
NEW OPPORTUNITY:

**CalFresh
Participants Can
Get Free Health
Coverage Without
an Application**

Exciting news for CalFresh enrollees who do not have health insurance:

The State has decided to “**express enroll**” **153,000 children and about 550,000 adults** who are enrolled in CalFresh, but not currently enrolled in Medi-Cal. The “Express Lane Enrollment” process allows these selected individuals to be immediately enrolled in Medi-Cal by simply giving their OK. **NO application!**

This is an exciting opportunity to quickly enroll huge numbers of California children and adults in health insurance. The Medi-Cal program provides no-cost coverage for comprehensive health care such as doctor visits, hospital visits, prescription drugs, mental health care, and dental care for children (partial dental for adults starting in May).

What is "Express Lane Enrollment"?

California’s Express Lane Enrollment Project is based on new federal health reform rules to help simplify Medi-Cal enrollment. California has identified non-elderly CalFresh enrollees—single adults, parents and children—who are not yet enrolled in Medi-Cal but are eligible. By using known income information, the state has determined that these CalFresh individuals can be enrolled in Medi-Cal without the need for an application or any further paperwork.

How will families know they can express enroll?

The state Department of Health Care Services sent out letters the week of February 3rd to all non-elderly adult CalFresh enrollees who do not have Medi-Cal coverage. **The letters for children will be sent in about 2 weeks (mid to late-February).** Each family member’s letter has a PIN at the top that is unique to that individual.

What will families need to do to enroll?

Using the unique PIN, families have three ways to enroll:



Sign and return
the letter;



Call 1-844-212-0003 give
the PIN listed on top of
the letter; or



Go online to
[http://dhcs.ca.gov/Express
Lane](http://dhcs.ca.gov/ExpressLane) to enter the PIN
listed on top of the letter.

If enrolling by mail, each family member’s letter must be signed and mailed in. To express enroll their children, parents may have to wait to receive their child’s letter with their child’s PIN. However, the parent could try to call the number on the letter or contact their county Medi-Cal office to express enroll their child at the same time as they sign up themselves. The family can choose a health plan at the time they express enroll (in counties where there are health plan choices).

FAQs about California's New Express Lane Enrollment Process:

How long will they have to express enroll?

While the family can respond to the letter for several months (the exact time frame is unclear), the State will only be sending out one letter. No other follow up is planned. So, encourage families to hold onto that letter!

Can other families get the benefit of express enrollment?

Express enrollment is available for those non-elderly individuals qualifying for or enrolled in CalFresh. An express enrollment letter was sent out to current non-elderly CalFresh enrollees without Medi-Cal coverage.

Non-elderly CalFresh enrollees can also be express enrolled into Medi-Cal when they renew their CalFresh. In addition, those newly applying for CalFresh will be able to enroll in Medi-Cal based on their CalFresh eligibility. (The online county applications and joint program application are being modified to, but do not yet, include the check box to enroll in Medi-Cal based on CalFresh eligibility).

Can my county Medi-Cal office express enroll me?

Yes. With the PIN on the individual's letter, a county Medi-Cal eligibility worker can help express enroll that person. (The county may be able to locate their CalFresh enrollment, without the PIN, in order to express enroll the individual in Medi-Cal).

If a CalFresh family did not receive an express enrollment letter, they may already be enrolled in Medi-Cal and could call their county Medi-Cal office to confirm.

Even if families do not qualify for express enrollment, they can always apply for Medi-Cal directly. To apply:

- 1) Go online to www.coveredca.com;
- 2) Call 1-800-300-1506; or
- 3) Visit your county social services office.

What can I do to help families get enrolled?

Community organizations can help get the word out that these letters are coming. Make sure families know to locate and not lose their letters. There is no follow up outreach planned as of now, so that letter is their best link to express enrollment. If you need sample language for your organization's newsletter, website, or social media networks, please email ktesta@childrenspartnership.org. Please also pass along this information to other organizations in your community that work with families.

Where can I get more information?

The phone number on the letter (1-844-212-0003) connects to Health Care Options, the state contractor that will be running this express lane enrollment project. Your county Medi-Cal office can also provide assistance. Also, the Department's [website](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/ExpressLane.aspx) has a page about its express lane projects. (<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/ExpressLane.aspx>)

What does the letter look like?

A sample copy of the express lane enrollment letter for children can be viewed [here](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/Express_Lane/ExLn_NonCOHSchldpckg.pdf). (http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/Express_Lane/ExLn_NonCOHSchldpckg.pdf)