



December 13th, 2021

Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair  
 Supervisor Candace Andersen  
 Supervisor John Gioia  
 Supervisor Federal Glover  
 Supervisor Karen Mitchoff

Dear Board of Supervisors:

We are writing on behalf of the Health Care Task Force of the Multi-faith ACTION Coalition with approval of its Steering Committee. The Multi-faith ACTION Coalition is made up of people of diverse faiths who seek to do justice and end poverty. Our Contra Costa County based Coalition represents some 50 faith communities. Our faith teachings urge us to treat each person with dignity and respect.

This Board has declared systemic racism to be a public health crisis. You have before you an opportunity to fill a large gap in access to health care for some of the most underserved residents of our county. While the State is slowly starting to provide Medi-Cal coverage for undocumented adults, there are no commitments or discussion yet of support for those age 26-49, represented by 11,467 individuals living in our county.

While the Board's approval of the \$750,000 allocation for Contra Costa CARES to July 2022 (from 2023) is notable, this represents only one half of the cost of the current program which serves only 4,100 people. This level of funding is inadequate to provide the comprehensive care required by this population and does not get us any closer to meeting the needs of the over 11,000 remaining uninsured who are in need. Expanding CARES was ranked extremely high (#5) by the Measure X Community Advisory Board. While you are of course not mandated to follow the CAB's recommendations, it is important to note the strong support that was expressed by this group of community representatives and the public at large. **Because of the Measure X 3 to 5-year spending schedule, it is imperative that the Board of Supervisors set aside enough money to expand CARES before the rest of the Measure X funding is allotted and the opportunity is lost.**

Contra Costa County has an opportunity in this moment to support and expand a critical local safety net program for which no State or Federal financial support exists or is even on the horizon for 2022. For this reason, the Multi-faith Action Coalition requests that during your current discussions you set aside a minimum of \$5 million dedicated to the expansion of the current CARES program to serve the remaining uninsured in our county.

Pat Reyes, MPH  
 Chair, Health Care Task Force  
 Multi-faith ACTION Coalition

Diana Honig  
 Member, Health Care Task Force  
 Alternate Member, MXCAB

Number of Contra Costa County Non-U.S. Citizens Enrolled in Medi-Cal as of September 30, 2021: by Age Group and Immigration Status					
	Age Group				
	Under 19	19-25	26-49	50 and Over	Total
Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs)	2,451	1,891	8,700*	14,171	27,213
Total "Undocumented"	4,540	3,187	20,346	5,876	33,949
- Undocumented	3,691	2,022	11,467	1,943	19,123
- Claiming PRUCOL	849	1,165	8,879*	3,933	14,826
Asylee, Refugee, etc.	820	547	1,821*	477	3,665
Unknown or Not Found	87	45	84	34	250
Total	7,898	5,670	30,951	20,558	65,077

Source: CalWIN

Will remain  
"uninsured" / restricted  
scope after May 2022

Full Scope  
Benefits began  
May 2016

Full Scope  
Benefits  
began  
January 2020

A mix of Full  
Scope\*  
(19,400) and  
Restricted  
(11,551)  
Benefits

Will be on Full  
Scope Benefits  
beginning May  
2022

