Medi-Cal Enrollment Is Projected to Rise by Just 2 Percent in 2015-16, Following Two Years of Double-Digit Increases

Enrollment Gains in Prior Years Were Largely Due to Implementation of Health Care Reform

- Medi-Cal, the state’s Medicaid program, is a key source of health care coverage for low-income Californians. Adults generally qualify for Medi-Cal only if their incomes do not exceed 138% of the federal poverty line (about $1,350 per month for an individual in 2015).

- Enrollment in Medi-Cal increased by 4 million over the past two years. This gain was due primarily to implementation of federal health care reform and the elimination of the Healthy Families Program (HFP), which shifted hundreds of thousands of children from the HFP to Medi-Cal.

- Medi-Cal enrollment growth is stabilizing after two years of large increases. Enrollment is projected to rise by just 2% – to 12.2 million – between 2014-15 and 2015-16. In contrast, enrollment increased by nearly 20% in 2013-14 and by 26% in 2014-15.