

Spotlight on CalOptima

In August 1993, the Orange County Board of Supervisors created CalOptima to provide health care to low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities throughout Orange County. CalOptima was formed through the efforts of a partnership of leaders from local government, the medical community, and health and member advocacy groups to address difficulties among residents to access to health care services they need. Now in its 16th year, CalOptima serves over 400,000 members through a network of more than 7,000 primary care doctors and specialists and 30 hospitals. It is the 2nd largest health plan in Orange County, serving one in eight residents and nearly a third of the county's children.

CalOptima provides access to quality health care through Medi-Cal, the Healthy Families Program, OneCare (HMO SNP) (a Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan) and the Multipurpose Senior Services Program. These publically-funded programs provide medical and social services to Orange County's most frail and vulnerable residents.

- Medi-Cal covers low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities;
- Healthy Families covers children in working families who do not qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal;
- OneCare (HMO SNP) covers Medi-Cal members who also have Medicare; and
- Multipurpose Senior Services Program covers Medi-Cal members who are over 65 years old and at risk for nursing home placement.

CalOptima has a long-standing commitment to serving members in a cost-effective and compassionate way. One example is CalOptima's work to improve health care delivery for seniors and persons with disabilities. Most of these members have complex medical and social services needs, and require coordinated care in order to ensure they receive the care that they need. Over one quarter of CalOptima's Medi-Cal members are seniors and persons with disabilities. CalOptima's Community Liaison program assists on behalf of these members to make sure they get the services they need. In addition, CalOptima continues to look for opportunities to promote integration of medical and social services for our most vulnerable members in order to improve care coordination, encourage independent living and enhance quality of life.

With the current State Budget crisis, upcoming changes driven by federal health care reform, and the slow economic recovery from the recession, our community continues to face challenging times in the near future. However, CalOptima remains committed to serving members, partnering with local government and health care community, and ensuring Orange County's safety net of health care services remains stable and strong.

To receive more information on CalOptima and its programs, please contact the CalOptima Customer Service Department at (714) 246-8500 or go to www.caloptima.org.