



# NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: MARCH 12, 2024

## **THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROPOSES TO SUBMIT A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADD ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR (APCC) SERVICES AS COVERED MEDI-CAL SERVICES FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE CENTERS (FQHCs), RURAL HEALTH CLINICS (RHCS), AND TRIBAL FQHCs**

This notice is to provide information of public interest that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The proposed SPA 24-0015 seeks CMS approval to authorize APCC services, provided under the supervision of licensed health professionals, as eligible reimbursable Medi-Cal behavioral health services to patients at FQHCs, RHCs, or Tribal FQHCs. This is an effort to expand access to these services for patients living in medically underserved, rural, and remote areas in California.

DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for adding APCC services to the list of billable behavioral health services at FQHCs, RHCs, & Tribal FQHCs will be \$0.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is April 1, 2024. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

### **Public Review and Comments**

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA #24-0015 will be published on: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2024.aspx>.

If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA #24-0015 using the mailing or email address listed below.



Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services  
Benefits Division  
Clinical Policy and Special Program Branch  
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4601  
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to [PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov). Please indicate SPA #24-0015 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA #24-0015 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email address identified above.