

## Community Provider Advisory Group

02/04/26

Q&A

**How can we help our community meet the new Medi-Cal work requirement?**

Alameda County looking into the availability of Community Health Worker and Peer Support Specialist certifications to get community members jobs and engagement in the community.

**How will eligibility for Medi-Cal work with the new policies?**

The state is waiting on CMS to clarify some of its policies, and we are waiting for all the details from the state. It's looking like the state is leaning toward automation and ex parte processes to keep eligible people on Medi-Cal. More resources: [Implementation Plan](#) and [CalHHS Webinar](#)

**How are County departments coordinating to address all the current and upcoming policy changes?**

Alameda County Health (AC Health) created an Incident Command Structure (ICS) to be able to quickly respond to policy changes. This was a structure used during the first years of the COVID-19 pandemic. This group has staff from all AC Health departments, working together to engage the community, provide resources, and plan.

**Will Health Program for Alameda County (HealthPAC) be able to provide coverage for people who have become ineligible for Medi-Cal?**

The first thing to remember is that HealthPAC is not health coverage. HealthPAC provides funding to organizations to cover some of the costs related to serving uninsured individuals. We expect the Medi-Cal changes will create strains on our systems: longer wait times and decreased access to low-to-no cost services. We know the County will not be able to provide funding to organizations to cover all individuals who will lose coverage. AC Health is working with the Board of Supervisors and HealthPAC providers to determine how best to adjust the system to accommodate these changes as best we can.

## How can Peer Support Specialists and Community Health Workers get involved?

We know that 250 people have been certified as Peer Support Specialists in this county. Alameda County Behavioral Health is working with Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), who creates the standards for the Peer Support Specialist and Community Health Workers. Behavioral Health is encouraging organizations and individuals to apply for these positions through HCAI to ensure the state understands the demand, training needs, and billing needs of these providers.