



BUDGET SCORECARD
PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH CONSUMERS IN BUDGET DEAL

The Governor and Legislature reached a deal on the state budget for fiscal year 2015-2016, and that final budget includes \$40 million for a Medi-Cal expansion for low-income children regardless of immigration status. Unfortunately, it does not restore recession-era cuts to medically necessary Medi-Cal benefits, including full adult Denti-Cal, audiology, speech therapy, or podiatry; nor does it address provider reimbursement rates, some of the lowest in the nation. There may be opportunity to look at these issues, though in the larger context of Medi-Cal financing in the special session Gov. Brown called (see [Resolution](#)) to address Medi-Cal financing and a revamping and expansion of the MCO (managed care organization, or health plan) tax.

KEY INVESTMENTS & RESTORATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS	LEGISLATURE	FINAL BUDGET
Expansion of Health Care Coverage to Children Regardless of Immigration Status. Undocumented low-income children would have access to full-scope Medi-Cal, projected to enroll 170,000 children in Medicaid managed care and cost \$132 million/year under full implementation for a full year. The final budget language is silent on an expansion for undocumented adults, for which the Legislature had proposed a feasibility study for a capped program. Senator Lara will continue to pursue a path for adults to be covered through his bill SB4 .	\$40 million Eff. Date: 1/1/16	\$40 million Eff. Date: 5/1/16
No Restoration of Medi-Cal Dental Benefits for Adults. The Senate unsuccessfully urged full restoration of Denti-Cal, which was eliminated for adults with Medi-Cal coverage in 2009 and partially restored in the 2013-14 budget. Still left uncovered are gum treatments, rear root canals, and partial dentures. Also not included in the final budget was an increase in the dental anesthesia rate to provide rate parity between general anesthesia and dental anesthesia providers.	\$66.8 mil Eff. date: 1/1/16	--
No Restoration of Critical Medi-Cal Benefits. The final budget does not restore benefit eliminated in 2009, including acupuncture, audiology, chiropractic, incontinence creams & washes, optician/optical labs, podiatry & speech therapy.	\$15 mil	--
Restoration of Rates for Dental Providers. The final budget eliminates the 10% rate reduction adopted in 2011 for Medi-Cal dental providers. A recent state audit of the Denti-Cal program revealed extreme access issues because of low reimbursement rates for dental providers.	\$15 mil Eff. date: 7/1/15	\$15 mil Eff. date: 7/1/15
No Restoration of Medi-Cal Provider Rates (non-dental). The final budget does rescind the 10% provider rate cut adopted in 2011—except for dental providers (see above), as proposed by the Assembly. Many Medi-Cal patients face access challenges that are likely related to low reimbursement rates--some of the lowest in the nation.	\$21.6 mil Eff. date: 4/1/16	--
Investment in Public Health Programs: The final budget includes funding for these programs (<i>amounts in parenthesis</i>): Syringe Exchange (\$3 mil) Hepatitis C (HCV) Linkage to Care Projects (\$2.2 mil); and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Access and Outreach Program (\$2 mil).	\$8 mil <i>combined</i>	\$7.2 mil <i>combined</i>
No Limitation on Medi-Cal Estate Recovery to the federally required minimum of long-term care services and eliminate recovery from the estate of the deceased beneficiary’s surviving spouse. While not included in the final budget deal, this issue is still pending in SB 33 (Hernandez).	--	--

All \$ amounts in state general funds.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE [AB 94](#) and [SB75](#) (BUDGET TRAILER BILLS)