



SEIU LOCAL 2015

2026-2027 STATE BUDGET VICTORIES & SUMMARY

JULY 2026

OVERVIEW

Each year, the Governor proposes a state budget, which is revised in May before the Legislature passes a final budget in June. When Governor Newsom released his initial budget proposal in January, it included nearly **\$900 million in cuts to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program**.

Despite ongoing budget challenges and uncertainty around federal actions like H.R. 1, SEIU Local 2015 members and allies organized and fought to protect the care that older adults and people with disabilities depend on.

Together, we stopped every proposed cut to IHSS, protecting critical funding for the program and the care providers who make it possible.

We also secured several other important victories in this year's budget. Through the UnRig California campaign, we helped win more than **\$7 billion in new state revenue**. Along the way, we strengthened accountability for counties that refuse to bargain in good faith, and we pushed back against harmful Medi-Cal cuts for vulnerable Californians and undocumented individuals.

While these victories are significant, our work isn't over. Restoring funding for the Skilled Nursing Facility Workforce & Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) remains one of our union's top priorities.

California continues to face budget challenges, but this year's budget process showed the power of member action. Because care workers organized and spoke out, the worst proposed cuts were defeated – proving once again that **when we fight, we win**.



MEMBERS MADE THE DIFFERENCE

These victories happened because members organized and took action across California to rally against IHSS cuts and compel state leaders to renew funding for the Workforce Quality Incentive Program. Together, we:

- **Made 2,367 calls to state leaders** opposing cuts to IHSS and Medi-Cal.
- **Rallied with nearly 3,000 members and allies** at the State Capital on May 20.
- **Sent more than 600 members to ten Lobby Days** to speak directly to legislators.



IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES



PROTECTED THE IHSS BACKUP PROVIDER SYSTEM

The Governor proposed eliminating the IHSS Backup Provider System beginning in 2026-27. This proposal was rejected, which ensures that this program will continue to help consumers quickly find a qualified provider when their regular caregiver is unavailable. Keeping this program helps prevent disruptions in care.



PEOPLE CAN CONTINUE GETTING IHSS WITHOUT NEW DELAYS

The Governor's budget proposed delaying access to IHSS for about 8,000 people by changing eligibility rules to align with Medi-Cal coverage timelines. This proposal was rejected, which will help seniors and people with disabilities continue to receive the care they need without unnecessary delays.



PRESERVED STATE FUNDING FOR GROWTH IN IHSS HOURS

The Governor proposed eliminating state funding for growth in authorized IHSS hours as consumers' needs increase. This proposal was rejected, preserving funding so eligible consumers can continue to receive additional authorized hours when their care needs change. This avoids shifting additional costs to counties, which could have made it more difficult to negotiate higher wages and benefits for IHSS providers.



COUNTIES MUST BARGAIN FAIRLY

We won stronger protections that hold counties accountable when they refuse to bargain in good faith. Closing a loophole in state law makes it harder for counties to avoid the bargaining process and strengthens workers' rights.



OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN KEEP MORE OF THEIR SAVINGS

The proposal would have reinstated lower Medi-Cal asset limits for IHSS recipients, affecting an estimated 37,000 consumers. The proposal was rejected, so older adults and people with disabilities are not forced to spend down their modest savings just to qualify for the services they need.

NURSING HOMES



NO NEW CUTS TO SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES (SNF)

The Budget does not mention or include any cuts or changes related to SNF.



SKILLED NURSING FACILITY BACKUP POWER

The budget includes \$1.45 million to fund the backup power source for SNFs.



FIGHTING TO RESTORE WORKFORCE QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (WQIP)

SEIU Local 2015 continues to fight to restore funding for WQIP. Budget negotiations on this issue continue through August 31.



MEDI-CAL



NO INCREASE IN MEDI-CAL PREMIUMS FOR UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS

The Governor proposed increasing monthly Medi-Cal premiums for undocumented adults from \$30 to \$50. That proposal was not included in the final budget, meaning premiums will remain unchanged for now.



LESS RESTRICTIVE MEDI-CAL ASSET LIMITS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The final budget adopted higher asset limits than originally proposed by the Governor. While the state is reinstating an asset test beginning in 2027, the higher limits will allow more seniors and people with disabilities to qualify for Medi-Cal without having to spend down as much of their savings.



ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT CALIFORNIA'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The budget includes \$300 million to subsidize private healthcare to lower costs for low- to middle-income Californians. It also includes \$250 million in grants to public hospitals and up to \$140 million for those in significant financial distress.



CHANGES TO MEDI-CAL SERVICES FOR UNDOCUMENTED ADULTS

Beginning in 2027, approximately 2 million Medi-Cal members will transition to a fee-for-service system. While they will keep their basic healthcare coverage, many could lose access to important supportive services such as care coordination, housing assistance, and medically tailored meals. While this transition has been delayed rather than eliminated, the additional time gives SEIU Local 2015 an opportunity to continue working to protect these supportive services.



REDUCED COVERAGE FOR SOME IMMIGRANTS BEGINNING IN 2027

The budget limits state-funded healthcare coverage for certain immigrant populations, including some refugees and asylum seekers, to emergency and pregnancy-related services beginning in July 2027. Although these coverage reductions have been postponed, the delay provides valuable time to continue advocating for comprehensive healthcare coverage for all Californians.



TEMPORARY PRESERVATION OF ACCESS TO CARE FOR UNDOCUMENTED CALIFORNIANS

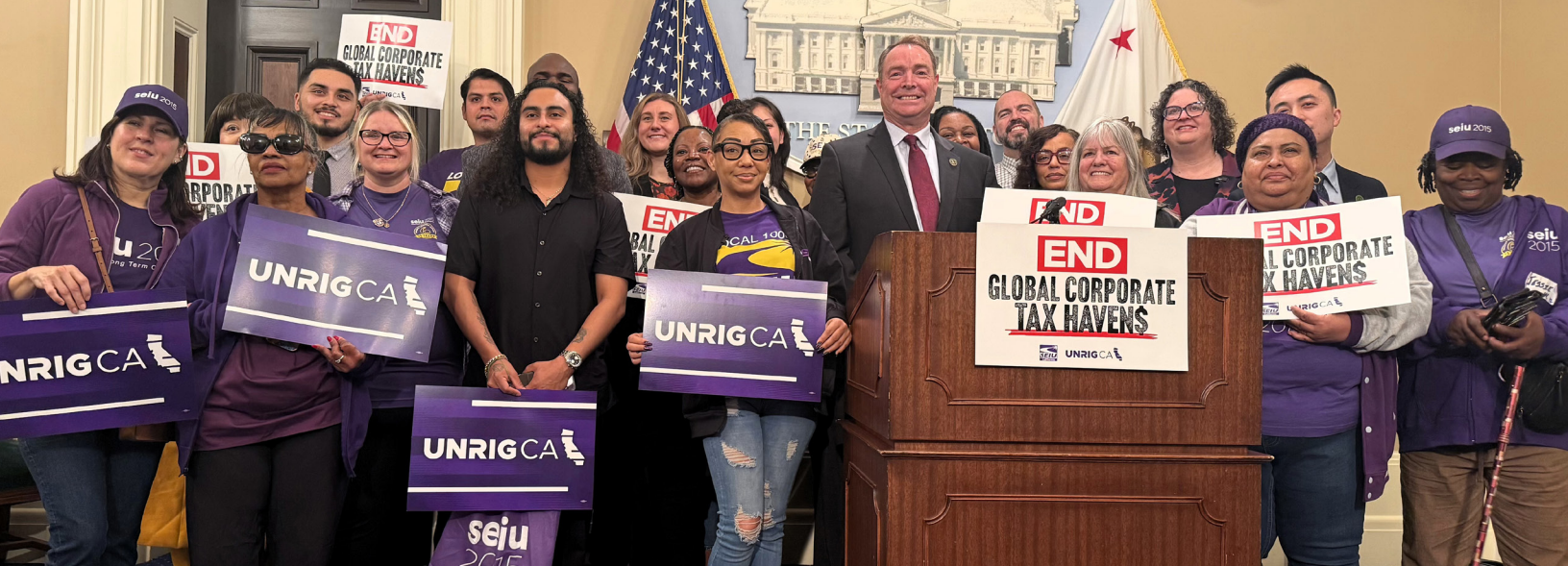
The final budget delays several proposed cuts to Medi-Cal for undocumented Californians, including cuts to dental benefits and payments to community clinics, until July 2027. This means many people will continue to receive their current healthcare services while advocates continue fighting to stop these cuts permanently. While these cuts have only been delayed, preserving access to care in the short term is an important victory that gives us the opportunity to continue pushing to prevent them from taking effect permanently.



INCREASED ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS

The budget provides counties with \$200 million to conduct more frequent eligibility reviews for Medi-Cal and CalFresh, as required by federal law. Members should be aware that beneficiaries may be asked to provide documentation more often to maintain their coverage.





UNRIG CALIFORNIA

SEIU Local 2015 worked alongside SEIU California and other partners in the UnRig California campaign to advocate for raising revenue instead of balancing the state budget through cuts to essential services. With federal H.R. 1 threatening Medicaid for over 2 million Californians, state resources are critical to protect older adults, people with disabilities, and working families. Meanwhile, many large corporations avoid their fair share with many of them paying only the state's \$800 minimum franchise tax. This campaign helped secure three budget revenue measures expected to generate over \$7 billion for Fiscal Year 2026–27.

These victories show what's possible when care workers organize and take action together. While important challenges remain, SEIU Local 2015 will continue fighting to protect care, improve jobs, and build a stronger future for care workers and the people we serve.

seiu 2015
California's Long Term Caregivers

SEIU Local 2015 is the largest union in California, representing more than half a million long-term care workers (home care, skilled nursing facility, and assisted living center workers) throughout the state. Its members are as diverse as the state's population but united in their commitment to caring for California's older adults and those with disabilities.

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