

SMAA LEA Workgroup call
Thursday, June 8th at 9:30am

1. Presentation: Elyse Homel Vitale, California Food Policy Advocates

• Slides Attached

Direct certification is an existing, paperless process that utilizes program data (i.e. CalFresh, CalWORKS, and foster care) to connect low-income students to free school meals. However, the reach of CalFresh among eligible Californians is persistently low. In comparison, the reach of Medicaid is much higher: 1 in 3 Californians is now enrolled in Medicaid. Elyse Homel Vitale with [California Food Policy Advocates](#) explained a new state pilot that will result in more than 650,000 low-income students being better connected to free and reduced-price school meals. This program can increase funding for schools and improve access to healthy school meals. Participating school districts must acquire a Medicaid Direct Certification. Please see info and links below.

- Medicaid Direct Certification link: <http://cfpa.net/archives/4722>
- CFPA Medicaid direct certification fact sheet: http://cfpa.net/ChildNutrition/ChildNutrition_CFPAPublications/CFPA-MDCFactSheet-2016.pdf
- CDE's Direct Cert page (with contact at bottom): <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/directcert.asp>

2. Update on Backcasting/Deferral

DHCS (SMAA) program has posted new documents to the [SMAA Website](#) and links below.

- [Backcasting Invoice Training](#)
- [Backcasting Invoice Training Speaker Notes](#)

The deferral continues to be discussed with DHCS, LECs/LGAs, CTA, CCSESA, CDE and LEAs. A small meeting was held recently and a second meeting is being set up. The concern is that many districts have left the program due to the deferral and more will leave as a result of the current backcasting methodology set to be go forward. Alternative formulas are being reviewed to help limit the loss to participating districts.

3. PPL's - Attached

DHCS (SMAA) program has posted a [new document](#) and an [attachment](#) to the [SMAA webpage](#). Please review this document and attachment and submit all comments/questions to the [SMAA mailbox](#).

- 4. AB 834 Update – O'Donnell-** (The bill passed out of both Senate policy committees- Education and Health and is now in Appropriations Committee. The bill analysis and copy of the bill are attached

Next SMAA LEA Workgroup call

Thursday, July 13th at 9:30am

Call Number: 866-881-4501, no pin required