

CalAIM Initiative

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal, or CalAIM, is a transformational plan to modernize the State's Medicaid program. The CalAIM initiative is designed to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of Medi-Cal enrollees, including those with the most complex health and social needs. The goal is to ensure access to the right care, in the right place, at the right time. CalAIM includes a series of far-reaching initiatives that together represent broad reforms of Medi-Cal's programs and systems. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will implement it in partnership with Medi-Cal providers, Managed Care Plans (MCPs), Counties, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and other stakeholders.

The Drive Behind CalAIM

California's focus on improving its behavioral health system is driven by the stark inequities in access to health care by race, ethnicity, and income. The COVID-19 public health emergency amplified these inequities:



The pandemic also highlighted the importance of integrated, whole person care that takes into account an enrollee's physical, behavioral, and dental health as well as their social and economic circumstances. Pre-pandemic, California faced a rising prevalence of mental health issues and substance use disorders, and new pressures on the state's public behavioral health system.

- Nearly 1 in 20 California adults (4.5 percent) is living with a serious mental illness and more than twice as many have a substance use disorder (nearly 1 in 10 or 9.2 percent).
- Among Medi-Cal enrollees, 8.1 percent are living with a serious mental illness, substantially more than those on any other type of insurance.
- As of July 2020, nearly half (50 percent) of all Californians reported symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder or major depression tied to the public health emergency, with a disproportionate impact on under-resourced communities.
- The rates of substance use disorders, overdoses, and death remain high, increasingly driven by fentanyl, including its use in combination with methamphetamine and other substances as well as its unintentional use by individuals using adulterated methamphetamine and other substances.

Timeline: The first reform started in January 2022 and additional reforms expected through 2027.

Detailed information: cchealth.org/bhs/calaim

CCBHS CalAIM Implementation updates, detailed timeline, deliverables and milestones, DHCS Information Notices, updated CCBHS Policy & Procedures, Trainings, and other resources.

Questions/Inquires: CCBHSCalAIM@cchealth.org