

## CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 1929 - MEDICAL BENEFITS: VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES

### What does the legislation do?

AB 1929 establishes a “violence preventive services” benefit in Medi-Cal, the state’s Medicaid program. This legislation was passed with strong bipartisan support in both the state Assembly and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Newsom in August 2022.

Medi-Cal is California’s public health insurance program and covers approximately one-third of the state’s population. Research indicates that among victims of gunshot wounds, nearly 2 out of 3 patients are either on Medicaid or uninsured.

- In 2022, California’s Department of Health Care Services added Violence Preventive Services (VPS) as a sub-category of its Community Health Worker program. AB 1929 makes the benefit permanently available.
- By making the VPS benefit permanent, frontline Violence Prevention Professionals will have access to reliable funding that ensures access to consistent, high-quality, trauma-informed care for survivors of community violence.

### Who does AB 1929 affect?

- Essentially all Medicaid patients at risk of community violence are included under the eligibility criteria for the VPS benefit. Specifically, this includes beneficiaries who have been injured by community violence, those who have experienced chronic exposure to community violence, or any beneficiary that a licensed health care provider determines to be at significant risk of experiencing a violent injury as a result of community violence.
- Violence Prevention Professionals (VPP) have four options to become eligible for Medicaid reimbursement: VPP certification through the HAVI, gang intervention training from the Urban Peace Institute, Community Health Worker certification through the state of CA, or through 2,000 hours of clinical work experience.

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### What does the Violence Preventive Services benefit cover?

Violence preventive services are evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services provided by an individual qualified through any of the pathways listed above for the purpose of reducing the incidence of violent injury or reinjury, trauma, and related harms, and that promote trauma recovery, stabilization, and improved health outcomes.

- The VPS benefit broadly covers health education, health navigation, screening and assessment, linkages to appropriate services to improve health, and individual supports and advocacy that aim to prevent injuries or violence. Violence prevention professionals may provide up to six hours of VPS benefits before continuing care under a written plan of care with a licensed health care provider. The plan of care can be completed with a variety of licensed providers, including physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, licensed clinical social workers, mental health clinicians, and others.
- This benefit may be provided to patients in either individual or group settings. For individual patient care, it is reimbursed at a rate of \$26.66 per 30 minutes.

### For more information:

- For specific information on the Medi-Cal Violence Preventive Services benefit, please refer to the [Medi-Cal Provider Manual](#) for the community health worker benefit.
- For additional information on Violence Preventive Services training and certification:
  - [The HAVI](#) Violence Prevention Professional training
  - [Urban Peace Institute](#) Gang intervention training