



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE EDUCATION OF  
HOMELESS CHILDREN  
AND YOUTH

## **Unaccompanied Youths' Eligibility for Medi-Cal**

*Young people experiencing homelessness on their own can receive Medi-Cal, even if they are under 18, and even if they are living separately from their parents or guardians.*

### **Q: What is Medi-Cal?**

**A:** Medi-Cal is a public health insurance program which provides needed health care services for low-income individuals including youth up to age 21, as well as families with children, persons with disabilities, youth in foster care, pregnant women, and low income people with specific diseases such as tuberculosis, breast cancer or HIV/AIDS.

### **Q: Can unaccompanied youth apply for Medi-Cal separately from their parents?**

**A:** Yes. California regulations define "adult" in several ways, including:

1. A person 14 to 18 years old, who is not living with a parent or caretaker relative and who handles his/her own financial affairs.
2. A person 18 to 21 years old, who is not living with a parent or caretaker relative is not in foster care, and is not claimed as a tax dependent of his/her parent(s).
3. A person 21 years old or older.<sup>i</sup>

Young people in any of these circumstances are "adults" for Medi-Cal purposes and can complete applications on their own.

### **Q: Can young people receive Medi-Cal if they don't have a permanent address?**

**A:** Medi-Cal is only available to California residents, but there are many ways to prove residency, including:

- Evidence of being enrolled in a CA school
- State ID or driver's license
- Rent receipt (can be hand written and signed by someone sub-letting a room to youth)
- Paystub
- Evidence of other State issued Public Assistance

Other evidence of California residency may be accepted if the youth does not have any of these documents.

**Q: Can young people receive CalFresh if they don't have a photo ID?**

**A:** Yes. Medi-Cal requires proof of identity, but that proof can take many forms, including:

- School ID
- State ID or driver license
- Passport, green card or visa
- Birth or marriage record
- Social Security card or a document showing SS number
- A badge for work or to enter a building
- Church membership or baptism certificate

**Q: How does a youth apply for Medi-Cal?**

**A:** There are a few different ways to apply. You can mail or deliver an application to your local Family Resource Center (contact information below; offices are open Monday-Friday, 7:00 - 5:00). You can have an application sent to you by calling ACCESS toll-free, Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm, at 1-866-262-9881 or by calling 2-1-1. You also can apply on-line here: <https://www.mybenefitscalwin.org/>.

It is a good idea to read the application instructions before going to the Family Resource Center. Young people will need to provide documentation of income and proof of any ongoing expenses, as well as other information. Preparing in advance can help save time. Application instructions are on-line here: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/MediCalApplications.aspx>.

Centre City - 1255 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, 92101

El Cajon - 220 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, El Cajon, 92019

Fallbrook - 130 East Alvarado, Fallbrook, 92028

Lemon Grove - 7065 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 91945

North Central - 5055 Ruffin Road, San Diego, 92123

North Coastal - 1315 Union Plaza Court, Oceanside, 92054

North Inland - 620 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, 92025

Northeast - 5001 73<sup>rd</sup> Street, San Diego, 92115

Ramona - 1521 Main Street, Ramona, 92065

South - 690 Oxford Street, Chula Vista, 91911

Southeast - 4588 Market Street, San Diego, 92102

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<sup>1</sup> 22 CA Code of Regulations §50014(a)(4).