

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

December 2, 2025

Strengthening Countywide Communications on Health, Social Services, and Emergency Impacts

This year has been marked with significant impacts to County residents. In January 2025, the County endured devastating wildfires that resulted in lives lost. Many individuals saw everything they owned turn to ashes, while others lost their livelihoods as the wildfires destroyed local businesses and reduced the need for landscapers, babysitters, and other domestic jobs. Many communities continue to experience displacement in the aftermath of the unprecedented wildfires. Meanwhile, the intensified federal immigration enforcement that initiated on June 6, 2025, has continued to sow chaos and fear throughout the County. This has forced many immigrant communities to avoid going to work or school, access food, and participate in public life. It has also created chilling effects in accessing critical health and social services.

Additionally, although California made the historic move in January 2024 to offer full-scope Medi-Cal to all qualifying low-income individuals, faced with financial pressures, the State made the difficult decision to freeze full-scope Medi-Cal enrollment for adults – age 19 and older – with unsatisfactory immigration status (UIS), starting on January 1, 2026. Currently, an estimated 596,869 individuals with UIS are enrolled in Medi-Cal in Los Angeles County. The new State Medi-Cal policy means that if this UIS

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population does not complete their annual renewal of Medi-Cal, they are at risk of losing their full-scope health care coverage and will be limited to receiving restricted-scope Medi-Cal benefits. Meanwhile, UIS individuals who are not currently enrolled, but who apply on or before December 31, 2025, can still receive full-scope Medi-Cal, if otherwise eligible. Individuals applying on or after January 1, 2026, will only have the ability to receive restricted-scope Medi-Cal, which only covers emergency and pregnancy-related services.

This forthcoming enrollment deadline comes amid growing fear given increased federal immigration enforcement. This fear has been further exacerbated by media reports that the Trump Administration may have provided the personal data of millions of immigrant Medicaid enrollees, including their immigration status, to immigration enforcement officials. Given the increased risks of deportation, many individuals may choose to forgo the health benefits they are entitled to.

The Trump Administration's actions have not only impacted immigrant communities. On July 4, President Trump signed into law H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation package, with significant changes to the eligibility of public assistance programs, including Medicaid (known as Medi-Cal in California) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (known as CalFresh in California). Notably, H.R. 1 implements new work requirements to individuals receiving Medi-Cal through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Meanwhile, for CalFresh, the age range of work requirements was expanded to "able-bodied adults" until they reach age 64. Additional populations, many of which are particularly vulnerable, will also be subject to new work

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requirements to access CalFresh. These include former foster youth, veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, and parents with children older than 14. As many as 1.5 million beneficiaries are projected to be impacted by the implementation of the new Medi-Cal work requirements which are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2027. CalFresh changes will take effect on January 2026, requiring approximately 202,000 participants, a 153% increase, to meet work requirements to qualify.

County residents also experienced delays in receiving their CalFresh benefits and access to critical food assistance in November, amid the federal government shutdown. Although CalFresh benefits have been restored for the remaining of the year, the threat of another federal shutdown remains, and the pause in benefit delivery during the shutdown caused significant disruption in the lives of those who depend on food assistance. Unfortunately, the federal government has also failed to renew enhanced premium tax credits which have enabled thousands of families in the County to afford health coverage through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Meanwhile open enrollment for health coverage is underway, and consumers throughout the State are seeing their monthly health plan costs rise. According to Covered California, without the extension of enhanced premium tax credits, consumers in California will see health plan costs rise by an average of 97%.

Given the detrimental federal actions and significant changes to health and social programs that will continue to impact County residents, it is critical that communities have access to the most accurate information, to be empowered to make good decisions for themselves and their families. The Department of Public Social Services,

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in collaboration with many other departments including the Departments of Health Services, Public Health, and Mental Health have been actively messaging changes of critical programs to County residents, including via the “Keep Your Coverage” campaign launched earlier this year. Through this campaign, the networks of numerous departments and organizations were successfully leveraged to maximize its reach. However, given the complexity of these changes, it requires a continued coordinated County effort to ensure comprehensive messaging around ongoing and upcoming impacts to the social safety net and the essential benefits our most vulnerable residents depend upon. While the County does not directly control many of these funding streams, it can ensure that residents are empowered with accessible, timely, and accurate information to navigate these multiple and complex issues impacting their benefits.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Acting Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration the Departments of Public Social Services, Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Aging and Disabilities, Homeless Services and Housing, Children and Family Services, Economic Opportunity, the Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the Los Angeles County Development Authority, and other relevant departments, and in consultation with managed care plans, community-based organizations, providers and clinics, and other relevant partners, to report back in writing in 30 days with a plan to conduct a culturally and linguistically appropriate, immigration competent, coordinated public information campaign inclusive of but not limited to important changes that are taking place

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impacting the social safety net, including but not limited to changes to health and social programs, federal and State actions, and natural disasters impacting County residents.

The report back should include but not be limited to the following:

- A comprehensive and accessible outreach and communications strategy that incorporates radio advertising;
- Print media advertising, including hyperlocal and ethnic media;
- Materials that can be distributed at community events and available at public-facing County offices;
- Roundtables and partnerships with media collaboratives;
- Proactive pitching of stories and op-eds; and
- Robust social media engagement including but beyond infographics, such as video content, testimonials, and other high-impact formats.

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HLS:jgd:ko