



# CUTTING COSTS AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

**First state in the nation to offer universal access to  
healthcare coverage**

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- **Universal access to healthcare coverage regardless of immigration status**
  - **Take action to reduce healthcare costs and hold the industry accountable**
  - **Rebuild the state's mental and behavioral health systems**
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Last year, Governor Newsom's California Comeback Plan provided unprecedented investments to improve the lives of all Californians, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable in our communities. We injected new resources in the behavioral health system while expanding access to children and youth, expanded and rehabilitated adult and senior care facilities, expanded Medi-Cal eligibility to older adults regardless of immigration status, expanded home and community based services, and launched Medi-Cal Rx to negotiate better drug prices.

Now, the Blueprint continues advancing the health and well-being of all Californians by building upon these actions to make healthcare more accessible than ever before and proposing new investments to improve the lives of California's most vulnerable residents.

## **UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE COVERAGE**

- **First state to achieve universal access to healthcare coverage.** The California Blueprint will provide a full expansion of Medi-Cal access to all eligible Californians regardless of immigration status, including an estimated 764,000 undocumented immigrants. Under Governor Newsom's leadership, California has expanded the Medi-Cal program to cover young adults and older adults over age 50 regardless of immigration status. The Blueprint builds on that work by expanding full-scope eligibility to all age groups regardless of immigration status.

## **REDUCE COSTS, INCREASE TRANSPARENCY**

- **The Office of Health Care Affordability.** The Governor's plan creates the Office of Health Care Affordability, which will work to reduce costs and increase transparency within the healthcare system, including developing cost targets, and implementing new investments to reduce health insurance premiums, and close equity gaps.
- **Reducing the cost of insulin.** The Administration will continue to work on plans to increase the availability of insulin that is priced at a fraction of current market prices, and a potential partnership with a contract manufacturer of insulin to cut costs.

# THE CALIFORNIA BLUEPRINT

- **Decreasing Medi-Cal premiums for hundreds of thousands of Californians.** Reduce to zero the financial burden for approximately 500,000 pregnant women, children, and disabled working adult Medi-Cal enrollees who are charged monthly premiums for Medi-Cal coverage. This will reduce continuing enrollment and access barriers for these populations.
- **Making healthcare more affordable for middle-income Californians.** Make Covered CA even more affordable for middle income Californians, working on options to further improve affordability and access to this healthcare coverage.

## BOLSTERING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORTING FRONTLINE WORKERS

- **\$1.7 billion to support frontline workers and expand and diversify the state's health and community care workforce,** including scholarships, loan repayments, and grants. Implement new investments and increase resources for local health departments and Tribal Health Programs, enhance and strengthen their infrastructure to improve health outcomes.

## DOUBLING DOWN ON THE COMMITMENT TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- **Improve access to reproductive health services and lower costs.** To expand and protect the right to safe and accessible reproductive health services, the Blueprint will undertake a number of actions to maintain and improve access to these essential services, including removing billing requirements and supporting reproductive healthcare providers and workers.

## REBUILDING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, GET THOSE STRUGGLING THE MOST THE HELP THEY NEED

- **\$1.5 billion to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness with serious and persistent behavioral health conditions** by providing additional beds for county mental health departments and other housing types, including existing assisted living settings.
- **\$1.4 billion to add mental health and substance use services to Medi-Cal benefits,** multi-disciplinary mobile response services for crises related to mental health and substance use disorders.

## TACKLING THE OPIOID CRISIS

- **Expand life-saving treatment services to combat the opioid crisis.** Invest in the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project, which would be targeted towards expanding the Naloxone Distribution Project, supporting 100 new MAT access points statewide, expanding MAT in county jails, and increasing MAT services within state-licensed facilities.
- **Initiate a public awareness campaign and track opioid statistics.** Initiate a public awareness campaign, and improve the state's ability to analyze data and track opioid overdose deaths, and expand treatment for opioids.