
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

AB 2680 (Arambula) - Medi-Cal: Community Health Navigator Program

Version: August 1, 2022

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 8, 2022

Policy Vote: HEALTH 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2680 would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to create the Community Health Navigator (CHN) Program to make direct grants to community-based organizations to conduct targeted outreach, enrollment, retention, and access activities for Medi-Cal-eligible individuals and families.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown ongoing costs, likely tens of millions of dollars (General Fund and federal funds), to provide grant funding.
- Unknown ongoing General Fund costs to DHCS, likely hundreds of thousands of dollars, to administer the program.

Background: DHCS administers the Medi-Cal program, under which low-income individuals are eligible for medical coverage. DHCS currently has a program which provides funding to counties and community-based organizations (CBOs) to serve hard-to-reach potentially eligible Medi-Cal populations through the Medi-Cal Health Enrollment Navigators Project (Project). These county and CBO groups perform the following activities to reach these populations: outreach, application assistance, enrollment, assistance with accessing and utilizing health care services, assistance with troubleshooting, retention, and assistance with redeterminations. DHCS is responsible for the Project's implementation including program design, funding allocations, data collection, and reporting requirements.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require DHCS to create the Community Health Navigator (CHN) Program to make direct grants to qualified tax-exempt CBOs to conduct targeted outreach, enrollment, retention, utilization, and access activities for individuals and families eligible for Medi-Cal.
- Authorize DHCS to contract with one or more private foundations to assist DHCS with administering the grant application and allocation process for the CHN Program.
- Require DHCS to contract with an independent entity to conduct an evaluation of the CHN Program every three years and to contract with tax-exempt CBOs or nonprofit legal services providers to furnish specified training and technical assistance to grant recipients of the CHN Program.

- Require DHCS to coordinate and partner with Covered California and counties that elect to participate on a seamless approach to application assistance outreach, enrollment, retention, utilization, and access activities, and for marketing targeted to individuals eligible for health coverage in Medi-Cal and Covered California.

Staff Comments: The 2022-23 Budget adopted in June includes one-time \$30 million General Fund and one-time \$30 million in federal funds to continue the Medi-Cal Health Enrollment Navigators Project through 2025-26.

-- END --