



# AB 403

## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND PROMOTORA/ES MEDI-CAL BENEFIT & SERVICES TRANSPARENCY

### Background

#### SUMMARY

California has made great strides to provide more culturally and linguistically responsive care for Medi-Cal recipients, including through community health workers, promotora, or representative (CHWPR) services. AB 403 will require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide a report to the legislature that will be made public regarding the utilization of the CHWPR benefit and the CHWPR workforce.

#### EXISTING LAW

The CHWPR benefit was established as a preventative service within Medi-Cal through State Plan Amendment (SPA) #:22-0001, which stipulates the requirements and permissible services CHWPRs can provide through the Medi-Cal program. Services include, but are not limited to, health education, services that address issues that prevent chronic conditions or infectious diseases and providing connections to community resources necessary to promote a beneficiary's health. Additionally, AB 2697 signed in 2022 requires Medi-Cal managed care plans to engage in outreach and education efforts to enrollees in a manner as directed by DHCS.

### Problem

Unfortunately, in the almost three years that the CHWPR benefit has been in effect, little information has been released by the Department of Healthcare Services regarding the utilization of the benefit and of the CHWPR workforce providing the services for the benefit.



According to DHCS, since March of 2024, less than \$1 million have been reimbursed to providers for CHWPR services and less than 6,000 Medi-Cal recipients have accessed the CHWPR Medi-Cal benefit.

Currently, individuals are facing barriers to become a Community Health Worker Service provider within the Medi-Cal Program. This legislation will provide transparency on the current number of CHWPRs that are providing services in the hope of increasing the workforce.

### Solution

**AB 403 will require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to complete an analysis of the Community Health Workers and Promotores benefit by July 1, 2027. The report will include the following:**

- **Non-identifying data on the CHWPR workforce** such as race, ethnicity, language, region services are provided and age. The report will provide information on provider type, the types of services CHWPRs offer beneficiaries, the number of eligible beneficiaries, and the number of referrals by provider type.
- **In addition, the bill will require DHCS to carry out a review** of the outreach and education strategies developed by Medi-Cal managed care plans.
- **The department shall collect and make publicly available data on Medi-Cal reimbursements** for CHWPR services billed to DHCS. The data should include the total number of dollars reimbursed to providers and supervising entities that provide CHWPR services.

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1. "Bright Spots and Remaining Barriers to Realizing the Potential of Community Health Workers, Promotoras, and Representatives to Improve Health in California", Joint Informational Hearing Assembly Health Committee and Budget Sub No. 1, (2024). [https://ahea.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2024-03/chw-pr-info-hearing-background-paper-final\\_1.pdf](https://ahea.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2024-03/chw-pr-info-hearing-background-paper-final_1.pdf)