



# Public Authority of Fresno County

Oralia Gomez, Executive Director

The **In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program** is a locally managed state required program that is available to aged, blind, or disabled people that receive Medi-Cal. In Fresno County, the program works with Medi-Cal eligible persons to help hire care providers. Fresno County has a Public Authority Agency that supports the program by keeping a list of approved care providers. Care Providers receive payment from the State by submitting timesheets. The rate of payment for Care Providers is based on a negotiated rate between the Provider Labor Union (SEIU 2015) and the Public Authority. The current rate of pay is \$16.60 an hour which is \$.60 above the State's minimum wage (\$16.00).

## **FRESNO COUNTY PROPOSAL**

The Fresno County Public Authority is proposing to **adjust the hourly wage rate by \$1.40 in the first two years of the MOU, which would result in a total wage supplement of \$2.00 above the State's current minimum wage. The \$1.40 consists of a proposal to move \$.60 of the health benefit to wages, plus an additional \$.80 wage supplement. The hourly rate would then be adjusted in year three of the MOU by shifting the remaining \$0.25 of the health benefit to wages for a total combined wage supplement of \$2.25 above the State's current minimum wage.**

Current data shows that providers work around 140 hours per month. **The Public Authority's proposal would result in an approximate yearly increase of \$2,352.** Effective January 1, 2024, the State's minimum wage increased to \$16.00; with the current Public Authority proposal, IHSS providers would receive \$17.95 per hour (\$1.95 above State minimum wage).

As of September 2024, there are 25,601 providers, of which 2,021 (7.8%) receive health benefits through the Union plan, which is funded through the current \$.85 health benefit. The Union sponsored health plan is the Kaiser Silver Health Plan, which is currently available through Covered California and is now available as a Medi-Cal managed care plan effective 1-1-2024. **Providers who are currently receiving benefits through the Union plan can select the same plan and avoid any doctor and service changes if they qualify for health coverage through Medi-Cal or Covered California.** Additionally, effective January 1, 2024, the State is changing Medi-Cal rules to not count property value such as life insurance, bank accounts, homes, and vehicles. This change will help those who might not have previously qualified for Medi-Cal due to exceeding property limits. In addition, when the care provider lives with the Medi-Cal recipient, regardless of relationship, and completes the Live In Certification, the IHSS income is not counted when Medi-Cal eligibility is determined.

As of October 2024, there were 12,212 IHSS providers (47.7%) enrolled in Medi-Cal. There will be **no change to these providers health coverage.** **The remaining 14,233 providers may currently be enrolled and receiving health care benefits through Covered California or other health insurance.**

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## Providers

