

Thank you for subscribing to the Urban Counties of California (UCC) e-newsletter.



Established in 1991, UCC serves as the representative voice for state legislative advocacy for high-population counties in California. Initially composed of seven counties, the association has grown to 14 today. Over 80 percent of the state's population reside in UCC counties. Consequently, urban counties carry out critical programs and services to the state's most vulnerable populations. For more information, including details on our Board of Directors, please visit [our website](#).

UCC Weekly News: January 29, 2021

Eviction Protections Extended, Rental Assistance Program Gearing Up

The Legislature has approved and Governor Gavin Newsom has [signed](#) into law an extension of the state's eviction moratorium and allocation of federal rental and utility assistance funds. As noted in our earlier updated this week, the bills do the following:

[SB 89](#): Budget Bill Jr.

SB 89 makes technical changes to the 2020-21 Budget Act to appropriate and implement federal funds received for rental assistance under the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

[SB 91](#): Eviction Moratorium/Rental Assistance

SB 91 extends the existing statewide moratorium (established via last year's [AB 3088](#)) on evictions through June 2021 and includes provisions to allocate up to \$2.6 billion in federal stimulus funds for purposes of rental and utility assistance (\$1.1 billion for cities and counties with populations of 200,000 or greater and \$1.5 billion to the state for allocation and administration).

As a reminder, HCD is tasked with administering a program to allocate the state share of federal assistance, as follows:

- Funding for the first round is prioritized for those renters with incomes less than 50% area median income (AMI); funding for the second round is for communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; finally, funding for round 3 is dedicated for eligible households at 80% AMI or less.
- Funding may be used for rental arrears, prospective rent payments, utility arrears, and prospective utility payments.
- Payments may be made directly to landlords, with rental arrears limited to 80% of unpaid rental debt from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; under an agreement between grantees and the landlord, the payment must be accepted as payment in full. If a landlord refuses to participate, payments may be made directly to renters up to 25% of unpaid debt.
- Funds are allocated based on population, with \$150 million set aside for counties with populations under 200,000. Remaining funds will be allocated to those cities and counties with populations above 200,000. For cities and counties with populations greater than 500,000, amounts will be received as a

block grant from the state. Cities and counties with populations between 200,000 and 500,000 are eligible to receive funding as a block grant. For localities with populations below 200,000 or those who have declined to receive their state block grant, the bill permits HCD to contract with a vendor to serve as the program implementer to manage and fund services to distribute emergency rental assistance resources. Up to 10 percent of funds may be used for administrative purposes.

- For those cities and counties with populations above 200,000, there are three options for administration: (1) state-administered: a jurisdiction authorizes the state to administer its federal and state shares; (2) self-administered: a jurisdiction requests the state block grant and administers that with the federal allocation in accordance with state and federal guidelines; (3) self-administered and state-administered: a jurisdiction chooses to administer its program in a different manner than that prescribed by the state, it is not eligible for a state block grant. The state will administer its program with those funds within that jurisdiction.
- Initial allocation of funds must be completed and shared no later than **February 19, 2021** by HCD, in consultation with the Department of Finance. Locals must request the block grants by **February 12, 2021**, must contractually obligate at least 65 percent of those funds by **June 1, 2021**, and must fully expend those funds by **August 1, 2021**.
- HCD is also directed to establish a contract with an education and outreach contractor to conduct a multilingual statewide campaign to promote program participation and accessibility.

Look for alerts as to webinars from the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency (BCSH) to provide more detailed information and answer questions about the program. (The next webinar is scheduled for Monday, February 1 at 1:00 p.m. Register [here](#).) BCSH has requested that cities and counties with populations of 200,000 and above fill out an “expression of intent” survey by **February 3, 2021** with the final expression of intent by **February 12, 2021**.

New Secretary of State Takes Office

Earlier today, Dr. Shirley Weber was sworn in by Governor Gavin Newsom as California’s first Black woman Secretary of State. As a reminder, Dr. Weber was nominated by Governor Newsom after the appointment of former

Secretary of State Alex Padilla to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy left by Vice President Kamala Harris... whew! After a busy week of confirmation hearings, Dr. Weber's nomination was confirmed by a resounding bipartisan vote in the Assembly (70-0) and a less bipartisan, but impressive Senate vote (29-0). Dr. Weber's personal story is compelling... [this CalMatters](#) interview is pretty inspiring.

Revised Approach to Bail Reform Introduced

Senators Bob Hertzberg and Nancy Skinner along with Assembly Member Rob Bonta have introduced identical measures – [AB 329](#) (Bonta) and [SB 262](#) (Hertzberg and Skinner) – that take another run at reforming the state's cash bail system. These same members pursued bail reform in the 2017-18 legislative session, resulting in the enactment of SB 10 (2018) that subsequently was rejected by voters in a November 2020 referendum (Proposition 25). These bills would establish zero-dollar bail for misdemeanors and low-level felonies, eliminate county-based bail schedules in favor of a statewide schedule to be established by the Judicial Council, and define various circumstances under which bail is to be refunded. We will provide a more detailed analysis of these measures in the weeks to come. In the meantime, read more from Senator Skinner on the purpose and objectives of the bills [here](#).

Covered California Extends Open Enrollment Period

Covered California announced yesterday that the open enrollment period for people to purchase health care coverage will be extended through May 15. Covered California's announcement mirrors the Biden Administration's move to open the federal exchange for enrollment through May 15.

The most recent data on Covered California enrollment (as of January 12) shows that nearly 200,000 more Californians purchased coverage starting January 1 than during the same period last year, representing a 14 percent increase. Covered California estimates that about 2.7 million Californians remain uninsured, and about 1.2 million of them are eligible for Medi-Cal or financial help through the exchange.

Update and Timeline for Administration's CalAIM Plan

The slides from the Administration's CalAIM webinar that was held on January 28 are available [here](#). Please note the Administration's timeline for 2021 CalAIM activities and actions, as follows:

January – March

- Launch Managed Long Term Services and Supports and Duals integration workgroup

- Release draft Enhanced Care Management (ECM)/In Lieu of Services (ILOS) model of care and DHCS to managed care plan contract language and managed care plan to provider standards terms and conditions for comment and begin technical assistance efforts
- Release final ECM/ILOS contract language
- Section 1115 and 1915(b) waiver public comment period begins

April – June

- Release draft EMC rates
- Release additional EMC/ILOS materials, including in ILOS pricing guides
- Conclude Foster Care Model of Care Workgroup
- Form county oversight and monitoring workgroup
- Develop auditing tools for oversight of California Children's Services (CCS) and Child Health and Disability Prevention program (CHDP)

July – December

- Managed care plans submit model of care plans for EMC/ILOS, DHCS to review
- Begin stakeholder process for county inmate pre-release program
- Publish an updated process for monitoring and reporting of county performance standards
- Anticipated approval of 1115 and 1915(b) waiver/renewal requests