



SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Community Leaders & Stakeholders: Medi-Cal and CalFresh Update and SFHSA Action Plan

September 2, 2026

The meeting will begin shortly.



Agenda

1. State and Federal Policy Changes to Medi-Cal
2. State and Federal Policy Changes to CalFresh
3. Client Impacts
4. Public Charge Update
5. Our HR1 Action Plan and How Partners Can Help
6. Q&A



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Medi-Cal: State and Federal Policy Changes Updates



Upcoming Medi-Cal Policy Changes

January 2027

- More frequent Medi-Cal renewals
- New Medi-Cal work requirements
- Medi-Cal will pay fewer months of past medical bills

July 2027

- Medi-Cal premiums (\$30/month per person) begin for UIS or immigrants with unsatisfactory status*
- Asset limits return

2027

Original implementation: July 2026

DELAYED to July 2027

- Some undocumented immigrants ages 19 and older will stop receiving dental benefits as part of their Medi-Cal coverage

Original implementation: October 2026

DELAYED to July 2027

- Certain immigrants without LPR status transition to Restricted Medi-Cal

**UIS: people with unsatisfactory immigration status. Current and former foster youth who are undocumented are excluded from the state's enrollment freeze and new premiums until they turn 26. Pregnant people are also excluded.*

Medi-Cal: More Frequent Renewals

Effective January 1, 2027 >>> Impact on March Renewals

SFHSA must redetermine eligibility **every 6 months** instead of yearly for the "ACA Expansion Group" who are primarily:

- Age 19 to 64 years old,
- Parents with children aged 14 and older
- Not otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal under traditional categories (like disability, pregnancy)

Renewal cycle happens at individual level, so family members may have different renewal dates (e.g., Adults in ACA expansion group renew every 6 months, other family members every 12 months).

- Some can be renewed automatically based on available data, but this option is limited.

Medi-Cal: New Work Requirements

Effective January 1, 2027

Adults 19-64 in the ACA expansion group must work, attend school, or do community service for at least 80 hours per month; **or** earn monthly income of at least \$580.

- Primary exemptions:
 - Already meeting CalFresh work requirement
 - Pregnant people
 - Parents with children aged 13 or younger
 - People with disabilities/unable to work
 - People with serious health conditions, including substance use disorders ("Medical Frailty")
 - Former foster youth under age 26
- Must be verified at application and at each redetermination.
- Continuing beneficiaries must demonstrate compliance for one or more months in between renewals, as part of the routine renewal process.
- Includes clients with unsatisfactory immigration status (state required)

Medi-Cal: Fewer Months of Retroactive Coverage

Effective January 1, 2027

Right now, Medi-Cal can help pay for health care bills for up to three months *before* the date of the client's application.

With this change:

- Adults 19-64 in the ACA expansion group will only have coverage for health care bills from *one month* prior to application
- All others will have coverage for health care bills from *two months* prior to the application

Medi-Cal: Fee for Service for Undocumented Immigrants

Effective January 1, 2027

- Final State budget agreement adopts moving individuals with Unsatisfactory Immigration Status (UIS) to a fee-for-service delivery system, rather than managed care
- Proposed by Governor Newsom's Administration to comply with federal directives and avoid losing federal funding; adopted by the legislature in the FY 26/27 budget

Medi-Cal: Dental Benefits

Implementation Date: ~~July 1, 2026~~ → July 1, 2027

- Full Medi-Cal coverage recipients age 19 and older who are undocumented or have temporary immigration status will lose dental benefits.
- Implementation of this change has been delayed from July 2026 to July 2027



Medi-Cal Asset Limits Return for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Implementation Date: July 1, 2027

- \$21,000 for individuals
- \$31,000 for couples
- \$1,500 for each additional household member

Medi-Cal: Limited Immigrant Eligibility

Implementation Date: ~~October 2026~~ → July 2027

Ends federal Medicaid funding for certain immigrants without Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR, or green card) status including:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Trafficking victims
- Other certain noncitizens that were previously eligible

These immigrants will transition to "Restricted" (emergency-only) Medi-Cal in July 2027



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CalFresh: State and Federal Policy Changes Updates



CalFresh: Limited Immigrant Eligibility

Implementation Date: April 1, 2026

Ended CalFresh eligibility for certain immigrants without Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR, or green card) status including:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Trafficking survivors*
- Other certain noncitizens that were previously eligible*

Impacted new applications as of April 1, 2026. Ongoing households are impacted at their next recertification, starting for households with recertifications that were due in April 2026.

**Certain noncitizens losing Federal eligibility may be eligible for State benefits under the California Food Access Program (CFAP). We encourage noncitizens to apply or contact SFHSA for more details about their specific case.*



CalFresh: Expanded Work Requirements

Implementation Date: June 1, 2026

California's waiver of the CalFresh work requirement has ended. Starting June 1, many CalFresh recipients are required to meet federal work requirements under newly-expanded definitions.

The work requirements apply to people who:

- Are adults 18-64
- Can work
- Do not live with a child under 14

People subject to these requirements can only get 3 months of benefits in a 3-year period unless they meet certain work requirements or qualify for an exemption.

As of June 1, new applicants are subject to HR-1 screening and work rules, while existing clients are subject at their next renewal.



CalFresh: Expanded Work Requirements (continued)

Implementation Date: June 1, 2026

Exemptions remain for anyone who:

- Lives with a child under 14
- Physically, mentally or life circumstances make them *unfit to work* (based on interview)
- Works 30+ hours/week or earns \$217.50+ per week
- Is in school at least half-time
- Is pregnant
- Has substance use disorder or is in treatment
- Receives/applies for Unemployment Insurance or disability benefits
- Cares for an ill or disabled person
- Meeting CalWORKs work requirement
- Is U.S. Native American (new exemption)

People experiencing homelessness, veterans, and individuals age 24 or younger in foster care are *no longer* categorically exempt.



CalFresh: Expanded Work Requirements (continued)

Implementation Date: June 1, 2026

If not exempt, someone can meet work requirements by doing one or more of the following:

- Working on average 30 hours per week, at least 80 hours per month, or earning equal to \$217.50 per week
- Volunteering or performing community service 20 hours per week, at least 80 hours per month
- Employment training 20 hours per week, at least 80 hours per month
- Participating in a qualifying CalFresh workfare activity:
 - The number of workfare hours required per month is determined by dividing the CalFresh benefit amount by the City's minimum wage (e.g., \$298 monthly benefit / \$19.61 (SF minimum wage) = *only* 15 hours per month, rather than 80)
 - Workfare can be a placement in a City Agency or with a nonprofit

CalFresh: Expanded Work Requirements (continued)

Implementation Date: June 1, 2026

Implementation Rollout:

- **New Applicants:** subject to screening and the expanded work requirements starting June 1.
- **Ongoing Households** subject to screening and the expanded work requirements at their next recertification, starting for households with recertifications due in June.

Example: A person applies and is approved for CalFresh in January 2026 with a 12-month certification period. This person will not be subject to the HR-1 screening and rules until their recertification in December 2026.

If screened and found not exempt, this person will be required to meet work rules starting January 2027 to keep getting CalFresh after the three-month limit.



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H.R. 1 Client Impacts

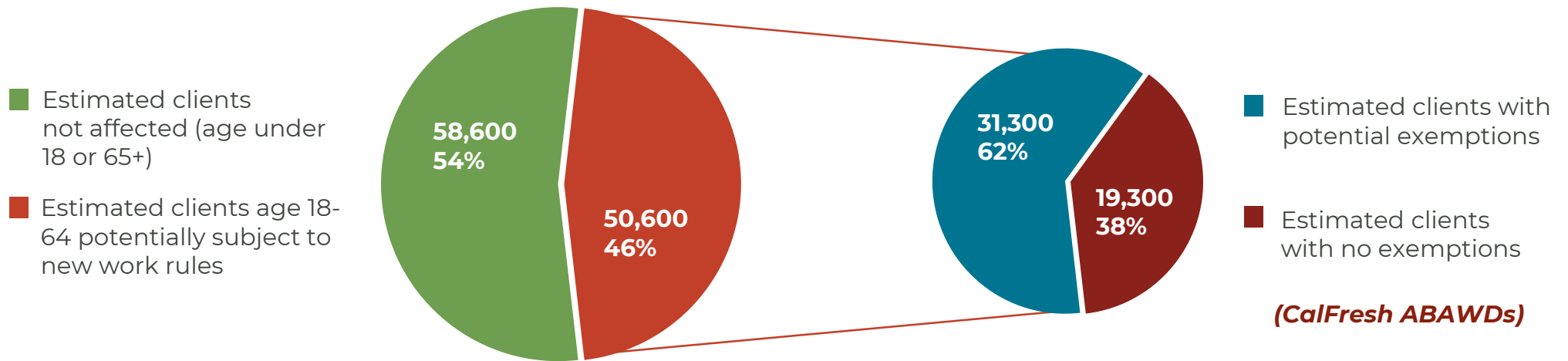


CalFresh Client Impact Estimates

- Approximately 19,300 CalFresh clients likely subject to work requirements and unlikely to qualify for exemption.
- They represent about 18% of San Francisco's CalFresh caseload.

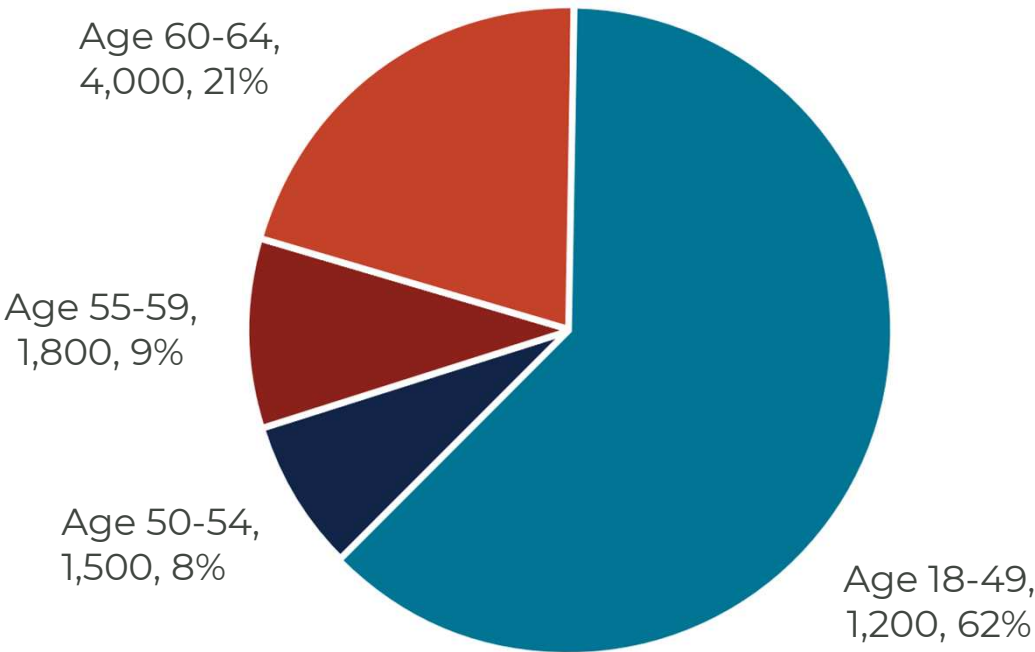


Projected Impact for CalFresh Caseload



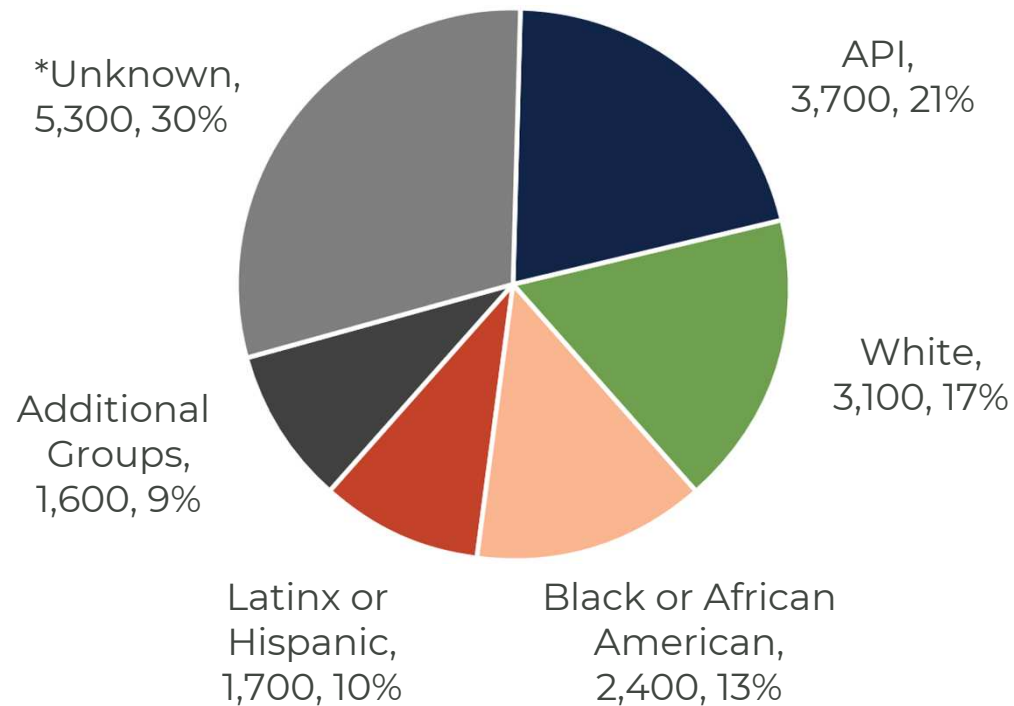
Source: CalSAWS December 2025

Projected Impacted CalFresh Clients by Age



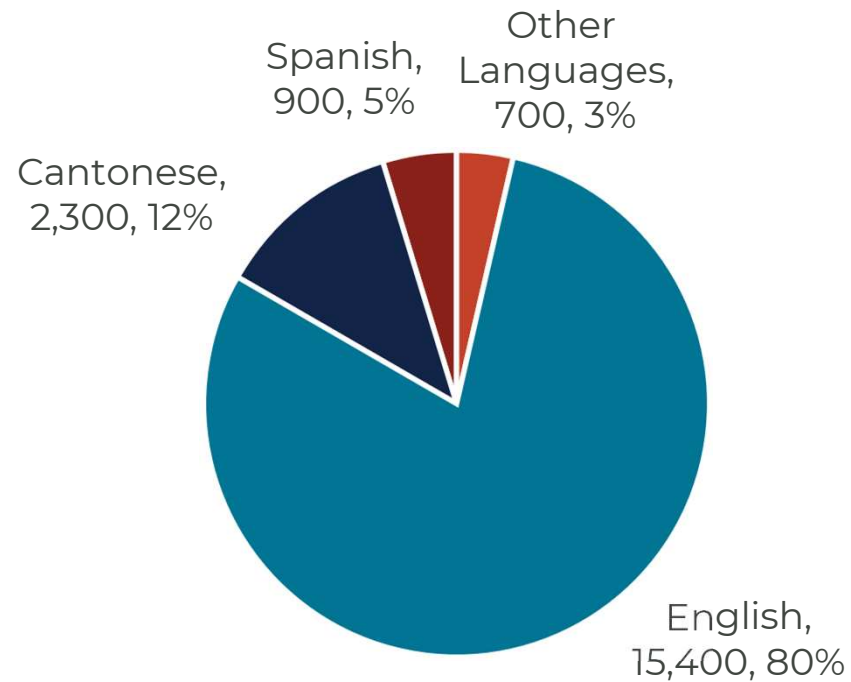
Source: CalSAWS December 2025

Projected Impacted CalFresh Clients by Race/Ethnicity



Source: CalSAWS December 2025; *race and ethnicity are not required fields in CalSAWS

Projected Impacted CalFresh Clients by Language



Source: CalSAWS December 2025

Other languages include Vietnamese (300 clients), Russian (100), and Filipino (100) among others

Projected Impacted CalFresh Clients by Location

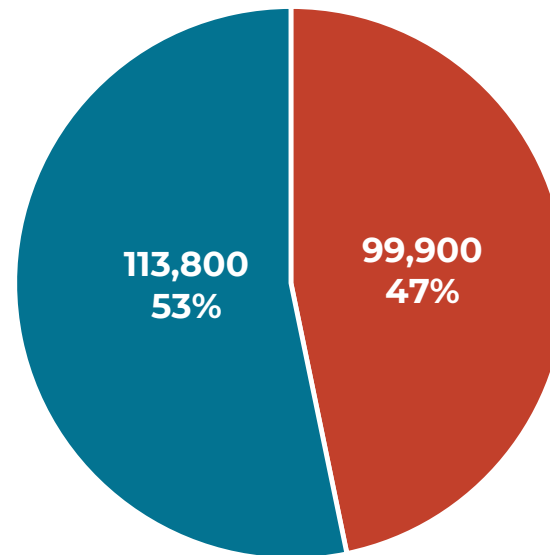
Zip	Neighborhood	#
94102	Hayes Valley/Civic Center/ Tenderloin	5,250
94103	South of Market	1,450
94112	Ingleside/Excelsior	1,400
94124	Bayview/Hunters Point	1,400
94109	Polk/Russian Hill/Nob Hill	1,300
94110	Mission District/Bernal Heights	1,100
94134	Visitacion Valley	950
94122	Sunset	750
94133	North Beach	550
94115	Western Addition/Japantown	500
94116	Sunset/Parkside	500
94121	Outer Richmond	500

Zip	Neighborhood	#
94107	Potrero Hill/SOMA	450
94117	Haight-Ashbury	400
94118	Inner Richmond	400
94132	Lake Merced/ Lakeside	400
94108	Chinatown	300
94114	Castro/Noe Valley	250
94131	Twin Peaks/Glen Park	250
94142	General Delivery	150
94158	Mission Bay	150
94105	Rincon Hill	100
94111	Embarcadero	100
94123	Marina/Cow Hollow	100
94127	St. Francis Wood/West Portal	100
94130	Treasure Island	100
94104	Financial District	-
94129	Presidio	-

Source: CalSAWS December 2025

Total Medi-Cal Caseload: Nearly Half Subject to HR1 Requirements

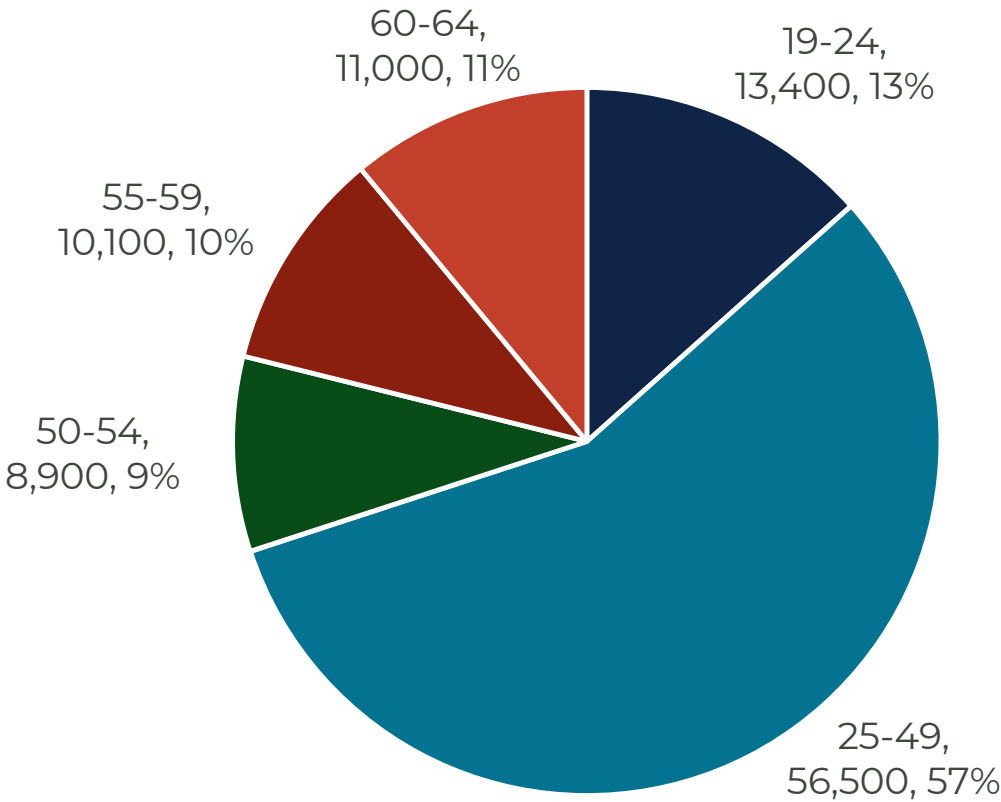
- Medi-Cal ACA Expansion, Group, age 19-64 (Subject to HR Requirements)
- Estimated Medi-Cal, clients not affected



Source: CalSAWS March 2026

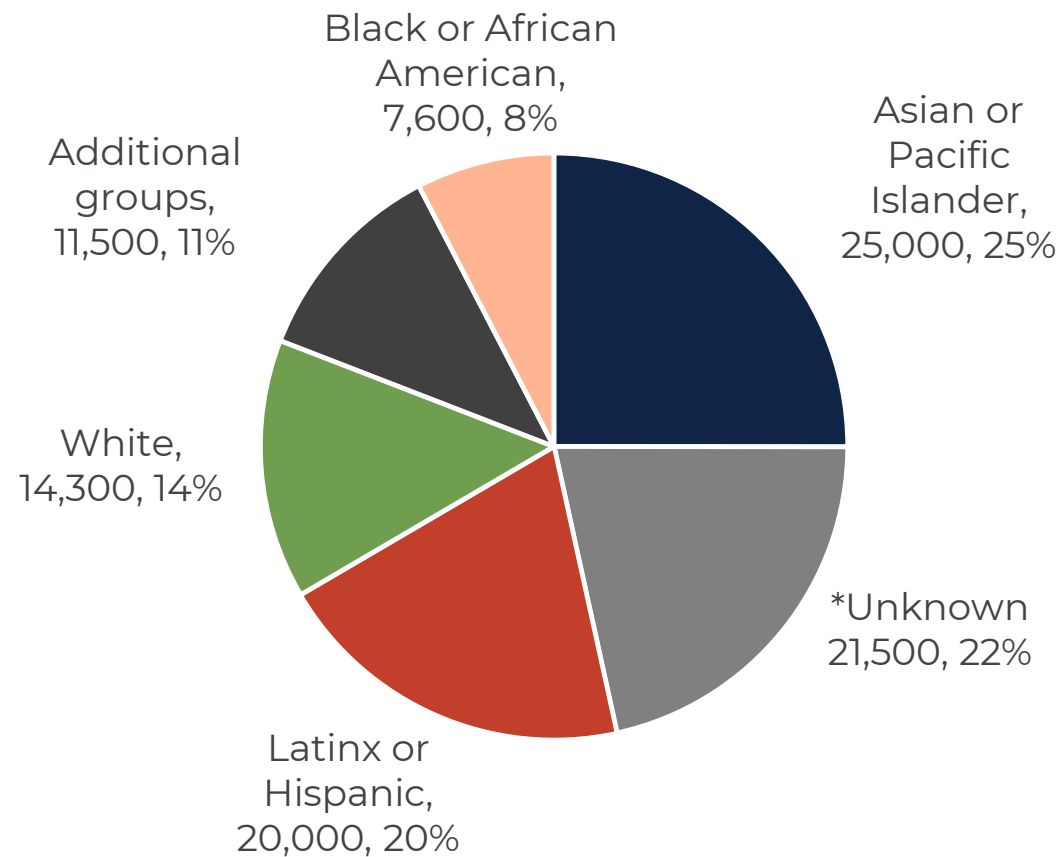


Medi-Cal HR1 Clients by Age



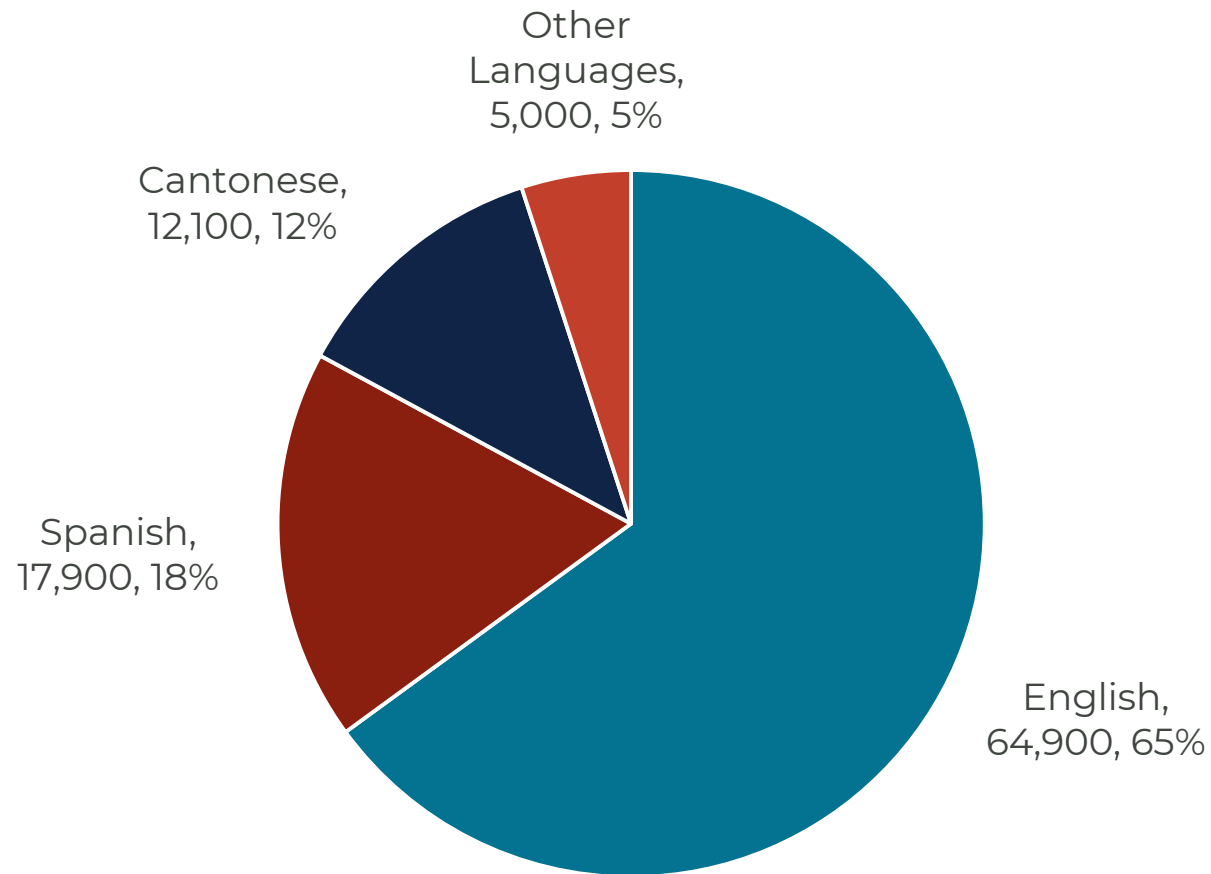
Source: CalSAWS March 2026

Medi-Cal HR1 Clients by Race/Ethnicity



Source: CalSAWS March 2026, *race and ethnicity are not required fields in CalSAWS

Medi-Cal HR1 Clients by Language



Source: CalSAWS March 2026

Other languages include Vietnamese (1,400 clients), Russian (700), and Filipino (300) among others

Medi-Cal HR1 Clients by Zip Code

Zip	Neighborhood	#
94102	Hayes Valley/Civic Center/ Tenderloin	13,800
94112	Ingleside/Excelsior	11,500
94110	Mission District/Bernal Heights	8,400
94124	Bayview/Hunters Point	7,700
94103	South of Market	6,500
94134	Visitacion Valley	6,300
94109	Polk/Russian Hill/Nob Hill	6,100
94122	Sunset	4,400
94116	Sunset/Parkside	3,300
94121	Outer Richmond	3,200
94132	Lake Merced/ Lakeside	3,100
94133	North Beach	2,800
94117	Haight-Ashbury	2,600
Other	Other	3,000

Zip	Neighborhood	#
94118	Inner Richmond	2,500
94107	Potrero Hill/SOMA	2,400
94115	Western Addition/Japantown	2,400
94108	Chinatown	1,700
94114	Castro/Noe Valley	1,600
94131	Twin Peaks/Glen Park	1,400
94127	St. Francis Wood/West Portal	900
94105	Rincon Hill	800
94123	Marina/Cow Hollow	800
94142	General Delivery	800
94158	Mission Bay	800
94130	Treasure Island	600
94111	Embarcadero	400
94129	Presidio	200
94104	Financial District	100

Source: CalSAWS March 2026



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Public Charge



What is Public Charge

- Public charge is an immigration policy impacting immigrants:
 - Applying for a green card through a family petition or an employer petition
 - Applying for a visa to enter the US
- Also applies to some green card holders who leave the U.S. for more than six months.
- By law, immigration officers must look at a person's age, health, family, financial status, education, and work skills to decide if they can get a green card, including whether a family member or someone else has promised to support that person financially.

The public charge test looks at whether a person is likely to depend on the government at any time in the future.





Current Public Charge Rule

Now: Before September 18, 2026

Currently, the public charge test is limited to cash assistance programs and long-term institutional care paid for by Medi-Cal.

The new public charge rule is not yet in effect.

The current 2022 Public Charge Rule remains in effect until September 18, 2026.

New Public Charge Rules

Implementation Date: September 18, 2026

- The new policy allows immigration officials to look at many factors, including use of any income-based benefit, when making a public charge determination.
- Non-cash benefits received prior to September 18, 2026 will not count, but anything *after* may be considered, including income-based benefits received by family members if the green card applicant is legally obligated to support the family member.
- The rule does not name any specific programs and allows officials to use their own judgment.
- **Until September 18, 2026, the 2022 rule is still in effect.**
- **Resources:** Bay Area Legal Aid's Legal Advice Line: (800) 551-5554 and [Immigrants.sfgov.org](https://www.immigrants.sfgov.org)



New Public Charge Rule

Implementation Date: September 18, 2026

“Public Charge” rules do not change who is eligible for public benefits

- There is no public charge test to become a citizen. A person can use benefits and apply for citizenship once they have a green card.
- Public Charge does **not apply** when:
 - You’re applying for a green card based on having certain statuses (e.g. being an asylee or refugee, having SIJ status and others)
 - You have no pathway to obtain a green card or you do not plan to apply for a green card in the future
 - You’re applying for TPS, U or T Visa, Asylum or Refugee status, or Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status





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SFHSA's H.R. 1 Action Plan: What We're Doing and Partnerships



HR1 Action Plan: Guiding Principle and Goals

Principle

- Access to basic needs such as food and health care should **not** be dependent on additional paperwork or work requirements.

Goals

- **Minimize benefit loss:** Help eligible individuals and families maintain access to food and health care coverage.
- **Support pathways to employment:** Connect clients with workforce services, training, education, and resources that promote long-term economic stability.



Our H.R. 1 Action Plan

Mitigating Harm Through Collective Action

1. **Analysis:** To inform plans, policies, staffing, outreach, workforce supports, and advocacy
2. **Stakeholder, Community and Client Engagement:** Targeted outreach to clients, CBOs, City departments, other stakeholders
3. **Workforce Services Expansion:** Expand supports to help clients meet requirements
4. **Innovation:** New technology pilots and process improvements
5. **Advocacy:** Funding for increased state and local resources

Analysis: Data Informed Implementation

Understanding impacted populations and developing strategic responses

- Data analysis to understand impacted populations and inform plans, policies, outreach, and supports
- Monitoring new policies, assessing existing workflows, and continued learning of client impacts and barriers
- Supporting partnerships with DPH, OEWD, other City Departments, community organizations, and managed healthcare plans
- Estimates of workload and other impacts to inform advocacy and policy

Staff, Client, Community and City Engagement

Ongoing Communication and Outreach

Staff

- In service training, all staff meetings, program/unit/section/policy meetings, workgroups

Clients

- Mailings to the entire CalFresh caseload about work requirements
- Recertification text message campaign

Community

- Virtual and in-person presentations at community forums and community-based organizations, including Benefits 101 Webinars for Community Partners and service providers
- Outreach events, including through our new Mobile Benefits Center!

City Stakeholders

- Partnering with the Mayor's Office, DPH, Managed Health Care Organizations (e.g. SF Health Plan), Community Clinics, OEWD, OCEIA, and City College on shared strategies and outreach

Expansion of Workforce Services

Helping clients keep benefits and/or successfully transition into the workforce

A wide range of workforce programs

- Job readiness training to build foundational skills
- Vocational training to gain occupation specific experience
- Employment placement and retention support through JobsNOW!

Plans to strategically expand in one or more areas

- City and Community-Based 'workfare' placements
- Subsidized employment & training in private and public sector jobs
- Vocational and education training, including leveraging City College and OEWD-funded opportunities

Innovation

Technology pilots moving to implementation this summer

- Magic Notes: Interview transcripts to help with documentation, and advanced translation and interpretation capabilities
- Knowledge Base: Policy navigator chatbot to help Eligibility Workers access accurate information quickly

Website enhancements

- Launched the *Keep Benefits* resource guide (sfhsa.org/keep-benefits), including a listing of current job opportunities for those required to work to keep their benefits

Process and connections

- Improved connections between the eligibility process and workforce programs, including restructuring of SFHSA workforce services and improved workforce services orientation

Advocacy

Local and State

- Successfully advocated with our statewide association for increased **state resources** to implement new federal mandates
- Pursuing philanthropic partnerships for increased resources
- Participating in state workgroups on H.R. 1 changes for CalFresh and Medi-Cal

Spotlight: Expansion of Workforce Services

CalFresh Workfare Options

1) CalFresh Community Works Program

- Structured workfare program coordinated by SFHSA in partnership with United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) and Project Open Hand
- Eligible for federal matching dollars so can expand our reach
- United Way of the Bay Area serves as the centralized coordinating body or "hub", while partner host nonprofit organizations supervise participants and complete monthly participation verification
- Nonprofit organizations hosting 15 or more CalFresh clients are compensated through our grant with the UWBA

Complete [this form](#) to become a host organization!

Spotlight: Expansion of Workforce Services

CalFresh Workfare Options

2) Self-Initiated Workfare

- Flexible client-driven option to meet work requirements
- Clients find their own volunteer placement
- Can include existing activities (e.g., volunteering at church or child's school)
- To document volunteer hours, clients are responsible for completing and submitting this State-issued [participation form](#) monthly to SFHSA

Spotlight: Engaging Community

Mobile Benefits Center

- Grant-funded program designed to support people less likely to seek services at a government office
- All core benefits available on board: Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, CAAP
- EBT printing and support on site
- Service schedule based on bookings from community partners

[SFHSA.org/MobileBenefits](https://sfhsa.org/MobileBenefits)



How Partners Can Help

Help clients stay enrolled and avoid benefit interruptions

- 1. Remind clients to keep their contact information updated**
 - Correct address, phone, and email help ensure clients receive renewal notices
 - Opt-in to receive text messages to receive notifications on renewals and emergencies
- 2. Encourage clients to create their own BenefitsCal account**
 - Client accounts have an in-app online renewal and recertification flow
- 3. Use client accounts whenever possible to resolve renewal issues**
 - Some renewal steps are only available in the client login
- 4. Help clients check notices and submit documents quickly**
 - Responding to requests early can help prevent case closures
- 5. Become a CalFresh Community Works Site:** via United Way of the Bay Area
- 6. Become a Self-Initiated Workfare Site:** help clients directly with volunteering opportunities and signing off on monthly participation





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What are you hearing in community?

Questions?

www.sfhsa.org

