



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](#).

August 20, 2021

Legislative End-of-Session Countdown: One Week Down, Three to Go

The Legislature's return to Sacramento this week featured very full agendas for both houses' Appropriations Committees as well as a number of oversight and informational hearings on a broad array of topics.

Both the Assembly and Senate fiscal (Appropriations) committees will meet twice next week. Each will hold a regular hearing (Senate on Monday and Assembly on Thursday), followed by the ever-important Suspense File hearings on Thursday when both houses' committees will announce decisions about which second-house bills will move to the floor for consideration by the full body. Taken together, the two Appropriations Committees have hundreds of bills before them, and the committees' collective decisions will define and narrow the universe of bills that the Legislature must consider before adjourning for the year and that the Governor may be asked to sign. On this latter point, recall election politics will certainly come into play. In next week's update, we will provide information on the outcomes on high-profile and/or other priority bills.

As a reminder, the deadline for the Governor to make signing/veto decisions is a little different at the end of session. As a reminder, any bill *in the Governor's possession* (note – this status does not mean that the Legislature has acted on it ... but that the bill has actually been transmitted to the Governor's desk) on or before September 9, the day before session ends, is subject to a 12-day signing window. Any bill in the Governor's possession on or after September 10 (the last day of session) is subject to a 30-day signing period, i.e., the Governor must make any and all decisions on bills by October 10. Fun fact: in California, any bill the Governor does not affirmatively sign or veto becomes law.

While budget conversations swirl behind the scenes, little to no concrete information emerged this week about new trailer bills or language on the many budget items that the Legislature is expected to act on in the weeks ahead. By our count, there are 14 business days left in the 2021 regular legislative session. More to come next week ...

Next Week’s Legislative Oversight and Informational Hearings

As noted last week, the Legislature has scheduled several budget and policy oversight and/or informational hearings prior to the end of August, at which point – with very limited exceptions – only floor sessions (and no committee hearings) are permitted.

<p>Monday, August 23</p>	<p>Assembly Joint Hearing Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee and Assembly Agriculture Committee – <i>Informational Hearing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Drought and it's Impact on California Agriculture
<p>Tuesday, August 24</p> <p>*postponed</p>	<p>Joint Hearing of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration; Assembly Insurance Committee; Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee; and Joint Legislative Audit Committee – <i>Informational Hearing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Reform at the Employment Development Department <p>Assembly Select Committee on Impact Investing for Improved Social and Environmental Outcomes - <i>Informational Hearing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Understanding Ways in Which We Can Measure Emissions and Incentivize Business Cooperation
<p>Wednesday, August 25</p>	<p>Assembly Select Committee on Emerging Technologies and Innovation Committee – <i>Informational Hearing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next-Generation 5G Technology in California: Identifying its Opportunities and Challenges <p>Assembly Select Committee on Emerging Technologies and Innovation Committee -- <i>Informational Hearing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Generation 5G Technology in California: Identifying its Opportunities and Challenges <p>Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee -- <i>Informational Hearing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond New Construction: Decarbonizing California's Existing Building Stock <p>Assembly Select Committee on Native American Affairs -- Oversight Hearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act: The University of California is Not Adequately Overseeing It's Return of Native American Remains and Artifacts

Biden Administration Announces 100% FEMA Funding for COVID Emergency Expenses

This week, the Biden Administration announced that it would continue to offer 100 percent FEMA reimbursement for COVID-related emergency expenses, including California's Project Roomkey. Governor Newsom **praised** the news, stating "Now, with 100 percent reimbursement from the federal government, California can continue our efforts to protect people experiencing homelessness and reduce the spread of COVID and its variants."

California Prepares for Unemployment Benefits to Expire in September

The Newsom Administration announced efforts this week to encourage Californians to apply for public benefit programs as federal unemployment benefits are slated to expire next month. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Covered California, the Department of Managed Health Care, the Employment Development Department (EDD), Housing and Community Development, the Department of Social Services, and other state agencies and departments are working together to proactively continue helping people.

On September 4, most federal unemployment benefits will expire, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Pandemic Unemployment Emergency Compensation, the \$300 federal supplement under the Federal Additional Compensation (also known as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation), and Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation. One week later, the Federal-State Extended Duration will end.

State departments are working with stakeholders, counties, and partners across the state to help get the word out on social media about the many other vital benefit programs using the hashtag #TogetherWeBenefit.

State Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Workgroup Kicks Off

The California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of State Hospitals are convening an Incompetent to Stand Trial Solution (IST) workgroup, per **AB 133**, to identify actionable solutions to address the increasing number of individuals with serious mental health issues who become justice-involved and are subsequently deemed IST on felony charges. The workgroup met for the first time on August 17 in what was largely an organizational and informational meeting.

The purpose of the workgroup is to identify solution to advance alternatives to placement in DSH restoration of competency programs and may include:

- Strategies for reducing the number of individuals found incompetent to stand trial
- Reducing length of stay for felony IST patients
- Providing early access to treatment prior to transfer to a DSH program
- Increasing diversion opportunities and treatment options, among other solutions.

The workgroup will submit recommendations to the Agency and Department of Finance on or before November 30, 2021. The workgroup is scheduled to meet August 31, September 15, September 29, and October 12. For additional details, including meeting materials, please see the Agency [webpage](#) on the workgroup.

State to Host CalAIM Webinar

DHCS will be hosting a webinar on August 25, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., to educate community providers about core aspects of the CalAIM initiative's Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and In Lieu of Services (ILOS) components, including Medi-Cal managed care plan and provider roles, provider expectations, and an overview of the payment process. Registration, which can be found [here](#), is required. This is the second of three webinars on the topic; the [previous webinar recording](#) is now available.

Federal Guidance Released on Medi-Cal Redeterminations

On August 13, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [State Health Official \(SHO\) letter](#) to assist states with their planning efforts to resume routine Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and Basic Health Program operations upon the conclusion of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The SHO letter provides updated guidance that:

- Extends the timeframe for states to complete pending eligibility and enrollment work to up to 12 months after the PHE ends. Therefore, if the PHE ends December 31, 2021, California would have until the end of 2022 to do Medi-Cal eligibility redeterminations.
- Requires states to complete a redetermination of eligibility after the PHE for all beneficiaries prior to taking any adverse action.

NOFAs Released for Federal Emergency Solutions Grant Program

The California Department of Housing and Community Development announced the release of [Notices of Funding Availability](#) (NOFA) for the federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program for about \$11 million in federal ESG grant funds. There are two allocations for this program and one NOFA for each allocation (Continuum of Care and Balance of State).

HCD is hosting two webinars on Tuesday, August 24 (one for each NOFA) as detailed below:

- Continuum of Care Allocation: 10:30-11:30 a.m. (Registration information [here](#).)
- Balance of State: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. (Registration information [here](#).)