

California Public Benefits Fact Sheet

What is Medi-Cal?

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid program. Medi-Cal provides affordable, high-quality health care services to children and adults who meet the Medi-Cal eligibility requirements.

The [Department of Health Care Services Medi-Cal and Covered California frequently asked questions page](#) has more information on Medi-Cal.

What other benefits are available?

When applying for Medi-Cal, applicants may request other public benefits which could include CalFresh (SNAP) and CalWORKS (TANF).

CalFresh provides cash benefits towards healthy and nutritious food.

CalWORKS provides cash aid and services to eligible families who have a child in the home.

If there is no minor child in the home, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) provides cash aid and services to Office of Refugee Resettlement eligible populations.

How to Apply for Public Benefits

Apply for benefits in your county of residence.

Individuals may apply online on the [MyBenefits CalWin website](#). Note the MyBenefits CalWin website may redirect some users to an alternate site, depending on the county of residence. You will need to create an individual account and upload documents that are requested. As an alternative, [applications can be downloaded here from the California Department of Social Services website](#) and submitted in person to the local county Human or Social Service Agency. The [Department of Health Care Services County Offices webpage](#) can be used to find the local county office. On the county web pages, you can apply on-line. There are often multiple human services agencies within each county. You may also search by city for the district office nearest to you.

*Please note that any individual 18 years or older must submit their own application for public benefits even if they reside in the same household as their parent/guardian.

Supporting Documents Needed to Apply for Public Benefits

To apply for all public benefits in one application, copies of the following documents should be included for each member of the household to show eligibility. If these documents are not available, you may include a letter explaining why the document is not available or speak with the county eligibility worker during your interview. The county may be able to determine immigration status, even if a document is not available.

- I-94 admissions document
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders are admitted as Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs, also known as U.S. green card holders).
- Photo identification (passport or Tazkira Afghan photo ID)
- Proof of immigration status (for example the stamp granting humanitarian parole in the passport)
- Receipt for Employment Authorization Document (EAD) (Afghan Humanitarian Parolees processed at a Safe Haven may have the receipt issued at the Safe Haven).
- SSN receipt (if not available, indicate that it is forthcoming) (Afghan Humanitarian Parolees processed at a Safe Haven may have the receipt issued at the Safe Haven)
- Vaccine records for all minor aged children (if applying for CalWORKs)
- If pregnant , proof of pregnancy (If applying for CalWORKs)
- Lease agreement for housing (if not available, indicate that you will provide this when you have permanent housing)
- Letter regarding future disbursement of resettlement agency funds or any sponsor group issued funds. Please note amount of funds provided directly to the new arrival and the amount which is vendor paid directly to the landlord for housing costs.