

DHCS LAUNCHES OUTREACH EFFORT TO HELP CALIFORNIANS ENROLL IN HEALTH COVERAGE

COVID-19 Uninsured Group Program Ending on May 31

SACRAMENTO — During the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), more than 500,000 Californians were able to obtain temporary health coverage for COVID testing and treatment through the [COVID-19 Uninsured Group \(UIG\) Program](#). UIG Program coverage ends on May 31, 2023, with the end of the federal PHE, so the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is working to educate individuals who may be eligible for other health care coverage.

That's why DHCS is launching a statewide toolkit (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) for [DHCS Coverage Ambassadors](#) and other trusted partners to help encourage UIG Program members to enroll in ongoing health coverage through Medi-Cal or Covered California after the UIG Program ends.

"This program provided hundreds of thousands of Californians with vital COVID-19 testing and treatment services, when it was needed most," said **DHCS Director Michelle Baass**. "It is DHCS' priority that uninsured Californians get access to quality, affordable health coverage."

The toolkit shares resources for UIG Program members, previously deemed ineligible for Medi-Cal, to apply for health coverage, including local [county contact](#) information and how to apply online. The toolkit includes collateral materials, such as flyers, social media posts, sample messaging, and infographics for DHCS Coverage Ambassadors and other partners to use. These materials will be translated into all 19 Medi-Cal threshold languages. Partners will be able to customize resources to fit their needs and share messaging through their own channels.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT: Over the past three years, the UIG Program covered medically necessary COVID-19 diagnostic testing, testing-related services, and treatment services, including vaccination, hospitalization, and all medically necessary care related to COVID-19. The program served eligible uninsured and underinsured individuals, and was available for people with private health insurance that did not cover services related to COVID-19. Individuals were screened for Medi-Cal eligibility prior to being enrolled in the UIG Program.

On February 9, 2023, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, in his [letter to U.S. Governors](#), provided states with 90 days' notice to end the federal COVID-19 PHE on May 11, 2023. Since the UIG Program has full-month eligibility, the UIG Program will end on May 31. UIG Program members will have 60 days after May 31 to apply for Covered California through a special enrollment period.

RETURN OF MEDI-CAL RENEWALS: On April 1, 2023, after three years, California will restart annual Medicaid eligibility reviews to determine if Medi-Cal members and their families still qualify for coverage. If you have Medi-Cal, make sure you get ready to renew. Members can update their contact information or complete their renewals online at [Covered California](#), [BenefitsCal](#), or [My Benefits CalWIN](#).

More information about DHCS' strategy to unwind the UIG Program is available in the [Medi-Cal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Continuous Coverage Unwinding Plan](#).

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