



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Over 2,750 Local Kids Get More Comprehensive Health Coverage in One Day

Community partners and San Mateo County agencies transition 95% of children in Healthy Kids to Full-Scope Medi-Cal

SAN MATEO, Calif. – On May 16, over 2,750 San Mateo County children transitioned to health coverage under Medi-Cal, ensuring they will have high-quality health coverage that provides access to healthcare across California. San Mateo County agencies and partners helped make this seamless transition possible – an example of their commitment to ensuring there are no gaps in health coverage for those who need it most.

San Mateo County is one of three counties in California that provides health care coverage to all children regardless of immigration status through a local Healthy Kids program. The State’s implementation of full-scope Medi-Cal gives all children in California health coverage and allows San Mateo County residents enrolled in Healthy Kids to transition into a statewide program funded by the State.

In anticipation of the State’s implementation of Senate Bill 75 (Medi-Cal for All Children), San Mateo County Health System and community partners began transitioning eligible children from the Healthy Kids program to restricted Medi-Cal so they would be ready for the full transition once the state implemented full-scope Medi-Cal.

“San Mateo County’s partners work tirelessly every day to make the enrollment process as easy as possible and earn and keep the trust of families seeking access to healthcare for their children,” said Srija Srinivasan, San Mateo County Health System’s interim Deputy Chief. “This milestone could not have been possible without the network of agencies, community organizations, safety-net clinics, schools, and hundreds of individuals across San Mateo County who came together in 2002 to assure universal coverage for children.”

“Our County has demonstrated how local government agencies can work together and prove the value of policy actions that put our youngest and least advantaged first,” said San Mateo County Manager John Maltbie. “Historically, San Mateo County has led the way in providing comprehensive healthcare coverage to our residents. This latest achievement is another great accomplishment that prioritizes health, particularly for those who face the biggest barriers to healthcare in our county.”

San Mateo County Health System, Human Services Agency, and Health Plan of San Mateo have provided health coverage to our youngest and least advantaged residents through Healthy Kids since 2003. During those years, community partners like Peninsula Health Care District, Sequoia Health Care District and First5 of San Mateo County have played an essential role as core funding partners that embraced the San Mateo County

Board of Supervisors' vision of health coverage for all kids. Healthy Kids will continue to support children whose families are not eligible for Medi-Cal so they will still have high-quality health coverage.

“After months of hard work preparing our families for this transition, we’re thrilled that the health of our most impacted children is put first and families can rest assured they’re covered,” said Wil Lobato, Community Health Advocate with San Mateo County Health System’s Health Coverage Unit. “I’m heartened to see the fruits of our advocacy come to life and know that all children across California now have access to affordable healthcare.”

For more information on affordable health coverage, please visit: smchealth.org/Insurance.

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