



## Alameda Alliance for Health

### Introduction

Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) is a local, Knox-Keene licensed, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accredited, public, not-for-profit managed care health plan. The Alliance is committed to making high quality health care services accessible and affordable for vulnerable populations in Alameda County. Established in January 1996, the Alliance was created by and for Alameda County residents. The Alliance Board of Governors, staff, and provider network reflect the county's cultural and linguistic diversity.

The Alliance provides health care coverage to approximately 400,000 children and adults through two (2) programs: **Medi-Cal** and **Group Care**.

Expansion into the Medicare Dual Special Needs Plan product line will launch January 2026 (annual open enrollment October 2025). Operations are being assessed to comply with state and federal regulations for serving Dual-eligibles (people who qualify for Medi-Cal and Medicare).

As a partner in Alameda County's health care safety-net system, the mission of the Alliance is to provide managed care services to residents Alameda County, based solely in Medi-Cal eligibility, including, no matter their immigration status.

### Background

In March 1993, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) expanded Medi-Cal managed care by introducing the "Two-Plan Model." Twelve counties in the state were targeted to participate in the Two-Plan Model, which features a locally developed health plan and a commercial plan selected through a bidding process. An Alameda County Board of Supervisors ordinance and Assembly Bill 2755 (Lee), signed by Governor Pete Wilson, formalized the creation of the Alliance. In January 1996, the Alliance became the first health plan in California to begin operations under the Two-Plan Model.

On January 1, 2024 the Alliance became one of two single plan models in California. In Alameda County, the Alliance no longer competes with Anthem. The Alliance is the local public health option and maintains 87% of those enrolled in Medi-Cal managed care. Kaiser is the second plan option, and is a commercial plan that is contracted with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in 32 other counties in California to administer the Medi-Cal program. Kaiser maintains 13% of those enrolled in Medi-Cal managed care in Alameda County.

## Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal is a federal and state-funded health insurance program for low-income families and children, persons with disabilities, and seniors who qualify for help. There are no premiums or co-payments for the lowest-income beneficiaries.

## Group Care

In 2001, the Alliance launched Alliance Group Care, an employer-sponsored program that provides affordable and comprehensive health care coverage to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers in Alameda County. More than 20,000 IHSS workers are employed in Alameda County, and approximately 6,000 are eligible for health benefits based on the number of hours they work per week. The Alameda County Public Authority for IHSS workers, SEIU Local 1021, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Alameda County Social Services Agency, and the Alliance collaborated on the formation of Alliance Group Care commercial product.

## Membership

As of January 2024, more than 28 percent of the estimated 1.6 million residents in Alameda County are enrolled in Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal enrollment and disenrollment is managed by the Alameda County Social Services Agency in collaboration with the DHCS. The Alliance does not participate in the enrollment process and is not allowed to conduct marketing to increase enrollment. Group Care membership averages about 6,000 members per month and the eligibility for this product is managed by Alameda County Public Authority.

Program	Membership* January 2024
Medi-Cal	400,199 (98%)
Alliance Group Care	5,858 (2%)
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>405,946</b>