

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MEDI-CAL

benefitsSF

What is Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal is California's health care program. This program pays for a variety of medical services for children and adults with limited income and resources. Medi-Cal is supported by federal and state taxes. Medi-Cal is administered by the County Social Services Agencies. Click here for a copy of the Medi-Cal brochure published by the California Department of Health Services:

www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/publications/Documents/Medi-Cal_PDFs/pub68_english.pdf

What happens when an application is submitted?

If you submit a Medi-Cal application using this website we will review it for Medi-Cal eligibility first. Then, if we think you are better fit for another health program, and you have given us your permission, we will send your application on to Healthy Families, Healthy Kids or Healthy San Francisco. Applications to Healthy San Francisco will require an in person interview. A staff person will contact you to follow up on all applications.

Your Medi-Cal application may be referred to one of these three programs:

- **Healthy Families** is a federally-funded low cost insurance that provides health, dental and vision coverage to children without insurance and do not qualify for Medi-Cal. The insurance pays most of your children's doctor, dentist and specialist costs. This program is administered by a State of CA.
- **Healthy Kids** is a locally funded and administered health care program for San Francisco residents who are uninsured through age 18. You may qualify for Healthy Kids if you are not eligible for no-cost Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program. Children through age 18 may qualify if they are US Citizens, eligible qualified immigrants and undocumented immigrants. The insurance pays for children's doctor, dentist and other specialist costs.
- **Healthy San Francisco** is a locally funded and administered health care program for uninsured residents of San Francisco, who do not otherwise qualify for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. The income eligibility threshold for Healthy San Francisco is subject to change. You may qualify for Healthy San Francisco if you meet all of the following a) living on combined family income at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level, (b) have proof of San Francisco residency, (c) uninsured for at least 90 days, (d) not eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, and (e) between the ages of 18 and 64. Healthy San Francisco is available to San Francisco residents regardless of immigration status, employment status or pre-existing medical condition. Applications to Healthy San Francisco will require an in person interview.

Who can get Medi-Cal?

1. Persons 65 or older
2. Persons who are under 21 years of age.
3. Certain adults between 21 and 65 years of age, if they have children under the age of 21 who do not have the support or care of one parent because of his/her absence, death, incapacity or unemployment.
4. Persons who are blind or disabled.
5. Pregnant women
6. Residents of a long term care facility.
7. Certain Refugees, Asylees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants

What is retroactive Medi-Cal and who can apply?

Retroactive Medi-Cal covers unpaid medical expenses from the three months prior to the month you apply for Medi-Cal. If you have unpaid bills from the three previous months, enter that information during the application process. If you qualify for Medi-cal, you will also be evaluated for retroactive coverage. You will have to provide some basic information about the past months to qualify; a Medi-Cal representative will contact you and explain the process.

What if I have other health coverage, can I still apply for Medi-Cal?

Yes. Your health plan or HMO will be billed for services it covers. Medi-Cal will be billed for services your health plan does not cover.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to get health benefits?

No. Most healthcare programs, including Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and Healthy San Francisco do not use U.S. Citizenship as an eligibility requirement. However, depending on the program, the range of services that you may qualify for may be restricted. For example, some persons may receive pregnancy related and emergency services only; others are eligible for full Medi-Cal benefits depending on their non-citizen status.

Do I have to answer questions regarding my immigration status on my Medi-Cal application?

No. You are not required to answer questions regarding immigration status as part of the screening process. However failure to provide proof of immigration status will disqualify you from some programs like Healthy San Francisco.

Do I have to know which health benefits to apply for ahead of time?

No. If you complete the Medi-Cal application on this website, your application will also be screened for Healthy Families, Healthy Kids and Healthy San Francisco if appropriate. A representative from one of these affordable health programs will contact you if you are found eligible for one of these programs and to tell you any steps you need to take.

Can I apply for health benefits if I don't have common forms of verification like a pay stub, tax return or rent agreement to provide?

Yes. Most health programs take into consideration the diverse income sources and living situations of those applying for alternative forms of verification.

What Medi-Cal verification documents will I need?

You must show ONE document for each type of verification.

Category	Documents	Category	Documents
Social Security Numbers	Social Security Cards	Medical Bills	Medical Bills for All Members
Residence	Driver's License ▪ Check Stub ▪ Rent or Mortgage Receipt ▪ Utility Bill	Other Income	Current Benefit Check ▪ Copies of Child Support Checks ▪ Alimony Checks
Earned Income	Dated Check Stubs for the Last 30 Days ▪ Statement from your Employer ▪ Copy of Last Year's Tax Return	Housing and Other Bills	Mortgage or Rent Receipts ▪ Lease or Statement from your Landlord ▪ Property Tax Statement ▪ Utility Bills
Assets	Bank Statements ▪ Mortgage Statements ▪ Life Insurance Policies, etc	Identity of Applicant	Birth Certificate ▪ Driver's License ▪ Pay Check ▪ Voter Registration Card ▪ School Records ▪ U.S. Passport
Resources	Bank Statements Showing Savings and Checking ▪ Mortgage Statements ▪ Life Insurance Policies ▪ Statements of Stocks, Bonds or Certificates of Deposit (CDs)	Medical Bills	Only Needed for Household Members who are Aged 60 Years or Older or Permanently Disabled ▪ Billing Statement ▪ Itemized Receipts
Immigration Status	Permanent Resident Card ▪ T or U Visa	Vehicle Registration	Department of Motor Vehicle Registration Certificate

Do all health benefit programs charge fees?

No. It depends on the program. Some programs (like Medi-Cal) begin to assign fees based at a certain federal poverty level (household income and family size). Others do not charge any fees for the covered services.

This Fact Sheet is current as of June 2010. It is not to be used as a substitute for Federal, State or County regulations. The SF Department of Human Services has copies of current regulations you may review.