

2024 Budget & Legislative Priorities

February 2024



Health Center Viability

- **AB 2303 (J. Carrillo) PPS Increase / Sponsor** - This legislation seeks to address the impacts of SB 525. Legislation would require DHCS to pursue all the necessary federal approvals authorizing the development of an APM to adjust an FQHC's PPS rate to cover the costs associated with a state-mandated wage increase.
- **MCO Tax** - Advocates will ensure that the MCO tax funding in the 2024-2025 budget continues to fund CHCs at a \$50M annual level and revenues generated from the tax are primarily used to fund Medi-Cal, not to address revenue shortfall for the state budget. Advocates will also work to ensure a successful passage of the MCO tax initiative.

Access to Care

- **SB 1382 (Glazer) OSHPD 3/State Building Standards / Co-sponsor** - This legislation is the re-introduction of AB 1612, which sought to increase health access by streamlining licensing and building standard requirements while continuing to provide necessary patient protection. These heightened standards result in barriers to access for patient care because CHCs are required to utilize their funds for unnecessary construction costs rather than using the funds for patient care by opening additional sites in underserved areas.

Strong Workforce

- **SB 1067 (Smallwood-Cuevas) Expedited Licensure Process / Sponsor** - This legislation seeks to create an expedited licensure process at relevant healing arts boards for future providers that can demonstrate they intend to practice in a medically underserved area or serve a medically underserved population.
- **AB 2860 (Garcia) Mexico Physician and Dentist Programs Expansion / Co-sponsor** - This legislation would extend the existing pilot program for fifteen years seeking to bring approximately 150 Mexican physicians to provide care at CHCs throughout the state. The current pilot program, established in AB 1045 (2002, Firebaugh), allows for the Medical Board of California and the Dental Board of California to provide a three-year license to these providers to provide culturally and linguistically competent care for California patients. Currently there are 29 physicians in the pilot program providing care at four CHCs.
- **AB 2864 (Garcia) Mexico Physician and Dentist Pilot Program License Extension / Co-sponsor** - This legislation seeks a one-time license extension for the existing 29 physicians from Mexico currently in the pilot program.
- **AB 2703 (Aguiar-Curry) Associate Psychologists / Co-sponsor** - This legislation seeks to replicate the success of SB 966 (Limon, 2022) whereby associate psychologists would be able to seek reimbursement for the services they provide under a supervising licensed behavioral health practitioner.

Empowering Communities

- **AB 2250 (Weber) Social Determinants of Health / Co-sponsor** - This legislation is a reintroduction of AB 85 (2023) to improve access to social determinants of health (SDOH) screenings, referrals, and community navigation services. It also aims to close the gap between community-based organizations and providers to improve follow-

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ups after screening and collaborative efforts with community organizations to assist patients with their needs.

Emergency Preparedness

- **Health Center Climate Equity** - This budget proposal creates a pilot project to fund five regional community health consortiums to support member health centers in developing a plan to notify patients with elevated risk of extreme heat and/or unhealthy air quality risk events. The pilot would also fund CPCA to support the regional projects as well as provide education on state and federal resources related to climate health and greening infrastructure. Climate health activities of the pilot would include a focus on health center patients experiencing homelessness.