

## What is Medi-Cal?

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid health care program. Medi-Cal is supported by federal and state taxes.

### **Medi-Cal eligibility**

The general eligibility requirements for Medi-Cal are:

- Eligibility for Other Public Assistance Programs (usually SSI for HRC clients);
- Limited family income;
- Limited family assets;
- U.S. citizenship;
- California residency.

There are many programs that help people to be eligible for Medi-Cal, so people who meet additional requirements (e.g., have a developmental disability, are pregnant, have certain diseases or health conditions) can still become eligible for Medi-Cal without meeting some of the usual requirements.

In 2007, there were 151 eligibility categories that allow people to apply for Medi-Cal. Some of these programs are for short-term/emergency Medi-Cal, some are for full-scope Medi-Cal, others require families to pay a share of cost based on their income. Some Medi-Cal plans are fee-for-service, while others are managed care plans.

### ***HRC clients are usually eligible for Medi-Cal because:***

1. Client is receiving SSI and then Medi-Cal is administered automatically;  
OR
2. Client (under the age of 18) qualifies for Medi-Cal under the Waiver program known as Institutional Deeming. (Institutional Deeming will not be discussed in this section); OR
3. Client qualifies for other waivers, such as the Pediatric Subacute Waiver or the Nursing Facility (NF) Waiver, which allow the client to receive special services or waive income requirements.

### **Medi-Cal contact numbers**

- Los Angeles County Health & Nutrition Hotline: (877) 597-4777
- Medi-Cal Beneficiary Help Desk: (916) 636-1980
- Medi-Cal Managed Care
  - o L.A. Care: (888) 452-2273
  - o Health Net: (800) 327-0502
  - o Managed Care Ombudsman: (888) 452-8609
  - o Health Consumer Center: (800) 896-3203
- To change Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan:
  - o Health Care Options: (800) 430-4263