

Medi-Cal Redeterminations Budget Request: Talking Points

- CaliforniaHealth+Advocates, along with various coalition partners, are asking the Legislature and the Administration to include a one-time budget augmentation of \$60 million (\$30M general fund; \$30M federal match) to enhance the Medi-Cal Health Enrollment Navigators Project.
- Between now and May 31, 2024, 15.2M current Medi-Cal beneficiaries will undergo program recertification, and 700,000+ individuals will become newly eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits through the Health4All adult expansion.
- Nearly 16 million people seeking redeterminations or applying for the first time will require additional health enrollment and navigation services to ensure continuity of coverage, and successful expansion implementation.
- In 2022, SB 154 appropriated \$59,720,000 for counties and community-based organizations (CBOs) to serve hard-to-reach potentially eligible Medi-Cal populations. During the 2022 application period, **more than \$140M** was requested for navigation funding, and many grantees received only a portion of their funding request.
- Of the money allocated for this effort, very limited amounts of navigation funding have reached Community Health Centers (CHCs), where one-third of Medi-Cal patients are served.
- For health center patients, Medi-Cal enrollment and renewals are initiated in the clinic setting with trusted enrollment counselors.
- CHCs and other CBOs are critical, trusted messengers to support their patients in maintaining coverage through health navigation services. These include supporting patients in completing complex applications, providing in-language services, connecting patients with accurate information regarding immigration-related questions, and acting as an authorized representative in order to interact directly with county staff on behalf of a patient to ensure the application process is completed.
- The role of CHCs and CBOs in the *patient navigation* aspect of these efforts, particularly to support communities of color, cannot be overlooked as a vital component of this process.
- **We respectfully request your support of this budget request and sign on to the provided budget letter expanding the Medi-Cal Health Enrollment Navigators Project.**