

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 21, 2025

Access to Medi-Cal and CalFresh at Risk: Preserving Beneficiary Enrollment

On July 4, President Trump signed into law H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation package, bringing in sweeping policy changes to public assistance programs, including Medicaid (known as Medi-Cal in California) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (known as CalFresh in California). Among the most prominent was the implementation of new work requirements to individuals receiving Medi-Cal through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expansion and for CalFresh, expanding the age range of “able-bodied adults” who must meet work requirements until the age of 64, as well as subjecting additional individuals to work requirements, including former foster youth, veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, and parents with children older than 14. In Los Angeles County, it is estimated as many as 1.5 million beneficiaries are at risk of losing their Medi-Cal benefits with the implementation of the new work requirements which are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2027. For CalFresh, it is estimated that approximately 202,000 participants, a 153% increase from 80,000, must meet work requirements to qualify. This is set to take effect just months from now, on February 1, 2026.

Given the expected significant negative impacts of H.R. 1 on County residents, on August 12, 2025, the County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the

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Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____

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motion, [Keeping County Residents Enrolled in Safety Net Programs: Enhancing Information and Opportunities for County Residents](#), directing the Department of Public Social Services, in collaboration with relevant departments, including the Departments of Health Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Aging and Disabilities, and Economic Opportunity to identify opportunities to connect beneficiaries to volunteer and workfare opportunities and American Job Centers to meet work requirements and preserve enrollment status. It further instructed the departments to conduct a grassroots “Keep Your Coverage” campaign to raise community awareness, among other initiatives.

Among the activities that meet the work requirements are completion of “workfare” for CalFresh and “community engagement/community service” for Medi-Cal and CalFresh. The workfare activity is unpaid work experience that can be offered at County departments, public, or private non-profit organizations, whereby an individual is assigned to a workfare site and must work a certain number of hours each month. Meanwhile, community engagement/community service is defined as volunteering for at least 80 hours a month for Medi-Cal and CalFresh. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) are collaborating to align the work requirements for both CalFresh and Medi-Cal Program. With that in mind, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is working towards developing work requirement opportunities that abide by federal and State regulations and allow individuals to comply with work requirements through a single work requirement activity.

DPSS believes workfare will be one of the most expeditious and beneficial ways in which CalFresh individuals can expand their work experience and meet eligibility

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requirements. Therefore, the County must significantly expand workfare opportunities so individuals can potentially utilize it to continue their CalFresh eligibility.

Additionally, although H.R. 1 includes limited exemptions for federal work requirements, states will have to develop procedures to verify eligibility information and related exemptions starting February 1, 2026. It is important that the County begin to plan for the implementation of federal work requirements and work with the State and related partners to ensure the accurate and efficient verification process of beneficiaries and youth participating in Title IV-E extended foster care. Notably, all work requirement verifications must be confirmed by a third party (i.e. Workfare Site Supervisor, Community Engagement Representative, organizational representative), per federal and State regulations.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct all County departments to coordinate with the Department of Public Social Services to create workfare opportunities within each of their current operations and with their respective community partners, and have the Department of Public Social Services report back in writing in 90 days on the progress in expanding workfare throughout the County.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Department of Public Social Services in collaboration with the Departments of Health Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Aging and Disabilities, Homeless Services and Housing, health care plans, community providers, and other relevant partners report back in writing in 90 days on efforts to prepare for the development of a verification process that considers the following:

1. Individuals that meet work requirement exemptions, with special

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- consideration for individuals that have disabilities, are medically frail, have substance use disorders, disabling mental disorders, and/or have other barriers to access, including individuals experiencing homelessness and those with language access needs.
2. Individuals engaging in qualifying activities, such as workfare, community service, volunteering, and enrollment in an education program to meet work requirements.
 3. If allowable under SNAP and Medicaid regulations, opportunities to reduce burden for beneficiaries and develop a sole verification process that will satisfy verification needs for both CalFresh and Medi-Cal beneficiaries.
 4. Tools, technology, and/or software to develop a database of workfare sites and community agencies that allow enrollment into available work requirement activities, and the submission of documents to support the accurate and efficient verification process to maximize enrollment of eligible beneficiaries and simplify and expedite enrollment, transfer, and renewal processes.
 5. A streamlined background check process that allows work requirement activity partners to verify beneficiary compatibility with their department/organization.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, in collaboration with the Departments of Public Social Services, Health Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Aging and Disabilities, and

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Homeless Services and Housing:

1. Engage with the State on establishing a flexible and minimally restrictive verification process that reduces the burden on CalFresh and Medi-Cal beneficiaries and meets the needs of Los Angeles County residents and ensures compliance with federal regulations to avoid jeopardizing federal funding.
2. Develop a strategy to advocate for technology that supports the submission of verification documents, helps residents maintain benefits, and strengthens program administration. Ensure all tools and related policies comply with federal law and meet new state requirements to protect eligibility and funding.

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