

Denti-Cal Benefits

As part of the 2017-18 Budget Act, adult dental benefits were fully restored to Medi-Cal recipients effective January 1, 2018. This means that partial dentures, root canals on back teeth and gum treatment are now covered benefits. See WCLP's [one-page fact sheet](#) (attached) on restored adult dental benefits and the consumer brochure by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, CPEHN, and Justice in Aging for additional information. The brochure is currently available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), but will be translated to other languages in the coming weeks.

While we are glad that adult dental benefits have been fully restored, ongoing access issues to Denti-Cal service and providers remain as highlighted in the [Little Hoover's April 2016 Report](#) and [CA State Auditor's 2014 Report](#). The state has put forth efforts to address Denti-Cal access through the appointment of a State Dental Director, the approval of the Dental Transformation Initiative which includes \$750 million over 5-years to improve pediatric dental access, and signed legislation to increase access and monitoring. Yet less than half of children on Medi-Cal have received any Denti-Cal services. In November 2017, the Little Hoover Commission sent a [follow-up letter](#) to the Governor and Legislature highly critical of the little progress made to date.

In the midst of the recent highs and lows of dental care access, remember that children under 21 with full Medi-Cal have always had access to dental services through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program. See the [Health Consumer Alliance EPSDT fact sheet](#) for more information.

In the meantime, make sure to remind clients who qualify to take advantage of dental benefits by making an appointment with a Denti-Cal provider today. To find a Denti-Cal provider, visit this [website](#) or call 1-800-322-6384.