



COVERED CALIFORNIA

Media Clips

COVERED CALIFORNIA BOARD CLIPS

Jan. 1, 2025 – Jan. 31, 2025

Since our last board meeting, the media coverage includes:

- Covered California’s Open Enrollment Deadline Events in San Diego, Fresno and Sacramento.
- Covered California opens a special enrollment period for the wildfire victims of Southern California.
- Announcement of our newest member of Board of Directors, Sumi Sousa.
- The ACA’s record enrollment of 24 million people along with Covered California’s 1.9 million and counting.
- President Trump’s executive orders regarding health care.

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Articles of Significance

[Thousands of San Diegans scramble to find doctors amid Anthem Blue Cross and Scripps Health fallout](#)
NBC San DiegoJan. 1, 2025

[‘The Medicine My Ancestors Prayed For’: Medi-Cal Now Covers Native Healing Practices](#)
KQEDJan. 2, 2025

[Newsom aims to limit unhealthy food in California, getting ahead of Trump administration and RFK Jr.](#)
 Los Angeles TimesJan. 3, 2025

[How Trump Administration Cuts Could Hurt Medi-Cal](#)
 Capital & Main.....Jan. 6, 2025

[Under Trump, Dreamers' health care is uncertain](#)
 PoliticoJan. 7, 2025

[Covered CA shares open enrollment information at Salinas library](#)
 KION 546Jan. 7, 2025

[A record 24 million people now get Obamacare health plans. Will it last under Trump?](#)
 NPRJan. 8, 2025

['Obamacare' hits record enrollment but an uncertain future awaits under Trump](#)
 Associated PressJan. 8, 2025

[Obamacare signups near a record 24 million, almost double than when Trump was last in office](#)
 CNNJan. 8, 2025

[Biden administration achieves fourth record-breaking ACA enrollment ahead of exit](#)
 The Hill.....Jan. 8, 2025

[US agency declares California wildfires a public health emergency](#)
 ReutersJan. 10, 2025

[SCOTUS agrees to hear challenge to Obamacare's preventive care coverage](#)
 POLITICOJan. 10, 2025

[Democrats prepare for Affordable Care Act tax credit fight](#)
 The Hill.....Jan. 10, 2025

[How Cutting Medi-Cal Could Leave a Generation of Californians Without Health Care](#)
 KQEDJan. 14, 2025

[Nearly Half of U.S. Says Healthcare Headed in Wrong Direction](#)
 News Gallup.....Jan. 15, 2025

[States Seek to Defend Biden's Obamacare Expansion for Dreamers](#)
 Bloomberg LawJan. 15, 2025

[CalOptima Health approved to pursue participation in Covered California](#)
 New Santa AnaJan. 16, 2025

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|---|---------------|
| <u>Obamacare 2025 Enrollment Ends With Record 24.2 Million Sign-Ups</u> | |
| Bloomberg Law | Jan. 17, 2025 |
| <u>Study links Obamacare to improved health, reduced costs</u> | |
| The Washington Times | Jan. 17, 2025 |
| <u>Covered California supports wildfire victims in Southern California</u> | |
| KEYT | Jan. 18, 2025 |
| <u>ACA enrollment breaks records again in 2025</u> | |
| Healthcare Dive | Jan. 21, 2025 |
| <u>Covered California Hits Record Enrollment, but Key Subsidies in Jeopardy</u> | |
| California Healthline | Jan. 22, 2025 |
| <u>Trump's Health Care Executive Order Could Hit Republican States Hardest</u> | |
| Newsweek..... | Jan. 22, 2025 |
| <u>What To Know About Trump's Executive Orders on US Health Care</u> | |
| KFF Health News..... | Jan. 22, 2025 |
| <u>Covered California Part 2 – Understanding Your Options</u> | |
| Los Angeles Sentinel | Jan. 23, 2025 |
| <u>Without the United States, Global Health Will Fall Apart</u> | |
| The New York Times | Jan. 24, 2025 |
| <u>Federal Reconciliation: What's at Risk for Medi-Cal and Covered CA</u> | |
| Health Access California | Jan. 27, 2025 |
| <u>Claims Denials and Appeals in ACA Marketplace Plans in 2023</u> | |
| KFF Health News | Jan. 27, 2025 |
| <u>Covered California Part 3 – Making the Most of Your Coverage</u> | |
| Los Angeles Sentinel | Jan. 28, 2025 |
| <u>Time Is Running Out: Black Californians Encouraged to Enroll in Covered California by Jan. 31</u> | |
| The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint | Jan. 28, 2025 |
| <u>COVERED CALIFORNIA REACHES RECORD-BREAKING 1.9M ENROLLEES BEFORE OPEN ENROLLMENT'S JANUARY 31 DEADLINE</u> | |
| East County Magazine | Jan. 29, 2025 |
| <u>Covered California enrollment reaches record-high numbers days before enrollment closes</u> | |
| The Mercury News | Jan. 29, 2025 |

[Column: No one polices men’s bodies the way we police women’s bodies](#)
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 Oakdale LeaderJan. 30, 2025

[Covered California open enrollment is nearly over. Buy a 2025 health plan or pay tax penalty](#)
 The Sacramento BeeJan. 31, 2025

[Can Central California DACA recipients enroll in Covered California? Here’s what we know](#)
 The Fresno BeeJan. 31, 2025

[Trump Has Created Health-Care Chaos](#)
 The AtlanticJan. 31, 2025



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 17, 2025

Covered California Lends Support for Wildfire Victims in Southern California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Covered California has announced a special-enrollment period for residents of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, where a state of emergency has been declared due to the Palisades and Eaton Fires that have destroyed over 12,000 homes and displaced hundreds of thousands of Californians.

“These fires have caused unprecedented destruction and have upended the lives of so many living in Southern California,” said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. “Everyone who is uninsured and has been affected by these fires, directly or indirectly, will have an extended opportunity to obtain health insurance through Covered California or Medi-Cal over the next two months.”

Californians have 60 days from the date that the state of emergency was declared in their county to sign up for coverage, so this special-enrollment period will last until March 8.

Other resources made available to Californians affected by the fires can be found here:

- [Los Angeles County Resources](#)
- [State of California Resources](#)

Special Enrollment Will Continue to Offer Expanded Financial Help for 2025

Those signing up for coverage will be eligible for more financial help than ever before, as Covered California has enhanced its cost-sharing reduction program for 2025. These cost-sharing reductions lessen the cost of accessing health care by lowering out-of-pocket costs when they seek medical care, including eliminating deductibles in all three Silver cost-sharing reduction plans.

(more)

The cost-sharing reduction program for out-of-pocket costs is available to *all* Californians with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty level (which is \$30,120 for a single person and \$62,400 for a family of four), while those under 200 percent of the federal poverty level will continue to have access to higher levels of benefits.

Nearly 90 percent of Covered California’s over 1.8 million enrollees receive financial help. Two-thirds of those enrollees are eligible for health insurance for \$10 or less per month, and nearly half could get a comprehensive Silver plan for that price.

“The rebuilding of these wonderful communities of Los Angeles will be a massive undertaking, but we know Southern Californians are resilient and ready for the challenges ahead,” Altman said. “Rebuilding will take time and persistence, but investing in your mental and physical health is fundamental. As you begin to reconstruct your homes and lives, know that health care is within reach and Covered California is here to help.”

Coming into open enrollment, data from the California Simulation of Insurance Markets (CalSIM), a model created by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, showed that of the 1.3 million uninsured Californians who qualify for subsidies through Covered California or are eligible for Medi-Cal coverage, 356,000 of them reside in Southern California.

Signing Up for Coverage Is Easy

Consumers can learn more about their options by visiting CoveredCA.com, where they can easily find out if they qualify for financial help and see the coverage options in their area. [Those](#) interested in learning more about their coverage options can also:

- Get free and confidential assistance over the phone, in a variety of languages, from one of more than 14,000 certified agents and community-based organizations throughout the state that provide free, confidential help in whatever language or dialect consumers prefer.
- Have a certified enroller [call them](#) and help them for free.
- Use Covered California’s [online calculator tool](#).
- Call Covered California at (800) 300-1506.

About Covered California

Covered California is the state’s health insurance marketplace, where Californians can find affordable, high-quality insurance from top insurance companies. Covered California is the only place where individuals who qualify can get financial assistance on a sliding scale to reduce premium costs. Consumers can then compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. Depending on their income, some consumers may qualify for the low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal program.

(more)

Covered California is an independent part of the state government whose job is to make the health insurance marketplace work for California's consumers. It is overseen by a five-member board appointed by the governor and the Legislature. For more information about Covered California, please visit www.CoveredCA.com.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 24, 2025

Sumi Sousa Appointed to Covered California's Board

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sumi Sousa has been named the newest member of Covered California's Board of Directors, appointed by California State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas.

Sousa fills the seat recently vacated by Jarrett Barrios, and her term on the board will run through Jan. 1, 2029.

"We are elated to have Sumi Sousa joining Covered California's board," said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. "Sumi's addition to the board couldn't come at a more opportune time, as we enter the next era of the Affordable Care Act. Her strategic vision and proven commitment to health care is unmatched, as she was integral to California's leadership in early implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Her efforts helped the state maximize the law including through Covered California's formation, leading to meaningful health care access for more Californians."



Sousa served as health policy advisor to four assembly speakers, and managed the legislation creating Covered California 15 years ago. She also served as Officer of Policy Development and Coverage Programs at San Francisco Health Plan, overseeing enrollment, government relations, non-Medi-Cal lines of business and managing health care coverage expansions with the City and County of San Francisco.

"I'm thrilled to join the governing board of Covered California, and I extend my gratitude to Speaker Rivas for entrusting me with helping shape the future of health care in California. I look forward to continuing my decades of work to ensure every Californian has access to affordable, high-quality health care," Sousa said.

(more)

During her time at the State Capitol, Sousa focused her efforts on expanding access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance and the health budget. When critical Medi-Cal services to vulnerable Californians would have been eliminated during a severe state budget crisis, Sousa successfully managed bipartisan legislative efforts that brought in critical federal funds to stave off catastrophic program reductions, including the first managed-care organization tax and multiple federal waivers.

Sousa grew up in Gilroy and is a graduate of the state's public school system. She is a longtime resident of San Francisco.

There is no compensation for the board position, but Sousa may receive a per diem and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses.

About Covered California

Covered California is the state's health insurance marketplace, where Californians can find affordable, high-quality insurance from top insurance companies. Covered California is the only place where individuals who qualify can get financial assistance on a sliding scale to reduce premium costs. Consumers can then compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. Depending on their income, some consumers may qualify for the low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal program.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 29, 2025

Covered California Reaches Record-Breaking 1.9M Enrollees Before Open Enrollment's Jan. 31 Deadline

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Covered California has surpassed 1.9 million enrollees, bolstering its record-high enrollment before open enrollment's Jan. 31 deadline for California's remaining uninsured.

This open enrollment, 299,060 Californians have signed up for 2025 coverage as of Jan. 26, a 13 percent increase over the same period last year.

Another 1,638,954 Californians have renewed their health insurance plans, a 10 percent jump over the same date last year, with more than 100,000 total enrollees in 2025 as compared to the record enrollment in 2024.

“Uninsured Californians are taking advantage of the unprecedented financial help available to help pay for coverage in 2025, as we have seen robust sign-ups throughout the state and reached our all-time record sign-ups before the end of open enrollment,” said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. “With just days remaining to enroll, this is a pivotal moment to secure not just health insurance, but peace of mind and financial security for the rest of the year.”

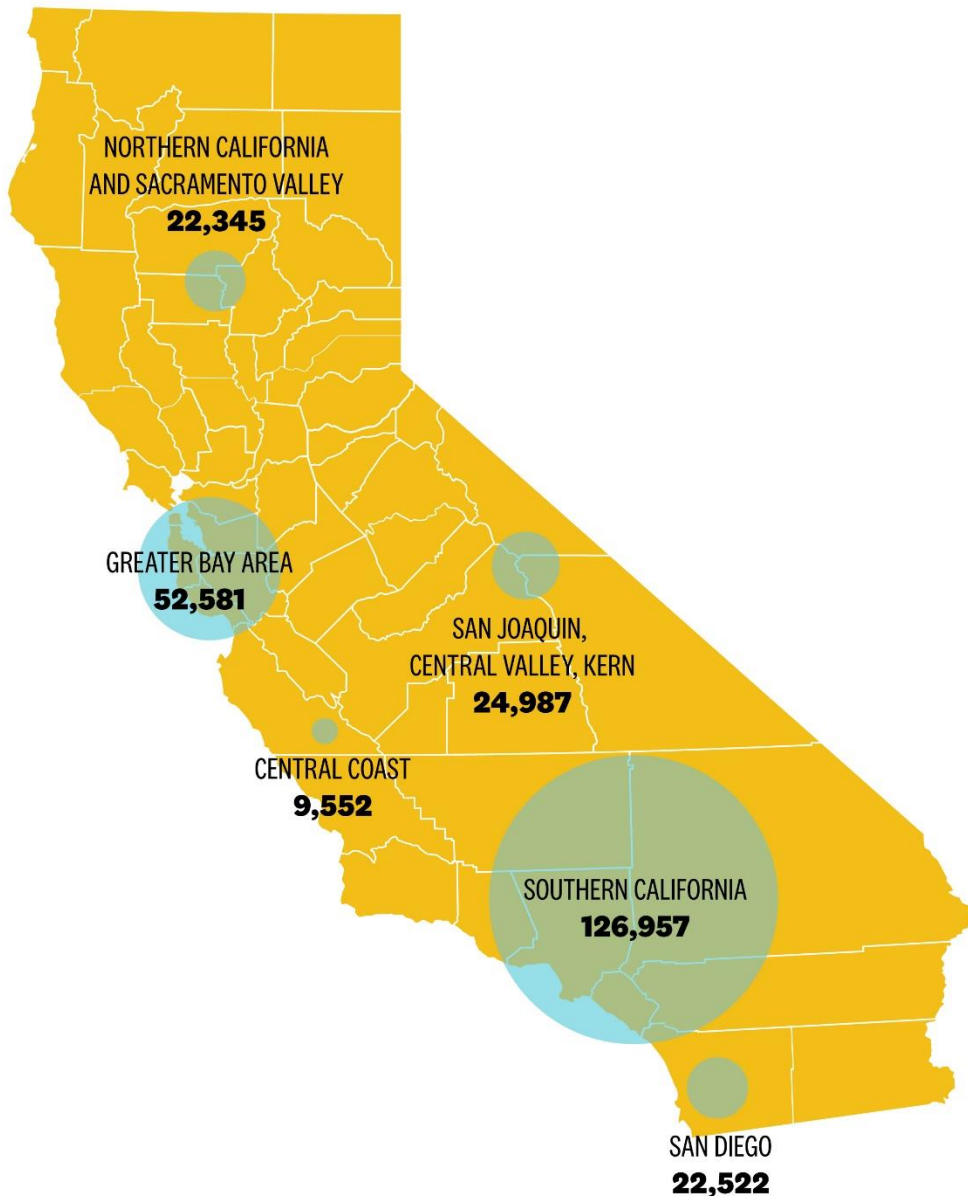
Once open enrollment ends on Friday, Californians will need to have experienced a major life change to enroll in health insurance through Covered California. So now is the time to sign up, whether it's on CoveredCA.com or through one of the 14,000 Licensed Insurance Agents or community partners available to provide you free, confidential assistance.

Residents of the Los Angeles and Ventura counties affected by the fires will have access to Covered California's special-enrollment period, which allows residents to sign up for health coverage for an additional 60 days from the date the state of emergency was declared. The special-enrollment period will continue through March 8.

(more)

Nearly half of the new enrollees have come from five Southern California counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura), with nearly 150,000 sign-ups. Also, nearly 82,000 new enrollees identified as Latino, and over 52,000 identified as Asian Americans. Over 72,000 White Californians and over 9,000 Black Californians have enrolled, and over 58,000 Californians did not disclose their race or ethnicity.

Figure 1: Nearly 300,000 Californians Have Signed Up During Open Enrollment Through Jan. 26



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Despite the continued progress, the data from the California Simulation of Insurance Markets (CalSIM), a model created by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, showed that heading into open enrollment, there were nearly 1.3 million uninsured Californians who either qualified for subsidies through Covered California (591,000) or were eligible for Medi-Cal coverage (675,000), and they reside all over the state.

California's Cost-Sharing Reduction Program Highlights Robust Assistance

This year, Covered California is offering more financial help for Californians than ever before. Building on the existing federal subsidies to help pay for health insurance premiums, Covered California is enhancing its cost-sharing reduction program that reduces the cost of accessing health care for consumers by lowering out-of-pocket costs, including eliminating deductibles in all three Silver cost-sharing reduction plans.

The cost-sharing reduction program for out-of-pocket costs is available to *all* Californians with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty level (which is \$30,120 for a single person and \$62,400 for a family of four), while those under 200 percent of the federal poverty level will continue to have access to higher levels of benefits.

In 2024, nearly 800,000 existing Covered California enrollees took advantage of this program, and 200,000 of our new enrollees have qualified for these cost savings and richer benefits for 2025. That means that over 1.2 million enrollees have already enrolled in enhanced Silver plans for 2025.

Nearly 90 percent of Covered California's enrollees receive financial help. Two-thirds of those enrollees are eligible for health insurance for \$10 or less per month, and nearly half could get a comprehensive Silver plan for that price.

Signing Up for Coverage Is Easy

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- Have a certified enroller [call them](#) and help them for free.
- Use Covered California's [online calculator tool](#).
- Call Covered California at (800) 300-1506.

(more)

Californians who forgo health insurance will be subject to a tax penalty administered by the California Franchise Tax Board. The penalty for not having coverage the entire year will be at least \$900 per adult and \$450 per dependent child under 18 in the household. A family of four that goes uninsured for the whole year would face a penalty of at least \$2,700.

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