlined authorization often care for Members eligible for the ECM POFs the Providers serve, such as OB/GYN Practices contracted to provide ECM to the Birth Equity POF. **ECM streamlined authorization applies only to entities that are already contracted ECM Providers with the MCP and does not extend to other entities referring Members to MCPs for ECM.**

DHCS defines ECM streamlined authorization as an arrangement between an MCP and an ECM Provider in their network that enables that ECM Provider to initiate ECM services for a Member during a 30 calendar day timeframe and be paid by the Member's MCP for ECM services delivered during the 30 days. During the streamlined authorization period, the ECM Provider must submit the Member's referral information to the MCP for formal authorization to continue to receive reimbursement for services beyond the streamlined authorization timeframe. MCPs should encourage ECM Providers to submit their referral for ECM to MCPs as soon as possible and no later than five working days before the end of the streamlined authorization period to limit gaps in authorization and reimbursement for ECM services provided to Members.

ECM Provider Types for ECM Streamlined Authorization Requirements: MCPs must implement streamlined authorization for ECM for a subset of ECM Provider types – each paired with a specific ECM Member POF (Figure 5).

MCPs are required to implement streamlined authorization arrangements with the specific ECM Providers in their networks serving the specific Populations of Focus listed in Figure 5. To fall under ECM streamlined authorization requirements, ECM Providers must be contracted in network with the Member's assigned MCP to provide ECM for the POF in Column 1 **and** meet the provider type requirements outlined in Column 2.

Figure 5: ECM Provider Eligibility for Streamlined Authorization ⁷⁷

Column 1: ECM Population of Focus	Column 2: ECM Providers Covered by Streamlined Authorization Requirements
1) Adults & Children Experiencing Homelessness	» Street Medicine providers » Community Supports Providers of the Housing Trio Services: Housing Transition Navigation Services, Housing Deposits, and Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services » County-contracted and County-operated Specialty Behavioral Health Providers
2) Adults & Children At Risk of Avoidable Hospital or ED Utilization	» Primary Care Provider practices (including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)), County-operated primary care, and other primary care
3) Adults & Children with Serious Mental health and/or SUD Needs	» County-contracted and County-operated Specialty Behavioral Health Providers
4) Adults & Children Transitioning from Incarceration	» Existing DHCS guidance governs authorizations and warm handoffs to support Members receiving prerelease services in the JI POF. Refer to CalAIM-JI-Policy-and-Operations-Guide-Foundational-Guidance for details.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ For Providers contracted to deliver both ECM and Community Supports, eligibility for ECM presumptive authorization does not impact Community Supports authorization processes ⁷⁴ A Member who receives pre-release services must be presumptively/retroactively authorized to receive ECM services on the day of release or, if MCP enrollment is effectuated after release, on the day of MCP enrollment.

⁷⁸ A Member who receives pre-release services must be presumptively/retroactively authorized to receive ECM services on the day of release or, if MCP enrollment is effectuated after release, on the day of MCP enrollment.

Column 1: ECM Population of Focus	Column 2: ECM Providers Covered by Streamlined Authorization Requirements
5) Adults Living in the Community and At Risk for LTC Institutionalization	» California Community Transitions (CCT) lead Organizations » Community Supports Providers of the Nursing Facility Transition/Diversion to Assisted Living Facilities and Community Transition Services
6) Adult SNF Residents Transitioning to the Community	» California Community Transitions (CCT) lead Organizations » Community Supports Providers of the Nursing Facility Transition/Diversion to Assisted Living Facilities and Community Transition Services
7) Children & Youth Enrolled in CCS/CCS WCM	» CCS Paneled Providers and Local Health Department CCS Programs
8) Children & Youth involved in Child Welfare	» County-contracted and County-operated Specialty Behavioral Health Providers » High Fidelity Wraparound Providers » Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care » Department of Social Services (DSS) Offices » Foster Family Agencies » Transitional Housing Programs Current and Former Foster Youth » Children's Crisis Residential Programs
9) Birth Equity Population of Focus	» OB/GYN Practices » Midwifery Practices » Entities that deliver the following services: Black Infant Health (BIH) Program, Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI), Indian Health

Column 1: ECM Population of Focus	Column 2: ECM Providers Covered by Streamlined Authorization Requirements
	Program, American Indian Maternal Support Services (AIMSS)

MCPs are only required to implement ECM streamlined authorization for an ECM Provider contracted to provide ECM for the specific POFs outlined in the Figure 5.

1. Example 1: Local Health Department CCS Program Provider eligibility for streamlined authorization:

- » A child is enrolled in CCS and their county-based CCS case manager determines that the child and family need additional care management offered through ECM.
- » If the county health department providing CCS is also an ECM Provider contracted with the child's MCP for the Children & Youth Enrolled in CCS POF, then the team can initiate services for the Member and be reimbursed for services under a streamlined authorization arrangement for up to 30 days while they complete the ECM referral for the child and await the MCP's ECM authorization decision.
- » Alternatively, if the county is not contracted as an ECM Provider with the MCP for the Children & Youth Enrolled in CCS POF, it would not be able to access ECM streamlined authorization arrangements for this POF and would refer the child to the MCP for ECM. The MCP would assign the child to an ECM Provider from its network that would be most appropriate to meet the child's needs (e.g. the PCP practice, if in network).

2. Example 2: Street Medicine Provider eligibility for streamlined authorization:

- » An entity operating as both a Street Medicine Provider and as an ECM Provider contracted in the MCP's network for the Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness POF can presumptively authorize Members eligible for this specific POF.

The DHCS-required pairings of ECM Providers and POFs for streamlined authorization are minimum requirements and do not limit MCPs from extending streamlined authorization arrangements to more ECM Providers or additional

POFs. The MCP and ECM Provider can discuss options for expanding ECM streamlined authorization authority beyond the DHCS minimum requirements.

- » In Example 2, if the Street Medicine Provider/ECM Provider identifies a Member who meets eligibility only through a different POF (e.g. Birth Equity POF), DHCS policy does not require the MCP to presumptively authorize this Member. However, the MCP could still decide to extend streamlined authorization to this POF through agreements with the ECM Provider.

Streamlined authorization requirements apply only to the initial ECM authorization for the Member, not subsequent renewals and re-authorizations.

MCP Payment and Streamlined Authorization: MCPs must allow network ECM Providers under streamlined authorization to start billing for ECM services from the date the Member first receives ECM services. **In a case where the MCP subsequently denies the ECM authorization, the MCP must reimburse the ECM Provider throughout the streamlined authorization timeframe up until the end of the day that the MCP makes an authorization determination and communicates the denial to the ECM Provider.** As a result, the streamlined authorization timeframe is 30 days or up to the date the MCP makes and communicates the authorization decision to the ECM Provider, whichever comes sooner. MCPs should encourage ECM Providers to submit ECM referrals to MCPs as soon as possible and no later than five working days before the end of the 30 days to ensure MCPs have sufficient time to authorize ECM before the end of the streamlined authorization timeframe.

Services rendered during the 30-day streamlined timeframe remain reimbursable even if the MCP does not ultimately authorize the Member for ECM. The two exceptions to the requirement for payment are:

1. MCPs are not responsible for reimbursing for ECM services for individuals who are not Members of their Managed Care Plan during the time of ECM service delivery
2. MCPs are not responsible for reimbursing for ECM services in cases when the MCP determines that a Member has an existing, open ECM authorization with another ECM Provider. DHCS allows for this exception in MCP payment to limit instances of payment for duplicative services.

To reduce the risk that ECM Providers are not reimbursed for services due to an existing ECM authorization, MCPs must make Members' ECM authorization statuses accessible to ECM Providers via their Plan Portal or similar online system

by January 1, 2025 to support ECM Providers in accessing a Member's existing ECM authorization information. As a best practice, an MCP may also provide a direct telephone line to a knowledgeable staff member at the Plan who can look up and verify a Member's ECM authorization status for ECM Providers. As another best practice, MCPs can also make ECM enrollment and assigned lead ECM care management information available via Qualified Health Information Organizations (QHIOs).

MCPs must train ECM Providers under streamlined authorization arrangements on how to review each Member's existing authorization status for ECM to confirm the Member is not already authorized for ECM with another Provider. Additionally, MCPs must train ECM Providers on best practices in asking Members about their enrollment in key programs that overlap with ECM and may result in a later authorization denial by the MCP (e.g. 1915(c) waivers, D-SNP enrollment).

In cases where the ECM Provider determines that the Member they would like to serve under streamlined authorization has an existing ECM authorization, the ECM Provider should consult with the Member and follow DHCS guidance on Member preference for ECM Provider assignment to work with the MCP and determine whether the ECM Provider for the Member should be changed (*Section VIII of the ECM Policy Guide*).

Outreach and Streamlined Authorization: MCPs may not require ECM Providers under the ECM streamlined authorization policy to seek MCP authorization to conduct and bill for outreach efforts to identify new Members for ECM.

F. Utilization Management Authority for ECM: (Added September 2026)

MCPs retain full utilization management (UM) authority for all ECM services, consistent with federal managed care regulations, the Medi-Cal MCP Contract, and DHCS policy guidance, including streamlined authorization requirements, to ensure clinically appropriate utilization of ECM. MCPs are responsible for establishing and applying UM criteria, including on authorization timelines, service duration standards, and reassessment schedules, to ensure ECM services are delivered in an economic, efficient, medically appropriate, and outcomes-oriented manner that ensures program integrity. MCPs may apply UM protocols and make determinations regarding authorization, reassessment, service duration, and termination for sustained lack of engagement or when a service is

no longer appropriate, so long as these processes align with DHCS guardrails and do not create impermissible barriers to access.

G. Prime & Subcontractor Authorization Alignment

Prime MCPs and their subcontractors must align all standards and Policies and Procedures related to authorizations for ECM and Community Supports, including both the adjudication standards and the documentation used for referrals and authorizations.

H. Automatically Authorizing ECM for Members Who Receive ECM and Change their Plan Selection/Enrollment

Full Continuity of Care requirements (see [APL 18-008](#) or superseding APL) do not apply to ECM managed care benefit.

However, Medi-Cal managed care Members who were receiving ECM in their previous MCP should continue receiving ECM when they enroll in a new MCP. As such, the new MCP must automatically authorize ECM for a newly enrolled Member if any the following conditions apply:

1. The previous MCP informs the new MCP that the Member received ECM during the last 90 days of enrollment in the previous MCP and did not subsequently either meet graduation criteria or choose to discontinue ECM;
2. Historical utilization data provided to the new MCP by DHCS (referred to as the Plan Data Feed) reveals one or more ECM Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for ECM services delivered during the last 90 days of enrollment in the previous MCP;
3. The Member, family, or Authorized Representative notifies the new MCP that the Member received ECM during the last 90 days of enrollment in the previous MCP and wishes to continue to do so;
4. The Member's previous ECM Provider notifies the new MCP that the Member received ECM during the last 90 days of enrollment in the previous MCP and recommends continuation of ECM; or
5. The new MCP becomes aware that a newly enrolled Member received ECM during the last 90 days of enrollment in the previous MCP, in any other way.

The new MCP must not implement any other steps to authorize ECM for newly enrolled Members who were receiving ECM in their previous MCP (including obtaining

consent to ECM services) if any of the listed conditions for automatic authorization apply. Rather, the new MCP must assign the Member to an ECM Provider for outreach and continuation of ECM, in accordance with its DHCS- approved ECM Policies and Procedures. To promote smooth transitions, the new MCP must assign the Member to the same ECM Provider, to the extent its network aligns, unless the Member desires to change their ECM Provider.

The new MCP is encouraged to contract with the member's ECM Provider when its network does not align with the member's previous MCP. The new MCP must work with the previous MCP, ECM Provider and/or Member to obtain access to the Member's Care Management Plan and transmit to the new ECM Provider (as applicable) to mitigate any gaps in care. The new MCP should apply its usual Policies and Procedures for reassessment against discontinuation criteria to determine if and when the Member may be stepped down from ECM.

Please note: the above policy applies to ad hoc Member transitions between MCPs. As indicated in APL 23-018 or superseding APL, policies related to the 2024 MCP transition – member transitions due to changes in commercial MCP contracting, Medi-Cal managed care model change, and Kaiser direct contracting that take effect January 1, 2024 – are included in the 2024 MCP Transition Policy Guide.⁷⁹

I. Assignment to an ECM Provider

MCPs will assign every Member authorized for ECM to an ECM Provider. As mentioned above, MCPs are responsible for maintaining a network of ECM providers with the appropriate competencies to serve all populations of focus, and MCPs should aim to assign Members to ECM providers that have the appropriate capacities to meet their needs.

The MCP should prioritize assignment of the Member to a provider that is already known and trusted by the Member. It is possible that the MCP will not always know about these relationships in advance via its own data, so there should be a streamlined process to immediately (re)assign members according to information received from the referral and/or the Member directly, avoiding burden on providers to “prove” the relationship in order to re-assign relative to assignment already conducted via MCP algorithms or similar processes.

⁷⁹ The 2024 MCP Transition Policy Guide is available and updated [here](#).

Note that some Members authorized to receive ECM may meet the criteria for multiple Populations of Focus. MCPs will assign these individuals to an ECM Provider that has appropriate competencies and experience for the needs of the Member. For example, individuals with SUD may also be people experiencing homelessness. These Members may be assigned to an ECM Provider that has the necessary skills and experience to work with SUD and homeless populations.

MCPs will develop a process to disseminate information about assigned Members to ECM Provider(s) on a regular cycle and will ensure that communication of Member assignment to the designated ECM Provider occurs within ten (10) business days of authorization. MCPs are also required to document the Member's ECM Lead Care Manager, who will serve as the point of contact for the Member, in its system of record.

Listed below are additional guidelines for the ECM Provider assignment process.

1. Member Pre-Existing Care Management Program (applies to Members enrolled in a pre-existing care management program(s) at the time of ECM enrollment)

MCPs should contract with existing programs that provide care management services to ECM Populations of Focus and could serve as ECM Providers.

- » If the Member is enrolled in an existing care management program (such as CCS, SMHS ICC, etc.) that the MCP has contracted with to be an ECM Provider, then the MCP **must** assign the Member to that existing care management program as the ECM Provider **unless** the Member (and/or parent, guardian, caretaker) indicates otherwise.
- » If there are multiple existing care management programs that have been contracted with by the MCP to be ECM Providers (e.g., the Member is in both CCS and ICC, and both programs are contracted ECM Providers), then the MCP **must** assign the Member to the existing care management program the Member (and/or parent, guardian, caretaker) identifies as their **preferred** ECM Provider.
 - The assigned ECM Provider is responsible for coordinating with the Member's other care managers and the MCP to ensure non– duplication of services

- If the Member's existing care management program chooses not to serve as the ECM Provider, then the MCP:
- Must assign the Member to an ECM Provider **AND**
- Must ensure the Member receives ECM services **AND** does not receive duplicative care management services or be subject to processes that duplicate what the existing model is already doing (e.g., screening and assessment) **AND**
- Must regularly check available data feeds and establish processes and requirements to identify and eliminate any duplication of services.

2. Member Preference

If Member preference for a specific ECM Provider is known to the MCP, the MCP must honor that preference when assigning the ECM Provider, to the extent practicable.

Further, MCPs must permit Members to change ECM Providers at any time and are expected to implement any requested ECM Provider change within 30 days to the extent the requested ECM Provider is able to accommodate the change.

3. Member PCP

If the Member's assigned PCP is a contracted ECM Provider, the MCP must assign the Member to the PCP as the ECM Provider, unless the Member has expressed a different preference or MCP identifies a more appropriate ECM Provider given the Member's individual needs and health conditions. The MCP must notify the Member's PCP, if different from the ECM Provider, of the assignment to the ECM Provider, within ten (10) business days of the date of assignment.

4. Member Behavioral Health Provider

If a Member receives services from an MHP or DMC/DMC-ODS for SUD and/or serious mental health needs, and the Member's behavioral health Provider is a contracted ECM Provider, the MCP must assign that Member to that behavioral health Provider as the ECM Provider, unless the Member has expressed a different preference or the MCP identifies a more appropriate ECM Provider given the Member's individual needs and health conditions.

J. Initiating Delivery of ECM

1. Member Consent

MCPs must not require ECM Providers or their own staff to obtain Member (and/or parent, guardian, caretaker) consent to participate (in writing or otherwise) as a condition of initiating delivery of ECM, unless required by federal law. DHCS removed documentation requirements to streamline and simplify implementation of the ECM managed care benefit. However, an individual may decline to engage in or continue ECM at any time.

2. Written Authorization for ECM-related Data Sharing⁸⁰

MCPs are not required to obtain Member (and/or parent, guardian, caretaker) authorization (in writing or otherwise) for data sharing as a condition of initiating delivery of ECM, unless such authorization is required by federal law. MCPs must develop Policies and Procedures with their Network of ECM Providers to:

- » Where required by federal law, ensure that Members (and/or parents, guardians, caretakers) authorize information sharing with the Contractor and all others involved in the ECM Member's care as needed to support the Member and maximize the benefits of ECM.
- » Communicate Member-level (and/or parent-, guardian-, caretaker- level) record of written authorization to allow data sharing (once obtained) back to the MCP.

3. Dedicated Lead Care Manager

MCPs are required to ensure that each Member receiving ECM has a dedicated Lead Care Manager with responsibility for interacting directly with the Member and/or family, Authorized Representatives, caretakers, and/or other authorized support person(s), as appropriate. The assigned Lead Care Manager is responsible for engaging with a multi- disciplinary care team to identify gaps in the Member's care and ensure appropriate input is obtained to effectively coordinate all primary, behavioral, developmental, oral health, LTSS, Community Supports and other services that address SDOH, regardless of setting, at a minimum. DHCS is not providing

⁸⁰ Written authorization for ECM-related data sharing may be obtained from any Member's personal representative as defined in the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\) Privacy Rule 45 CFR § 164.502\(g\)](#). Under the Rule, a "personal representative" is any person authorized (under State or other applicable law, e.g., tribal or military law) to act on behalf of the individual in making health care related decisions. Refer to [HHS](#) for more information.

required staffing ratios for the number of Members who can be served by each care manager at this time.

4. Member-level Records

MCPs are required to ensure that accurate and up-to-date Member-level records related to the provision of ECM services are maintained for Members authorized for ECM.

K. Discontinuing Delivery of ECM

1. Circumstances for Discontinuing ECM

Members are able to decline or end ECM upon initial outreach and engagement, or at any other time. Further, MCPs maintain full utilization management authority for ECM, as noted earlier in this Section. ECM Providers will be required to notify MCPs to discontinue ECM for Members when any of the following circumstances are met:

- » The Member has met all care plan goals;
- » The Member is ready to transition to a lower level of care;
- » The Member no longer wishes to receive ECM or is unresponsive or unwilling to engage (this can include instances when a Member's behavior or environment is unsafe for the ECM Provider); or
- » The ECM Provider has not been able to connect with the Member and/or parent, caregiver, guardian after multiple attempts.

This can occur at any time and not just at the end of an authorization period.

Continuing ECM Services when any of the following circumstances above are met raise fraud, waste and abuse.

2. Reassessment & Transitioning Members from ECM

As mentioned in Section V. Core Service Components of ECM, there is not a required annual reassessment for Members receiving ECM. Instead, MCPs must ensure that Members are reassessed at a frequency appropriate for their individual progress or changes in needs and/or as identified in the Care Management Plan. ECM care managers must also regularly assess members for graduation and proactively notify the MCP when any of the graduation criteria listed above are met. Further, MCPs should reassess Members against their ECM discontinuation criteria, **not** the ECM Population of Focus eligibility criteria, to evaluate whether Members are ready to

transition out of ECM. MCPs must develop processes for transitioning Members from ECM to lower levels of care management to provide coordination of ongoing needs.

3. NOA Process

MCPs are required to develop processes to determine discontinuation of ECM and notify ECM Providers to initiate discontinuation of services in accordance with the NOA process as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 13, Provision 8, Denial, Deferral, or Modification of Prior Authorization Requests, and Attachment 14, Member Grievance and Appeals, and [APL 21-011](#) or superseding APL.

MCPs must notify the Member of the discontinuation of ECM and ensure the Member is informed of their right to appeal and the appeals process by way of the NOA process as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 13, Provision 8, Denial, Deferral, or Modification of Prior Authorization Requests, and Attachment 14, Member Grievance and Appeals, and [APL 21-011](#) or superseding APL.

4. Dosage and Outcomes (Added September 2026)

Evidence-based care management models demonstrate that providing three or more encounters per month is associated with stronger member engagement, improved health outcomes, and reductions in avoidable utilization.⁸¹ While the appropriate level of service intensity may vary by population of focus and member needs, consistent and proactive engagement remains foundational to effective ECM delivery. **Therefore, ECM service delivery expectations emphasize achieving an average of three or more encounters per month, so Members who need ECM can fully benefit from the model.**

MCPs are expected to align payment, expectations, and oversight to the actual intensity of services and quality of care delivered. Additional resources and information that MCPs and ECM providers may find helpful when aligning payment to value will be

⁸¹ Mueller, Luke, Neil Batlivala, Jonathan Palisoc, Connie Kim, Andrey Ostrovsky, Michael Ong, and Nathan Favini. "[A Novel Intervention for Medicaid Beneficiaries with Complex Needs](#): Mueller et al." *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 41, no. 5 (2026): 1222-1228.
Pourat, Nadereh, Emmeline Chuang, Brenna O'masta, Leigh Ann Haley, Xiao Chen, Weihao Zhou, and Menbere Haile. "[Final Evaluation of California's Whole Person Care \(WPC\) Program](#)." *UCLA Center for Health Policy Research* 661 (2022).

included in a forthcoming ECM Payment Resource. This resource details DHCS's rate-development process and service delivery assumptions for ECM.

In addition to ensuring Members who need ECM receive high touch, person centered services, MCPs and ECM providers should consistently evaluate whether Members require and receive appropriate ECM services. MCPs should ensure ECM is provided only to Members whose care needs and service engagement are aligned with ECM managed care benefit's high-intensity design, and should discontinue ECM for Members whose care needs and service engagement are not aligned with ECM care models. Allowable reasons for discontinuing ECM services and required procedures are detailed in Section VIII. Engaging Members in ECM. These individuals should graduate to the appropriate level of care management to meet their needs.

IX. DATA SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS & DATA SHARING TO SUPPORT ECM

The vision of ECM is to embrace and integrate a greater diversity of non-traditional Providers in the delivery of whole-person care. DHCS acknowledges the tremendous investment required of both MCPs and Provider organizations to realize this vision from an information technology infrastructure and data sharing perspective. To that end, DHCS has developed comprehensive guidance to support standardized information exchange, increase efficiency and reduce administrative burden between MCPs and ECM and Community Supports Providers. See the [Member Level Information Sharing Between MCPs and ECM Providers](#) guidance document for a comprehensive overview of the standards for data exchange between MCPs and ECM Providers. In addition, listed below are high-level data system requirements for MCPs, along with data sharing requirements for MCPs and ECM Providers.

A. Data System Requirements

MCPs are required to have an IT infrastructure and data analytic capabilities to support ECM, including the capabilities to:

- » Consume and use claims and encounter data, as well as other data types listed in ECM Contract Template Section 7: Identifying Members for ECM, to identify Populations of Focus;
- » Ingest, and utilize ADT feed data (effective January 1, 2023);
- » Assign Members to ECM Providers;

- » Keep records of Members receiving ECM and authorizations necessary for sharing Personally Identifiable Information between Contractor and ECM and other Providers, among ECM Providers and family member(s) and/or support person(s), whether obtained by ECM Provider or by Contractor;
- » Securely share data with ECM Providers and other Providers in support of ECM;
- » Receive, process and send encounters and invoices from ECM Providers to DHCS in accordance with DHCS standards;
 - Receive and process supplemental reports from ECM Providers;
 - Send ECM supplemental reports to DHCS; and
 - Open, track and manage referrals to Community Supports Providers.

B. Data Sharing Requirements for MCPs

In order to support ECM, MCPs must provide, at a minimum, the following information to all ECM Providers:

- » Member assignment files, which include a listing of Medi-Cal Members authorized for ECM and assigned to the ECM Provider;
- » Historical encounters/claims data for assigned Members;
- » ADT feed data within 24 hours of admission, transfer, or discharge (if an ADT feed is available), unless the MCP has verified the ECM Provider has ADT feed data already accessible through another source (effective January 1, 2023);
- » Physical, behavioral and administrative information, and information indicating Member SDOH needs, as specified on previously submitted claims encounters or identified through other data sources (e.g., HMIS) for assigned Members; and
- » Reports of performance on quality measures and/or metrics, as requested.

MCPs are required to use defined federal and state standards, specifications, code sets and terminologies when sharing physical, behavioral, social and administrative data with ECM Providers and with DHCS. See the [Member Level Information Sharing Between MCPs and ECM Providers](#) guidance document for a comprehensive overview of the standards for data exchange between MCPs and ECM Providers. See Appendix G for more information about the guidance documents referenced in this section.

C. Data Sharing Requirements for ECM Providers

DHCS' vision is that ECM Providers will submit encounters to MCPs for transmission to DHCS. Providers that do not have these capabilities will be allowed to submit invoices to MCPs.

DHCS is not specifying the payment model between MCPs and Providers for ECM, though DHCS encourages plans and Providers to adopt or progress to value-based payment models for ECM. Regardless of payment model or reimbursement modality, MCPs are expected to collect encounters from Providers for submission to DHCS.

X. OVERSIGHT OF ECM PROVIDERS

A. MCP Requirements

MCPs are required to perform oversight of ECM Providers, holding them accountable to all ECM requirements contained in the ECM and Community Supports Contract Template, the MCP's MOC, and any associated guidance issued by DHCS. MCPs are expected to use ECM Provider Standard Terms and Conditions to develop ECM contracts with ECM Providers and are expected to incorporate all ECM Provider requirements reviewed and approved by DHCS as part of their MOC, including all monitoring and reporting criteria. To streamline the ECM implementation:

- » MCPs must hold ECM Providers responsible for the same reporting requirements as those that the MCP must report to DHCS.
- » MCPs will not impose mandatory reporting requirements that differ from or are additional to those required for encounter and supplemental reporting.
- » MCPs are encouraged to collaborate with other MCPs within the same county on oversight of ECM Providers.
- » MCPs are recommended to do case/chart level audits regularly to ensure the providers are meeting ECM Provider requirements.

1. NCQA Accreditation Requirements

In order to maximize ECM and Community Supports Provider networks and ease provider burden, the ECM Community Supports Contract Section 3.h specifies that the MCP *"shall not require eligible ECM Providers to be NCQA certified or accredited as a*

condition of contracting as an ECM Provider.” Additionally, MCPs must not utilize tools developed or promulgated by NCQA to perform oversight of ECM Providers, unless by mutual consent with the ECM Provider.

All MCPs must be NCQA accredited by 2026. DHCS understands that MCPs may need to meet NCQA requirements as they pertain to their delivery of CCM and that it can be helpful to NCQA and the MCPs if the state clarifies its position in formal guidance.

The below framework and core principles may be used by MCPs in their efforts on meeting NCQA accreditation.

1. A MCP may, or may not, choose to integrate the CCM program with ECM by delegating CCM functions to community-based ECM Providers. The MCP may decide to retain the CCM functions as MCP-operated functions, and keep the ECM functions separate and distinct.
2. If the MCP decides to retain the CCM functions, rather than delegating them to community-based ECM Providers, then CCM would not be considered to be delegated, and no CCM pre-delegation review activities would be required for community-based ECM Providers.
3. However, if the MCP decides to delegate CCM functions to ECM Providers, then these ECM Providers would be subject to CCM pre-delegation review requirements.
4. If the MCP delegates CCM, then the pre-delegation review would be the responsibility of the MCP. States may take on this responsibility in other parts of the country, but California will not do this.

DHCS continues to finalize guidance for ECM as it relates to NCQA and will make updates to the ECM Policy Guide as necessary.

Training

As previously stated, MCPs must notify all Providers in their network about ECM and Community Supports to enable appropriate referrals of their Members. MCPs must also provide ECM training and technical assistance to ECM Providers, including in-person sessions, webinars and/or calls, as necessary, in addition to Network Provider training requirements described in Medi-Cal Boilerplate Template, Exhibit A,

Attachment 7, Provision 5, Network Provider Training.⁸² MCPs should use their key performance indicators tracking referral patterns to inform what additional trainings may be necessary.

B. Subcontracting Agreements

MCPs may subcontract with other entities to administer ECM, provided they adhere to the below requirements:

- » MCPs will maintain and be responsible for oversight of compliance with all Contract provisions and Covered Services, regardless of the number of layers of subcontracting;
- » MCPs will be responsible for developing and maintaining DHCS-approved Policies and Procedures to ensure Subcontractors meet required responsibilities and functions;
- » MCPs will be responsible for evaluating the prospective Subcontractor's ability to perform services;
- » MCPs will remain responsible for ensuring the Subcontractor's ECM Provider capacity is sufficient to serve all Populations of Focus;
- » MCPs will report to DHCS the names of all Subcontractors by Subcontractor type and service(s) provided, and identify the county or counties in which Members are served; and
- » MCPs will make all Subcontractor agreements available to DHCS upon request. Such agreements must contain minimum required information specified by DHCS, including method and amount of compensation.

It is well understood by DHCS that primary plans and Subcontractors have different Provider networks. However, DHCS will hold the primary MCP accountable for the requirements of ECM and Community Supports. DHCS will assess the combined network of the primary MCP and Subcontractors for sufficiency and will hold the primary MCP responsible.

MCPs may also choose to delegate ECM to Independent Physician/Provider Associations (IPAs), Medical Groups and Management Service Organizations (MSOs).

⁸² See [Medi-Cal MCP Boilerplate Contracts Template](#).

MCPs must describe these arrangements in the MOC for DHCS approval. IPAs and MSOs must meet all requirements.

MCPs will ensure their Subcontractor agreements for ECM and Community Supports services include the requirements set forth in the ECM and Community Supports Contract Template, and the ECM Provider Standard Terms and Conditions, as applicable to Subcontractor. MCPs are encouraged to collaborate with their Subcontractors on the approach to ECM to minimize variance in how ECM will be implemented and to ensure a streamlined, seamless experience for ECM Providers and Members.

XI. DHCS OVERSIGHT OF ECM

A. Model of Care (MOC) and Approval Process

The ECM MOC is each MCP's framework for providing ECM. Each MCP's MOC includes its overall approach to ECM; its detailed Policies and Procedures with regard to ECM Provider (including non-traditional Provider) contracting and oversight; its ECM and Provider network capacity⁸³; and the contract language that will define key aspects of its arrangements with its ECM Providers.

DHCS uses each MCP's MOC submission to determine its readiness to meet ECM requirements ahead of new ECM Populations of Focus being implemented. MCPs must also submit to DHCS any significant changes to their MOC for DHCS review and approval at least 60 calendar days in advance of any occurrence of changes or updates, in accordance with DHCS policies and guidance, including all applicable DHCS APLs.

Significant changes may include, but are not limited to, changes to the MCP's approach to administer or deliver ECM services, approved policies and procedures, and Subcontractor Agreements boilerplates.

⁸³ ECM Provider Exceptions are over as of June 2024. MCPs may continue to request exception from the JI ECM Provider network overlap requirement between MCPs in the same county; please reference [CalAIM-JI-Policy-and-Operations-Guide-Foundational-Guidance](#) for additional information.

MCPs should expect review of the MOC to be an iterative process with DHCS during each review period. DHCS may require resubmission of certain questions or additional material to ensure alignment with DHCS requirements.

B. Use of Data to Monitor ECM

DHCS is taking a data driven approach to its oversight of ECM.

DHCS will review encounter data submitted by MCPs to monitor the overall reach of ECM. MCPs must submit all ECM encounters to DHCS using national standard specifications and code sets defined by DHCS, including the HCPCS codes established in the [ECM and Community Supports HCPCS Coding Guidance](#). MCPs will be responsible for submitting all encounter data for ECM services provided to its Members, regardless of the number of levels of delegation and/or sub-delegation. MCPs must also require their contracted ECM Providers to submit claims for the provision of ECM services using the national standard specifications and code sets established in the [ECM and Community Supports HCPCS Coding Guidance](#).

Furthermore, MCPs may not require or allow ECM and Community Supports Providers to report codes or modifiers for ECM and Community Supports services beyond those included in the ECM and Community Supports HCPCS Coding Guidance, even if the MCP and ECM/Provider mutually agree to the additional codes/modifiers.⁸⁴ As mentioned above in Data System and Data Sharing Requirements to Support ECM, in the event the ECM Provider is unable to submit ECM encounters using the national standard specifications and code sets defined by DHCS, the MCP will be responsible for converting the ECM Provider's encounter information into the national standard specifications and code sets, for submission to DHCS. DHCS requires MCPs to submit encounter data in accordance with requirements in the MCP contract, [APL 14-019](#) or superseding APL, and the [ECM & Community Supports Billing & Invoicing guidance](#) document. See Appendix G for more information about the guidance documents referenced in this section.

⁸⁴ DHCS is working individually with select MCPs who are currently allowing or requiring additional codes/modifiers beyond those established by DHCS. If your organization has any questions about the DHCS-established ECM and Community Supports HCPCS codes, please email: EnhancedCareManagement@dhcs.ca.gov or CommunitySupports@dhcs.ca.gov.

C. JSON Monitoring Process (Updated September 2026)

Beginning in January 2024, DHCS is transitioning the quarterly reporting performed via the Quarterly Implementation Monitoring Report (QIMR) Excel Reports by requiring additional monthly JSON file submissions. JSON, or JavaScript Object Notation, is an open standard file format that streamlines the collection and transmission of implementation data and is utilized by the Department for other mandatory reporting purposes.

As part of DHCS's continued work to streamline data reporting and improve data quality across programs:

- » DHCS **discontinued** the acceptance of the Quarterly Implementation Monitoring Report (QIMR) files after August 14, 2026, when the final Q2 2026 QIMR submission was due.
- » After completing this final QIMR Submission, MCPs will be required to exclusively submit their **monthly ECM/Community Supports JSON submissions and their 837 encounter transactions** for all ECM/Community Supports reporting purposes.
- » To support high-quality monitoring, evaluation, and program integrity, MCPs must ensure that all ECM and Community Supports JSON files and 837 encounter transactions submitted to DHCS are accurate, complete, internally consistent, and aligned with each other. Following DHCS's retirement of the Quarterly Implementation Monitoring Report (QIMR) after the final Q2 2026 submission, monthly JSON files and 837 encounters serve as the sole official data sources for ECM/Community Supports reporting, including but not limited to publicly reported dashboards, Federal and statewide reporting required for CMS and DHCS compliance and funding, program monitoring, evaluation, and planning activities driving quality improvement and future program decisions, service integration and coordination, network capacity, provider relations, and member growth and experience. Timely completion and accurate data submission supports DHCS in collecting accurate ECM data.

DHCS has produced accompanying Technical Documentation through an available Technical Assistance Companion Guide, containing all of the technical information (including data dictionaries, file layouts, JSON Schemas, and details on response files) required for MCPs to be able to submit one data file to DHCS monthly. A Data Dictionary is also available, describing the required data values as well as the validation edits performed on specific data elements. Both technical documentation

resources are available online in the DHCS Documentation Center and MCPs seeking access to these resources should contact EDIMdatasupport@dhcs.ca.gov.

DHCS may conduct detailed audits of MCPs and ECM as part of the annual audit process and /or other focused audits.

D. Requirements to Track Outreach

The MCP contract specifies that “Contractor shall track and report to DHCS, in a format to be defined by DHCS, information about outreach efforts related to potential Members to be enrolled in ECM”. The [ECM and Community Supports Coding Options](#) guidance document includes HCPCS codes MCPs must use to submit encounters for ECM outreach attempts. MCPs must submit outreach data via monthly JSON submissions. In addition to this monthly report, MCPs will, upon DHCS request, provide information about outreach for rate setting purposes by way of the Supplemental Data Request (SDR) process. Within the [Member-Level Information Sharing Between MCPs and ECM Providers](#) guidance document, DHCS lays out standards for outreach tracking at the Provider level to create consistency in the way Providers are being asked to track the information and share it with multiple MCPs. This set of standards is called the “ECM Provider Initial Outreach Tracker File.”

E. ECM Provider Reporting in 274

In order to monitor ECM and Community Supports Providers on an ongoing basis, DHCS will require MCPs to report ECM Providers in the 274 Provider file, beginning upon implementation. Guidance related to reporting ECM Providers in the 274 Provider file is forthcoming.

XII. APPENDICES

Appendix A: ECM Implementation Dates by County

Counties with WPC Pilots and/or HHP (Begin ECM implementation on 1/1/22)	Program	Counties without WPC Pilots and/or HHP (Begin ECM implementation on 7/1/22)	Counties without WPC Pilots and/or HHP, Continued (Begin ECM implementation on 7/1/22)
Alameda	HHP, WPC	Alpine	Solano
Contra Costa	WPC	Amador	Stanislaus
Imperial	HHP	Butte	Sutter
Kern	HHP, WPC	Calaveras	Tehama
Kings	WPC	Colusa	Trinity
Los Angeles	HHP, WPC	Del Norte	
Marin	WPC	El Dorado	
Mendocino	WPC	Fresno	
Monterey	WPC	Glenn	
Napa	WPC	Humboldt	
Orange	HHP, WPC	Inyo	
Placer	WPC	Lake	
Riverside	HHP, WPC	Lassen	
Sacramento	HHP, WPC	Madera	
San Bernardino	HHP, WPC	Mariposa	
San Diego	HHP, WPC	Merced	

Counties with WPC Pilots and/or HHP (Begin ECM implementation on 1/1/22)	Program	Counties without WPC Pilots and/or HHP (Begin ECM implementation on 7/1/22)	Counties without WPC Pilots and/or HHP, Continued (Begin ECM implementation on 7/1/22)
San Francisco	HHP, WPC	Modoc	
San Joaquin	WPC	Mono	
San Mateo	WPC	Nevada	
Santa Clara	HHP, WPC	Plumas	
Santa Cruz	WPC	San Benito	
Shasta	WPC	San Luis Obispo	
Sonoma	WPC	Santa Barbara	
Tulare	HHP	Sierra	
Ventura	WPC	Siskiyou	

Appendix B: Access Criteria for SMHS, DMC-ODS, and DMC

SMHS Access Criteria: [BHIN 21-073](#) or superseding BHIN updates and clarifies the criteria for access to SMHS, both for adults and beneficiaries under age 21.

- » For beneficiaries 21 years of age or older, a county MHP shall provide covered SMHS for beneficiaries who meet **BOTH of the following criteria**:
 - The beneficiary has one or both of the following:
 - Significant impairment, where impairment is defined as distress, disability, or dysfunction in social, occupational, or other important activities; and/or
 - A reasonable probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning; AND
 - The beneficiary's condition as described is due to either of the following:
 - A diagnosed mental health disorder, according to the criteria of the current editions of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems; or
 - A suspected mental disorder that has not yet been diagnosed.
- » For enrolled beneficiaries under 21 years of age, a county MHP shall provide all medically necessary SMHS required pursuant to Section 1396d(r) of Title 42 of the United States Code. Covered SMHS shall be provided to enrolled beneficiaries who meet **either of the following criteria**, (1) or (2) below:
 - (1) The beneficiary has a condition placing them at high risk for a mental health disorder due to experience of trauma evidenced by any of the following: scoring in the high-risk range under a trauma screening tool approved by the department, involvement in the child welfare system, juvenile justice involvement, or experiencing homelessness; OR
 - (2) The beneficiary meets both of the following requirements in a) and b), below:
 - a) The beneficiary has at least one of the following:
 - A significant impairment

- A reasonable probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning A reasonable probability of not progressing developmentally as appropriate.
- A need for SMHS, regardless of presence of impairment, that are not included within the mental health benefits that a MCP is required to provide; AND
- b) The beneficiary's condition as described in subparagraph (2) above is due to **one of the following**:
 - A diagnosed mental health disorder, according to the criteria of the current editions of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.
 - A suspected mental health disorder that has not yet been diagnosed.
 - Significant trauma placing the beneficiary at risk of a future mental health condition, based on the assessment of a licensed mental health professional.

DMC-ODS Access Criteria: [BHIN 21-019](#) or superseding BHIN clarifies the policy related to access to treatment during the initial assessment period, medical necessity determination, and level of care placement for DMC-ODS. Within non- residential treatment settings, which includes mobile crisis services, DMC- ODS services are reimbursable for up to 30 days following a visit with a Licensed Professional of the Healing Arts (LPHA) or registered/certified counselor, whether or not a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) diagnosis for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders is established, or up to 60 days if the beneficiary is under 21 if a Provider documents that the beneficiary is experiencing homelessness and therefore requires additional time to complete the assessment. If a beneficiary withdraws from treatment prior to establishing a DSM diagnosis, the time period starts over.

- » To qualify for DMC-ODS services after the initial assessment, beneficiaries 21 years of age or older must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Have at least one diagnosis from the current DSM for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non Substance-Related Disorders; OR

- Have had at least one diagnosis from the current DSM for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance Related Disorders, prior to being incarcerated or during incarceration, as determined by substance use history.
- » Beneficiaries under age 21 are entitled to receive all medically necessary DMC-ODS services as required pursuant to Section 1396d(r) of Title 42 of the United States Code. Federal EPSDT statutes and regulations require States to furnish all Medicaid- coverable, appropriate, and medically necessary services needed to correct and ameliorate health conditions, regardless of whether those services are covered in the state's Medicaid State Plan. Consistent with federal guidance, services need not be curative or completely restorative to ameliorate a mental health condition, including substance misuse and SUDs. Services that sustain, support, improve, or make more tolerable substance misuse or an SUD are considered to ameliorate the condition and are thus covered as EPSDT services.

DMC Services Medical Necessity Criteria: Providers must ensure that Members meet and document the medical necessity criteria for DMC services, further details can be found in [California Code of Regulations, Title 22, § 51341.1](#)

Appendix C: Definitions for the Purposes of the Justice-Involved Population of Focus

Criteria	Definition
Mental Illness	A person with a mental illness is a person who is currently receiving mental health services or medications OR meets both of the following criteria: i. The member has one or both of the following: a. Significant impairment, where “impairment” is defined as distress, disability, or dysfunction in social, occupational, or other important activities. b. A reasonable probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning. ii. The beneficiary’s condition as described in the bullet above is due to either of the following: a. A diagnosed mental health disorder, according to the criteria of the current editions of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. b. A suspected mental disorder that has not yet been diagnosed
Substance use Disorder (SUD)	A person with a SUD is a person who either: i. Meets the criteria for an SUD as defined in the current editions of the DSM and/or the <i>International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems</i>. ii. Has a suspected SUD diagnosis that is currently being assessed through either National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)-modified Alcohol, Smoking

Criteria	Definition
	and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST), American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria.
Chronic Condition / Significant Clinical Condition	Condition, as indicated: » Active cancer; » Active hepatitis A, B, C, D, or E; » Advanced liver disease » Advanced renal (kidney) disease; » Autoimmune disease, including but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, inflammatory bowel disease, and multiple sclerosis; » Chronic musculoskeletal disorders that impact functionality of activities of daily living, including but not limited to arthritis and muscular dystrophy; » Chronic neurological disorder; » Severe chronic pain » Congestive heart failure » Connective tissue disease » Coronary artery disease; » Currently prescribed opiates or benzodiazepines; » Currently undergoing a course of treatment for any other diagnosis that will require medication management of three or more medications or one or more complex medications that requires monitoring (e.g. anticoagulation) therapy after reentry; » Cystic fibrosis and other metabolic development disorders; » Epilepsy or seizures; » Foot, hand, arm, or leg amputee; » Hip/pelvic fracture;

Criteria	Definition
	» HIV/AIDS; » Hyperlipidemia; » Hypertension; » Incontinence; » Severe migraine or chronic headache; » Long COVID-19; » Moderate to severe atrial fibrillation/arrhythmia; » Moderate to severe mobility or neurosensory impairment (including, but not limited to spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, transverse myelitis, spinal canal stenosis, peripheral neuropathy); » Obesity; » Peripheral vascular disease; » Pressure injury or chronic ulcers (vascular, neuropathic, moisture-related); » Previous stroke or transient ischemic attack; » Receiving gender affirming care; » Active respiratory conditions, such as severe bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, or emphysema. Severe viral, bacterial, or fungal infections; » Sickle cell disease or other hematological disorders; » Significant hearing or visual impairment; » Spina bifida or other congenital anomalies of the nervous system; » Tuberculosis; » Type 1 or 2 diabetes.

Criteria	Definition
Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD)	A person with an intellectual or developmental disability is a one who has a disability that begins before the individual reaches age 18 and that is expected to continue indefinitely and present a substantial disability. Qualifying conditions include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, and other disabling conditions as defined in Section 4512 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code .
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	A person with a traumatic brain injury, is one with a condition that has caused significant cognitive, behavioral, and/or functional impairment.
HIV/AIDS	A person with HIV/AIDS shall have tested positive for either HIV or AIDS at any point in their life.
Pregnant or Postpartum	A person who is pregnant or postpartum is one who is either currently pregnant or within the 12-month period following the end of pregnancy.

Appendix D: Existing Aid Codes and Eligibility Groups for Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare Population of Focus

» Foster Care Enrollment in California Aid Codes:⁸⁵

- Approved Relative Caregiver (youth in this category are eligible for former foster care youth eligibility group (see below) if they exit foster care at age 18 or older):
 - 2P – Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Only
 - 2R – ARC Only for Non-minor Dependents (NMD)
 - 2S – ARC Funding Option and Federal California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS)
 - 2T – ARC Funding Option and State CalWORKS
 - 2U – ARC and State CalWORKS for NMD
- Foster Care (other than youth in aid codes 4E and 4M, youth in this category are eligible for former foster care youth eligibility group (see below) if they exit foster care at age 18 or older):
 - 4E – Foster Care Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (PE) (Age 18 to 26 Years)
 - 4H – Foster Care Child in CalWORKs
 - 4K – Emergency Assistance (EA) Foster Care
 - 4L – Foster Care Child in 1931(b)
 - 4M – Former Foster Youth Program (FFY) (see below)
 - 4N – CalWORKs NMD State Cash/FFP Medi-Cal
 - 40 – Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Foster Care (FC) – Non-Federal
 - 42 – AFDC - FC – Federal

⁸⁵ A child's involvement in foster care would only be identified by these aid codes if they were currently enrolled in foster care. These aid codes do not track former foster care enrollment in California or another state.

- 43 – AFDC FC NMD State Cash/FFP Medi-Cal
 - 45 – Foster Care
 - 46 – Foster Care – Out of State (OOS) – CA Medi-Cal
 - 49 – AFDC-FC NMD Title IV-E Federal/FFP Medi-Cal
 - 5K – EA Foster Care – Child Welfare Services (CWS) – State Only
 - 5L – EA Foster Care-Non Fed; EA Program
- » Former Foster Care Youth Eligibility Group (youth in this category are eligible if they exist foster care at age 18 or older, regardless of the state they were in foster care, up to age 26 and regardless of income):
- 4M – Former Foster Youth Program (FFY)
- » Adoption Assistance Program Aid Codes:⁸⁶
- 03 – Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) – Federal
 - 04 – AAP/Aid for the Adoption of Children (AAC)
 - 06 – AAP/Out of State (OOS) – CA Medi-Cal
 - 07 – AAP NMD Title IV-E/Federal Financial Participation (FFP) Medi-Cal
 - 4A – OOS of State AAP Children

There are no aid nor eligibility codes to track Family Maintenance eligibility or enrollment.

⁸⁶ A child's involvement in Adoption Assistance Program would only be identified by these aid codes if they currently were enrolled in the Program. These aid codes do not track eligibility for the Program.

Appendix E: DMC & DMC-ODS Counties (as of January 2026)⁸⁷

DMC Counties	DMC-ODS Counties	DMC-ODS Counties, Continued
Alpine	Alameda	Riverside
Amador	Contra Costa	Sacramento
Butte	El Dorado	San Benito
Calaveras	Fresno	San Bernardino
Colusa	Humboldt	San Diego
Del Norte	Imperial	San Francisco
Glenn	Kern	San Joaquin
Inyo	Lake	San Luis Obispo
Kings	Lassen	San Mateo
Madera	Los Angeles	Santa Barbara
Mono	Marin	Santa Clara
Plumas	Mariposa	Santa Cruz
Sierra	Mendocino	Shasta
Sutter	Merced	Siskiyou
Tehama	Modoc	Solano
Trinity	Monterey	Sonoma
Tuolumne	Napa	Stanislaus
Yuba	Nevada	Tulare

⁸⁷ [Counties Participating in DMC-ODS.](#)

DMC Counties	DMC-ODS Counties	DMC-ODS Counties, Continued
	Orange	Ventura
	Placer	Yolo

Appendix F: CCS & CCS WCM Counties (as of January 2026)⁸⁸

CCS Counties	CCS WCM Counties	CCS WCM Counties, Continued
Alameda	Butte	Siskiyou
Alpine	Colusa	Solano
Amador	Del Norte	Sonoma
Calaveras	Glenn	Sutter
Contra Costa	Humboldt	Tehama
El Dorado	Lake	Trinity
Fresno	Lassen	Yuba
Imperial	Marin	Yolo
Inyo	Mariposa	
Kern	Mendocino	
Kings	Merced	
Los Angeles	Modoc	
Madera	Monterey	
Mono	Napa	

⁸⁸ [DHCS CCS WCM webpage.](#)

CCS Counties	CCS WCM Counties	CCS WCM Counties, Continued
Riverside	Nevada	
Sacramento	Orange	
San Bernardino	Placer	
San Diego	Plumas	
San Francisco	San Benito	
San Joaquin	San Luis Obispo	
Santa Clara	San Mateo	
Stanislaus	Santa Barbara	
Tulare	Santa Cruz	
Tuolumne	Shasta	
Ventura	Sierra	

Appendix G: Data & Reporting Guidance Documents

Guidance	Description
Billing & Invoicing Guidance	Standard, "minimum necessary" data elements MCPs will need to collect from ECM or Community Supports Providers unable to submit ANSI ASC X12N 837P claims to MCPs.
Member Information File Guidance	Defines standards for data sharing between MCPs and ECM Providers.
Quarterly Implementation Monitoring Report Guidance	Time-limited quarterly MCP reporting requirements and Excel template related to ECM and Community Supports implementation across multiple domains. They are "supplemental" to encounters.
ECM & Community Supports Coding Options	Contains the HCPCS codes that MCPs must use for ECM and Community Supports services.