

Medi-Cal and In Home Supportive Services: An Overview

What is Medi-Cal?

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid healthcare program that provides comprehensive health coverage for people with low or no income. In Ventura County, Medi-Cal is administered by the Human Services Agency. To qualify for Medi-Cal, you have to live in California and meet program eligibility rules.

The income limits are listed below. If you are close, even if over the limit a small amount, apply or check your eligibility. These limits change yearly.

Family Size	Monthly Gross Income Limit
1	\$1,799
2	\$2,432

The asset limit was removed in 2024. There is a two-phase process in place to reinstate the limits expected to occur in 2026. Once the asset limit is reinstated it will be \$130,000 for an individual and a household of two people will have an asset limit of \$195,000.

How do I apply for Medi-Cal?

There are several ways you can apply. Start by completing an online tool to check your eligibility here: <https://benefitscal.com/>

Ways to apply:

1. Online at <https://benefitscal.com/>
2. **Drop-off, fax or mail** -download an application in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) or call a [Community Service Center](#) to request a paper application, which includes a return postage-paid envelope. Complete the applications and either:
Drop it off at a [Community Service Center](#), *or*
Fax it to 805-658-4530, *or*

Mail the completed form to:
County of Ventura
Human Services Agency L#5290
855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003-9565

3. **By phone** call 888-472-4463 to apply over the phone

What is In Home Supportive Services (IHSS)?

IHSS is a program under Medi-Cal that can pay for help in the home. The Human Services Agency helps seniors with low incomes and people with disabilities (including children) stay in their own homes instead of moving to residential care facilities. Through In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), help is available for qualified applicants to pay for in home care.

Types of services available include light housecleaning, meal preparation, laundry, grocery shopping, personal care (such as bathing, grooming, and paramedical care), assistance with and attendance at medical appointments, and protective supervision.

How do I apply for IHSS?

For information about applying for IHSS or to apply by phone, call 805-654-3236.

To submit an IHSS application via fax, fax your application to 805-654-3206 (Ventura, Ojai, Camarillo, Oxnard area) or 805-306-7910 (Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley area) or email hsa-ihss-applications@ventura.org.

What happens after I apply for IHSS?

When a potential recipient applies for in-home assistance and meets eligibility requirements, a social worker makes a home visit assessment. The social worker asks about and observes the recipient's medical and physical condition, living arrangements, and the amount of outside assistance he/she currently receives.

During this visit it is recommended to have a family member present who can act as an advocate and ensure that the person needing care is providing accurate information on their needs.

You will be notified if IHSS has been approved or denied.

What do I do after I am approved for IHSS?

If you are approved for IHSS, you must hire someone (your individual provider) to perform the authorized services. You are considered your provider's employer and, therefore, it is your responsibility to hire, train, supervise, and fire this individual. You will sign their timesheet but you will not be responsible for the payment, that will come from IHSS.

Some IHSS recipients choose a relative or friend to care for them: These care providers are called Non-Registry Providers. If you need help finding a quality care provider, you can be connected with a Registry Provider through the IHSS Public Authority.

If you need help finding an IHSS provider (caregiver) contact Public Authority:

805-654-3416