



To read the Spanish version of the newsletter, click [here](#).

Para leer este boletín informativo en español, haga [clic aquí](#).

Dear Partners,

This year's state Legislative session has been filled with Medi-Cal initiatives, such as California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), increasing Medi-Cal coverage for Californians, and declaring racism as a public health crisis.

CalAIM is a multi-year initiative by the state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for Medi-Cal members by implementing a broad delivery system and program and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program. The major components of CalAIM build upon the successful outcomes of various pilots (including the Whole Person Care (WPC) Pilot Program) from the previous federal waivers and will result in a better quality of life for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

CalAIM has three primary goals:

1. Identify and manage member risk and need through whole-person care approaches and addressing Social Determinants of Health;
2. Move Medi-Cal to a more consistent and seamless system by reducing complexity and increasing flexibility; and
3. Improve quality outcomes, reduce health disparities, and drive delivery system transformation and innovation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems, and payment reform.

The first initiative that will go live on January 1, 2022, under CalAIM is the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) benefit and In Lieu of Services (ILOS). The ECM benefit is designed to provide a whole-person approach to care that addresses the clinical and non-clinical needs of high-cost and/or high-need Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The ECM benefit will help address many of the complex challenges facing our most vulnerable members, such as homelessness, insufficient behavioral health care access, children with complex medical conditions, the growing number of justice-involved populations who have significant clinical needs, and the growing aging population.

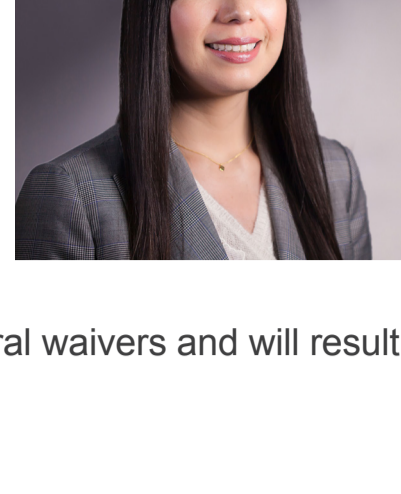
One of the major components is to transition the WPC Pilot Program into the ECM benefit. Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) has begun working with the County of Ventura, which administers the WPC Pilot program, to determine the next steps and ensure readiness by the implementation date.

In addition, DHCS is proposing the implementation of ILOS, which are flexible wrap-around services that a managed care plan will integrate into its population health strategy. These services are provided as a substitute to other services, such as an admission to a hospital or skilled nursing facility or a discharge delay.

In upcoming newsletters, we will provide you with further information about ECM and ILOS.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Marlen Torres
Executive Director of Strategy and External Affairs



Legislative Update

Three bills are currently pending in the state legislature that can build inroads to expanding health care coverage in Ventura County. AB 4 and SB 56 work to expand Medi-Cal coverage to uninsured Californians who would qualify for Medi-Cal if not for their immigration status. Lastly, SB 17 would declare racism a public health crisis and create a structure to address and correct past policies that have resulted in poorer health outcomes and disparities for communities of color.

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declared racism a serious public health threat. Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., CDC director and administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), stated, "racism is not just the discrimination against one group based on the color of their skin or their race or ethnicity, but the structural barriers that impact racial and ethnic groups differently to influence where a person lives, where they work, where their children play, and where they worship and gather in community. These social determinants of health have life-long negative effects on the mental and physical health of individuals in communities of color."

At Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP), we are working toward addressing health inequities that affect the members we serve. In the next section, you will find more information about our new health equity initiative with the County of Ventura.

The bills are summarized below:

AB 4 Medi-Cal: eligibility

Assembly members **Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno), Rob Bonta (D-Oakland), David Chiu (D-San Francisco), Mike Gipson (D-Carson), Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-Riverside), and Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles)**

SB 56 Medi-Cal: eligibility

Senator **Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles)**

AB 4 and SB 56 will reduce the rate of uninsured people in California. These bills work to cut the uninsured rate by expanding eligibility for the Medi-Cal program to individuals who would qualify if not for their immigration status. Adults who are undocumented are almost entirely left out of our health care system and are the largest uninsured group within California. About 90% of undocumented adults are uninsured. These bills would close the most prominent coverage gap in California.

SB 17 Office of Racial Equity

Senator **Richard Pan (D-Sacramento)**

SB 17 would declare racism a public health crisis and create a state Office of Racial Equity and a Racial Equity Advisory and Accountability Council. These organizations will develop a statewide racial equity framework and strategies for addressing inequity across the state through confronting policies and programs that have resulted in poorer health outcomes and disparities in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) populations.

Minding the Health of Our Community

Health Equity Initiative in Ventura County

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) is partnering with the County of Ventura to identify and address health inequities in historically underserved communities.

Health equity is achieved when no person is at a disadvantage when trying to achieve their health potential because of their social position or socially determined circumstances.



Ted Bagley, GCHP's chief diversity officer, and Phin Xaypangna, the county's diversity, equity and inclusion officer, are working together with teams from their respective organizations to research the extent to which different communities have equitable access to health care services. Their objective is to gauge the current state of health equity by meeting and collaborating with members of the affected communities. Once their research has been completed, they will work on developing a long-range strategic plan, which will include activities to improve health outcomes for vulnerable and high-risk populations.

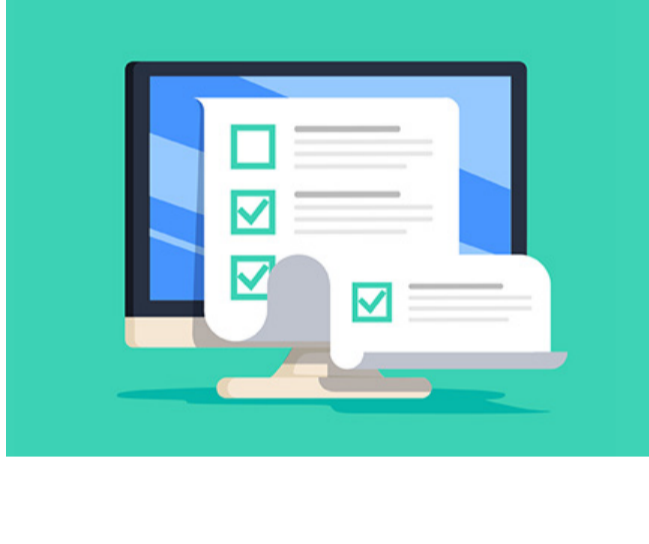
We are looking forward to our partnership with the county on this important initiative.

Community Stakeholder Survey

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) is conducting a survey as part of the 2021 Population Needs Assessment (PNA).

The goal of the survey is to:

- Help develop culturally and linguistically appropriate interventions.
- Identify health concerns for GCHP members.
- Improve quality measures.
- Implement targeted strategies for GCHP programs and services.



If you work for an organization that serves low-income, Medi-Cal members, we encourage you to fill out the survey. The survey is anonymous and will take less than 10 minutes to complete. The deadline to complete it has been extended to **Friday, May 21, 2021**.

- [Click here to complete the English survey.](#)
- [Click here to complete the Spanish survey.](#)

If you have questions or need assistance with accessing the survey, call Veronica Estrada at **1-805-437-5603**, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or email CulturalLinguistics@goldchp.org.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!

Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental condition that affects communication, social interactions, and behavior.

ASD includes conditions such as autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder, and Asperger syndrome.

Signs of ASD begin during early childhood, and may include:

- Trouble expressing needs.
- Trouble relating to others.
- Trouble with change.
- Repeating words or phrases.
- Avoiding eye contact.
- Repeating actions.



Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) covers behavioral health treatment for ASD and other developmental disabilities. These services are offered to members through our partner, Beacon Health Options.

To learn more about outpatient mental health services covered by GCHP, call Beacon Health Options at **1-855-765-9702**. If you use a TTY, call **1-800-735-2929**. Beacon Health Options is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Community Resources



Find Community Resources



Visit the Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) [Community Resources page](#) to view a list of the programs, services, and support available in Ventura County. If you can't find what you're looking for, visit www.211ventura.org. You can also contact GCHP's Community Relations team at CommunityRelations@goldchp.org or **1-805-437-5563**.

COVID-19 Rent Relief is Available



The state recently launched the California COVID-19 Rent Relief program to provide financial assistance for unpaid rent and utilities for tenants who are most at risk of eviction due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding comes from \$2.6 billion in federal rental assistance, with Ventura County designated to receive \$52.2 million. This includes \$39.3 million for Ventura County and

\$12.9 million for the City of Oxnard. Ventura County is collaborating with Oxnard and several community organizations to conduct local outreach to help residents with the application.

Landlords who participate in the COVID-19 Rent Relief program can receive reimbursement for 80% of their eligible renters' unpaid rent accrued between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021, if they agree to waive the remaining 20% of their unpaid rent from that same time. Eligible renters can apply on their own to receive 25% of their unpaid rent that was accrued during the same 12 months, even if their landlord doesn't participate. Some tenants may also receive assistance to cover 100% of utilities for the past year and 25% of future rent when eviction protections expire.

To qualify, tenants must make 80% or less of their location's area median income (AMI), which is an annual income of \$72,300 for a household of two. The state will prioritize those making 50% of the local AMI, which is \$45,200 for a household of two, and those recently unemployed. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.

Tenants and landlords can apply at www.housing.ca.gov or by calling **1-833-430-2122** from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. Assistance is provided in multiple languages with case managers available to help applicants. Those needing further technical assistance can contact one of the local partnering community organizations listed [here](#).

About Gold Coast Health Plan

Gold Coast Health Plan proudly serves more than 220,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Ventura County through its network of primary care physicians, specialists, behavioral health providers, hospitals, and pharmacies. Since it was founded in 2011, Gold Coast Health Plan has been committed to providing access to high-quality care and improving the health of its members, which include 1 in 5 county residents, 1 in 8 seniors, and 1 in 2 children up to the age of 5. To learn more, visit: www.goldcoasthealthplan.org.