

Medi-Cal Information for SFSU Students

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”), many SFSU students now qualify for free medical insurance through California’s Medi-Cal program.

- In order to qualify for Medi-Cal your income must be low – specifically, less than 138% of the federal poverty level (or \$16,395 in 2018).
- Medi-Cal is a state program that receives federal funding, but is administered by the county you live in. The following information is primarily for people who currently live in San Francisco County. (If you live in another county you should look online for information about the Medi-Cal program in your county.)

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for Medi-Cal year round. The entire process can take several months, so **start now!** There are two ways to apply:

Option 1: Online at <https://www.mybenefitscalwin.org>.

- From the home page select “See if I am Eligible” or “Apply for Benefits”, then select the county you currently live in and follow the onscreen instructions.
- You will need to create an account to register online, and will need to upload several documents such as those listed below.

Types of documents you may need to upload:

Birth certificate
Driver's license
U.S. Passport
Social Security cards
Rent receipt
Paycheck
Copy of last year's tax return
Bank statements showing savings and checking accounts

- If you upload all of the required documents then the S.F. Social Services Agency will be able to process your application without having to call you in for an interview. See the “What Happens Next? Section for next steps.

Option 2: In person at a San Francisco County Social Services Agency office or at a county clinic
See partial list of SF offices on this bulletin board.

- This option will require more time and effort on your part, but may speed up the processing of your application.
- If you go in person you should bring the following documents: driver’s license or other photo ID, social security card, birth certificate, proof of address and income, financial aid documents, rent checks or receipts. You may apply for Medi-Cal benefits in person at any of the following locations:

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? There are several more steps after submitting your application before you can receive medical care through Medi-Cal:

- Wait. If you are accepted into Medi-Cal you will receive a letter of approval in the mail in about 45 days.

- Afterwards, in another 7-10 days you will receive your Medi-Cal card and ID number.
- Once you receive your Medi-Cal card you can use it at any clinic or hospital that accepts Medi-Cal. You can receive emergency care by showing them your letter of approval.
- Next, select a managed care plan.
- There are two managed care plans to choose from in San Francisco County: San Francisco Family Health Plan (SCFHP) and Anthem Blue Cross Partnership Plan (ABCPP). You should receive a packet in the mail that contains an enrollment form and information about the two plans.

HOW TO ENROLL IN A MANAGED CARE PLAN WITH CHCO: There are 3 ways to enroll in Medi-Cal managed care plans via California Health Care Options (CHCO).

- Call CHCO at **(800) 430-4263**. You will need to provide your Medi-Cal ID number or your social security number in order to enroll.
- Apply in person with a CHCO representative at the San Francisco County Social Service Department at 1235 Mission Street, SF (415-558-1000) or at 1440 Harrison (415-558-4700).
- Download the Medi-Cal Choice Form from www.healthcareoptions.dhcs.ca.gov, fill it out and mail it to CHCO at the address on the form. There is no online enrollment.
- 7-10 days after enrolling in a managed care plan you will receive a confirmation letter telling you the plan's effective date. You will also be mailed an ID card for your new managed care plan. You cannot make an appointment with a doctor until the effective date of the plan.
- Select a primary care provider (PCP). You must see your Medi-Cal PCP for all non-emergency care or referral to specialists.
- Students with Medi-Cal may continue to use the SFSU Student Health Center, however Student Health Center providers cannot serve as your Medi-Cal PCP. If you do not request a specific PCP at the time you enroll in a managed care plan then one will be assigned to you.

If you have relocated to San Francisco County but were already enrolled in Medi-Cal in another county, you will need to have your Medi-Cal transferred to San Francisco County before you can see a doctor in this area through Medi-Cal. To do this you will need to call the Medi-Cal office *in the county where you lived before* moving here, and notify them that you have moved. You will need to give them your new address and request to have your Medi-Cal be transferred to your new county. It might take a few days for your new county to be entered into the state database. Then follow the instructions for selecting a managed care plan and a primary care provider in the steps above.

Summary:

Out of County Student – If a CA student is leaving home to attend college, say at SFSU, please remind the student to contact and request that the county update their address to their temporary out-of-county address while away from home. Similarly, if the student returns to their home county during summer break, for instance, the student should contact and request the county to reinstate their normal home address. The main Medi-Cal phone number is: (415) 558-4700.