



Special Legislative Update ■ April 15, 2020

Counties Asked to Make Outreach to Congressional Delegation on Federal Relief

Urban counties are urged to take up CSAC's request for immediate action to ensure that additional funding for the Coronavirus Relief Fund is appropriately flexible and directed to county governments of all sizes. CSAC provided its most recently advocacy letter to the California delegation as well as a template letter developed by NACo for counties' use; both documents are attached. Counties are encouraged to reach out to their respective congressional delegations as soon as is practical, because language that will direct subsequent allocations is being written as we speak.

New Senate Special Committee on Pandemic Announced; Senate Budget Subcommittee Releases Tomorrow's Hearing Agenda

Today, Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins [released](#) details on a newly established Senate Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response. Convened to review and assess the state's response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, the committee will also make findings and recommendations for future preparedness – either for a second wave of the coronavirus later this year or for any subsequent pandemic. Eleven Senators have been appointed to the special committee: Senators Lena Gonzalez (chair), Patricia Bates (vice-chair), Andreas Borgeas, Anna Caballero, Bill Dodd, Hannah-Beth Jackson, Brian Jones, Mike McGuire, Richard Pan, Thomas Umberg, and Scott Wiener.

Additionally, members have been named to the recently formed Senate's special budget [subcommittee](#), which is focused on expenditures and funding related to the COVID-19 response: Senators Holly Mitchell (chair), Anna Caballero, Brian Dahle, John Moorlach, Jim Nielsen, Richard Pan, Richard Roth, Nancy Skinner, and Bob Wieckowski. The committee will meet tomorrow at 2 p.m. for its first hearing; see the agenda [here](#). While focus will be given to the state's expenditures under the emergency appropriations measure passed in mid-March ([SB 89](#)), each Senate budget subcommittee also prepared a write-up of COVID-19 related impacts within their respective jurisdiction. We will report back on the substance and tone of tomorrow's hearing.

CalAIM Formally Postponed

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) announced today that due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, they are postponing CalAIM implementation timelines. Additionally, DHCS will be seeking extensions from the federal government of the existing 1115 waiver (expires December 31, 2020) and the 1915b Special Mental Health waiver (expires June 30, 2020).

DHCS outlined the following immediate changes to CalAIM implementation activities:

- *CalAIM "Redline" Proposals and Summary of Changes:* DHCS will be delaying the release of the "redline" version of the CalAIM proposals that reflects changes informed by the CalAIM Workgroup process and stakeholder feedback. The proposals will be finalized later this summer – not in April as originally planned.
- *CalAIM Regional Meetings and Technical Assistance Process:* The in-person Regional Meetings on CalAIM Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and In Lieu of Services (ILOS) implementation have been postponed. DHCS is also delaying the launch of our CalAIM Targeted Technical Assistance teams. No dates have been announced for future meetings.
- *ECM/ILOS Transition Plans:* The ECM/ILOS Transition Plans will no longer be due to DHCS on July 1, 2020. DHCS is working to set a new deadline, which will be announced in the future.
- *Medi-Cal Section 1115 Waiver Public Hearings:* Public hearings for the Section 1115 waiver renewal and consolidated Section 1915(b) hearings are currently scheduled for May 18 and May 27, 2020. DHCS is keeping these hearings on the calendar as scheduled; however, DHCS notes that the dates are subject to change based on the COVID-19 situation and/or discussions with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
- *Foster Care Workgroup:* The Foster Care Model of Care workgroup is being launched on June 26 instead of April 21. DHCS and the Department of Social Services will be reviewing the applications submitted for workgroup membership and finalizing the workgroup by May 15, 2020.

New Executive Order Addresses California Workers

Governor Newsom's most recent Executive Order [N-50-20](#) issued today outlines several new initiatives meant to assist and support California workers who have been affected by the pandemic. New service delivery models to be offered by the Employment Development Department (EDD) include a new call center on that will be open 12 hours daily starting next week as well as a one-stop shop for accessing the new federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program that will be up and running on April 28. The Governor also announced a public-private partnership that will make available \$125 million in disaster relief assistance for working undocumented Californians. These resources will be distributed through a network of community-based regional nonprofits.

LAO Post on Federal Stimulus Funds for Transit

In a [post](#) released today, the Legislative Analyst's Office discusses additional transit funding made available through the CARES Act– \$25 billion to transit agencies nationwide – and its application in California.