

# Department of Mental Health Director's Update

▶▶ Rimmi Hundal, Chief Deputy Director  
November 13, 2025



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH**  
hope. recovery. wellbeing.

# Impact of Federal Shutdown-CalFresh

## ▶▶ Beneficiaries

- On October 28, 2025, the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and Department of Social Services (DPSS) presented on the impacts of the Federal Budget shutdown on the CalFresh program.
- At that time, CalFresh cash benefit funding was anticipated to run out for the months of November and December 2025.
- DMH prepared to provide food only gift cards to clients receiving CalFresh benefits.
- DMH requested the Internal Services Department (ISD) to expedite purchase orders for Albertsons, Vallarta, WalMart, and Northgate.
- As of this past weekend, DPSS announced the availability full benefits to CalFresh beneficiaries.
- DMH stands ready to assist based on need.

# ▶▶ Medi-Cal Changes Due to H.R. 1 and '25-'26 State Budget

## **H.R. 1/Senate Reconciliation Bill – One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)**

- New work requirements (expected to begin on or after Jan 1, 2027):
  - Applies to individuals ages 19-64.
  - Working, going to school, volunteering or participating in qualifying activities for at least 80 hours per month will meet “work requirement.”
  - Serious Mental Illness will be considered a disability eligible for exemption.
    - But we do not yet know how exemption process will work
- More frequent eligibility redetermination:
  - Every 6 months, instead of once a year. No exemptions.

## **California 2025-26 Budget Agreement**

- Reintroduced Asset Test: \$130,000 of assets deems applicants ineligible.
- New monthly premiums (\$30) for undocumented residents effective July 1, 2027.
- Enrollment freeze for undocumented residents who are eligible for State only funded Medi-Cal program effective January 1, 2026.
  - Exceptions: 6-month grace period for re-application; Youth will not age out of the program at 19 years old

THANK YOU



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH**  
hope. recovery. wellbeing.