

2016 BUDGET SCORECARD

PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

Here's list of budget priorities that health advocates are urging the Legislature and Governor to include as it crafts the final budget (all amounts are General Fund unless otherwise indicated).

NEEDED INVESTMENTS & RESTORATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS	ASSEMBLY	SENATE	FINAL BUDGET
Limit Medi-Cal estate recovery to long-term care services, consistent with federal requirements. Existing policy deters enrollment and penalizes low-income homeowners, endangering the family home. Also pending as SB 33 (Hernandez).	\$26M	\$26M	\$26M
Increase Aged and Disabled (A&D) Medi-Cal eligibility level, which would decrease the number of low-income seniors with a high Medi-Cal share of cost by raising the A&D Program income level to 138% FPL, an amount equivalent to other Medi-Cal income levels for adults.	\$30M	--	--
Fully restore adult Denti-Cal, dental coverage which was eliminated in 2009 and was partially restored in the 2013-14 budget. Still left uncovered are gum treatments, rear root canals, and partial dentures.	--	--	--
Restore critical Medi-Cal benefits eliminated in 2009 for fiscal reasons, not policy. They include: acupuncture, audiology, chiropractic, incontinence creams & washes, optician/optical labs, podiatry, vision, and speech therapy.	\$3.7M for acupuncture	--	\$3.7M for acupuncture
Fund Medi-Cal interpreters, to increase access to interpreters to assist Medi-Cal patients who do not speak English well. Language barriers can cause patients to be misdiagnosed, get inappropriate treatment, and cause medical errors.	\$15M	\$15M	\$3M one-time
Expand Medi-Cal health coverage to adults regardless of immigration status. Thanks to #Health4All actions taken in last year's budget, all California kids became eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal in May. Remaining work needs to be done to expand Medi-Cal to cover adults regardless of immigration status. Also pending as SB 1418 (Lara).	--	--	--
Improve Medi-Cal data collection: align Medi-Cal's health plan data collection and reporting requirements for race/ethnicity, language, and sexual orientation and gender identity data with Covered California's new standards.	\$200K	--	--
Restore and Invest in Public Health Programs: Many key public health programs were cut or eliminated during the recession. While some programs have been restored, others have not, and health advocates seek further investments in public health and prevention:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program to provide school-based oral health prevention services to 300,000 low-income school children for nearly three decades before it was eliminated during the recession. 	\$3.2M	\$3.2M	\$3.2M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STD Prevention Alzheimer's Early Detection Hepatitis Prevention Initiatives to increase Hepatitis B vaccinations for high-risk adults & provide resources for rapid Hepatitis C and HIV test kits. 	\$5M -- --	-- \$2.5M \$1.4M	\$5M \$2.5M \$1.4M one-time