



Bridges

Did You Know?

\$101 Billion

California's total proposed General Fund budget for 08-09

44%

The largest source of California's budget revenue expected in 08-09 is from personal income taxes, at 44%, followed by Sales and Use Taxes at 27%

\$17.2 Billion

California's projected budget deficit as of May 14, 2008

500,000

The number of Californians (children and adults) who would become uninsured as a result of full implementation of the Governor's proposed 08-09 budget health cuts

29%

The percentage of California's total General Fund budget spent on Health and Human Services this fiscal year (FY 07-08), second highest after K-12 Education at 39%

Sources:

Budget Brief, May 2008, California Budget Project, www.cbp.org

2008-09 California Budget Proposed Budget Summary, California Department of Finance, www.ebudget.ca.gov

The California's Budget Dilemma: Proposed cuts that may impact San Francisco application assistors

On May 14, 2008 the Governor of California introduced his proposed budget for 2008 – 2009. The proposed budget projects a deficit of about \$17 billion, forcing State leaders to make difficult choices as they seek creative ways to pass a balanced budget for next fiscal year.

Unfortunately, one of the ways to close the budget gap is to propose major cuts to the Health and Human Services budget. The following areas highlighted below are proposed cuts to programs many participants in the Golden Gate to Health Insurance Network work with very closely. While these proposed cuts still have to go through the legislative approval process before being enacted, they are cuts that are often introduced during tough economic times and are worth being aware of as we are active participants in San Francisco's health coverage landscape.

Reinstatement of Quarterly Status Reports: Adults and children in Medi-Cal will be required to return paperwork four times per year to remain covered under the program.

Monthly Eligibility Renewals for Emergency-Related Medi-Cal: Immigrants enrolled in emergency-related Medi-Cal would be required to reapply every month in order to continue to receive services for which they are eligible.

Denial of Full-Scope Coverage for Some Lawful Immigrants: Immigrants in the US lawfully less than 5 years would be denied full-scope coverage and be provided emergency-related Medi-Cal.

Eligibility FPL Limits for Adult Parents

Lowered: The FPL limit to be eligible as a parent in Medi-Cal (under 1931b program) would be reduced from 100% to 61%.

Increase Premiums for the Healthy Families Program:

The family maximum for premiums would increase from \$27 to \$48 per month for families in the 151-200% FPL range. For those families in the 201-250% FPL range, family maximum for premiums would increase from \$47 to \$57 per month.

Increase in Healthy Families Co-Pays:

Co-payments would increase from \$5 to \$7.50 for families in the 150%-250% FPL range. Co-pays for "preventative" services would be excluded.

Whether these cuts will pass or not is yet to be seen. We will continue to follow the budget process and monitor changes that will impact health coverage programs in San Francisco. To learn more about the budget, you can visit the California Budget Project Website at www.cbp.org. You can also visit the Governor's Website on the budget at www.ebudget.ca.gov.

Sources:

Budget Brief, May 2008, California Budget Project, www.cbp.org

2008-09 California Budget Proposed Budget Summary, California Department of Finance, www.ebudget.ca.gov, accessed May 16, 2008

May Revision Summary, California Immigrant Policy Center, E-mail Alert, May 15, 2008



Left: Tiffany Akins-Dunbar,
Ed Munuz,
Angel Talavera
and Raymond
Riddering



Glide Health Services

Glide Health Services (GHS) is a nurse practitioner managed health center that was established in 1997. GHS targets those who are homeless and marginalized in San Francisco's Tenderloin District and provides culturally competent care using a holistic health model that promotes individual empowerment.

GHS has grown from a single 4 hour session per week to 32 hours per week, providing primary and urgent care, mental health screening and treatment, HIV testing, risk reduction counseling, and case management. On September 17th, 2007, GHS began to use One E App and began enrolling their clients into *Healthy San Francisco*.

Tiffany Akins-Dunbar and Angel Talavera were interviewed by Jose Aguilera, Community Relations Specialist at San Francisco Health Plan:

Jose: Tiffany and Angel, I am honored to be here. Tell me a little about the clients that are served at GHS.

Tiffany: GHS providers see between 50-60 clients a day depending on the number of drop-ins. Over half of the clients are homeless and/or living in transitional housing.

Jose: Can you please tell me about the enrollment services that are offered at GHS?

Angel: GHS serves clients that are 18 years of age and older. Therefore, we are currently only enrolling clients into *Healthy San Francisco*.

Tiffany: We started with only 2 staff members who were working part time as CAAs. We have grown to a team of 5 staff. Three staff members are full time CAAs. Our goal is to have 528 clients enrolled in *Healthy San Francisco* by June 23, 2008. We are more than half way there.

Jose: Can you please share some of the challenges you have encountered as a new enrollment site?

Tiffany: One challenge was convincing our clients who were eligible for *Healthy San Francisco* to enroll into the program. Many clients were used to coming to GHS and use the sliding scale program. We overcame this challenge by telling clients that they would be in a program that would help pay for their medications and pay for emergency services at San Francisco General Hospital.

Angel: When we began enrollment, we were receiving 8 appointments a day but only 2 clients would show up.

Jose: How did you solve this problem?

Angel: We began to do follow up and call clients. Many clients never get any calls at all. They feel someone cares about them. Now, I walk down the streets around GHS and I hear clients on the street say, "Hi Angel. How are you doing?" I am very proud to be a resource for the uninsured! We are at the point where clients are referring their friends and family to me.

We have a great referral process. All medical providers tell their clients that they have to see me once they are done with their appointment. Raymond is my main referral partner in registration. Many of GHS clients drop in and he prescreens every client that comes through our doors to see if they have medical coverage.

Jose: Do you encounter any problems using One E App?

Angel: No. I love One E App! We all attended the trainings and learned how to use the program. The trainings were excellent. When I do have a question, I call Charlene Henderson or the One E App help desk and ask for help.

Jose: Do you have any recommendations for other CAAs or other enrollment sites that are new or just began to use One E App?

Tiffany: Everyone has to communicate and work as a team. This type of effort cannot be done unless everyone is on board!

Angel: Be careful with the language you use with your clients. For example, I don't ask my clients if they are homeless. Instead I ask, "What is your living situation? Do you have your own place? Are you staying with friends? Do not assume someone is homeless by how they look.

Jose: Anything else you want to share with our GGHI Network?

Angel & Tiffany: Everyone that works at GHS has a giving nature and wants to help. Everyone wants to be here. This is a very rewarding place to work at. Come visit us!



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Update

Healthy San Francisco Program Continues to Expand: Many Employers Choose the City Option

April was a busy month for the *Healthy San Francisco* program. Businesses that have 50 or more employees had until April 30th to meet the city mandate to provide some kind of health care for their employees. Smaller employers, who have between 20 and 49 employees, will be required to meet this health care spending ordinance by July 30th of this year.

One of the options to meet this requirement is to join the "City Option" which directs eligible employees to the *Healthy San Francisco* program. As of April 30th, more than 600 employers have chosen the City Option of *Healthy San Francisco* to satisfy this requirement. In order to be eligible, City Option Employees must be between the ages of 18 and 64, be uninsured, living in San Francisco, and they must be ineligible for Medi-Cal or other publicly-funded health programs. City Option employees can earn over 300% of FPL and may receive a discount on Participant Fees.

For those employees who do not meet all of the eligibility requirements for the City Option, a Medical Reimbursement Account (MRA) will be established with funds from their employer. The employee can then access these funds to pay for their medical expenses.

For more information on the City Option or general information about *Healthy San Francisco*, call 3-1-1 or visit: healthysanfrancisco.org



Did You Know?

#1

San Francisco is the first City in the nation to provide health care to all its residents through contributions from the municipal government and private employers.

MRA

Stands for "Medical Reimbursement Account." These are employer-funded accounts that employees can use to pay for their medical expenses. Employers who choose the City Option will contribute funds to MRAs for their employees who do not qualify for HSF because they live outside of San Francisco or already have insurance.

20,197

As of May 1, 2008, the number of participants enrolled into *Healthy San Francisco*.

400+

Over 400 annual renewals have been completed for HSF participation to date. While most participants enrolled in HSF beginning in September 2007, a small number were enrolled in the HSF Pilot Program in July and August at NEMS-Chinatown and Chinatown Public Health Center.

An important reminder:

Healthy San Francisco is not insurance. If people have health insurance, they should not drop it. Health insurance is always a better choice because *Healthy San Francisco* has limited services and places participants can go to get medical care.

People may apply for *Healthy San Francisco* if they are:

- Living on a combined family income **at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level** and;
- A San Francisco resident who can provide proof of San Francisco residency;
- Uninsured for at least 90-days and not eligible for public insurance programs like Medi-Cal, and;
- Between the ages of 18 and 64.

How much does *Healthy San Francisco* cost?

Healthy San Francisco costs between \$0 and \$150 quarterly (every three months), depending on an applicant's income.

Required Documents

- ✓ **Personal identification** Such as a driver's license, ID, or passport
- ✓ **San Francisco residency verification** Such as a rental or lease agreement, or a utility bill
- ✓ **All family income verification** Such as pay stubs, tax return statements, or award letters dated within the past 45 days
- ✓ **All family assets verification** Such as bank statements or stocks/mutual fund statements dated within the last 45 days



For more information about *Healthy San Francisco* visit:
www.healthysanfrancisco.org



201 Third Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Events Calendar

A Path To Good Health Community Workshop

Friday June 6, 2008

3:00pm-4:30pm

Charity Cultural Services Center
827 Stockton Street

For more information contact
Corina Liew at **(415) 788-6426**
or corinaliew@nicosshc.com



Stronger Bridges to Health GGHI Network Forum

Tuesday June 10, 2008

8:15am – 3:30pm

A forum aimed at learning
and strengthening the sense
of community amongst our
GGHI network.

For more information contact
Jose Aguilera **(415) 615-4403**
or jaguilera@sfhp.org

San Francisco Juneteenth

Saturday June 21, 2008

Sunday June 22, 2008

10:00am-7:00pm

Civic Center
San Francisco

For more information visit
www.sfuneteenth.org

GGHI Luncheon at SFHP

Friday June 27, 2008

11:45am-1:30pm

Civic Center Conference Room
201 Third Street, 7th Floor
Please RSVP to Jason Keefe at
(415) 615-4404 or
jkeefe@sfhp.org

AIDS Walk San Francisco

Sunday July 20, 2008

9:00am-2:00pm

Starts at Sharon Meadow
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco

For more information visit
www.aidswalk.net



Mark your calendar

GGHI Luncheon at SFHP

Friday June 27, 2008

11:45am-1:30pm

The new and improved joint application for Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for Children & Pregnant Women is now available!

You can print out the new application in any of
the 12 languages from the Healthy Families
website at [www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/
English/appldownload.html](http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/English/appldownload.html).

Health-e- App is also in the process of being
updated with the same changes in the new joint
application. We will keep you informed of any
progress as it happens.

Revised Healthy Families Program CAA Reference Manual

The Healthy Families Program has just completed
an update for the CAA Reference Manual that includes
recent program changes and updated forms.

This revision also adds a new Chapter 8 (Application Completion
Instructions 2007), which has step-by-step instructions for
completing the new revised joint Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for
Children & Pregnant Women paper application. This manual is used
for initial CAA training and is also an excellent reference guide for everyday use.

The update English CAA Reference Manual is located on the Healthy Families Program
website at www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/English/caa/caa_ref_manual.htm.

