

### To Apply for General Assistance:

- Apply in person at any Kern County Department of Human Services in Bakersfield
- By Phone - via public line (661) 631-6000 or CAT line (877) 410-8812
- By mail - Kern County DHS P.O. Box 511 Bakersfield, CA 93302
- By fax - (661) 631-6573

### To Apply for CalFresh:

Apply online at: [GetCalFresh.org](http://GetCalFresh.org)

- Call 1-877-847-3663 (FOOD)
- Apply in person at any KC DHS
- Visit <https://benefitscal.com/>

### To Apply for Medi-Cal:

- Call (661) 631-6807, or
- Visit <https://benefitscal.com/>

**To Apply for CalWorks** (temporary financial support to pregnant women and eligible families):

- Apply in person at any Kern County Department of Human Services in Bakersfield
- Visit <https://benefitscal.com/>

**To Apply for Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability:**

- Visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), or
- Call 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment

## Contact Us

Main Intake Line  
(661) 325-5943

Kern Health Consumer Center  
(661) 321-3982

Fax (661) 325-4482

[www.gbla.org](http://www.gbla.org)

## Office Hours

Monday through Friday

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

(Closed 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  
for lunch)

*Please note that advocates may not be available to provide immediate assistance for walk-ins.*

*We recommend that you call GBLA to schedule an appointment when possible.*

***GBLA's mission is "to promote social change and justice by providing high quality legal services to the low-income community."***



# Health and Public Benefits

## 661-321-3982



## GBLA Main Intake

### 661-325-5943

Greater Bakersfield Area

## 888-906-3982

**Toll Free**

**Dial 7-1-1 for CA Relay Service**

615 California Ave

Bakersfield, CA 93304

## [www.gbla.org](http://www.gbla.org)

**SERVING KERN COUNTY  
RESIDENTS SINCE 1968**

# Kern Health Consumer Center

A partner of



The Kern Health Consumer Center is a project of Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc. We are a part of the Health Consumer Alliance, a united effort of legal service agencies addressing the health access problems of California consumers.

We assist Kern County residents with problems regarding Medi-Cal, Medicare, Covered California, and private insurance plans.

Health Advocates can help you with:

- Filing a grievance or complaint against your health plan.
- Understanding what health care plan you qualify for.
- Challenging a service denial.
- Billing or affordability issues.
- Overcoming access barriers to covered services, such as lack of timely access, geographic access, disabilities, or language access.

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## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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You have the right to get the health care you need through your health plan.

You have the right to appeal if your plan:

- Refuses to give you health care,
- Refuses to pay for your health care, or
- Cancels your insurance.

Your plan must give you a notice that explains:

- Why they made the decision,
- How you appeal that decision, and
- How long you have to file an appeal.

If you do not speak English and need help explaining your side of your health plan:

- You have the right to an interpreter.
- You may receive written information about appeal rights in your language.
- Call your health plan to request these language services.

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## MEDI-CAL EXPANSION

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Beginning May 1, 2022, all eligible Californians 50 years of age or older can now get free full-scope Medi-Cal. All other Medi-Cal eligibility rules, including income limits, will still apply. Full-scope Medi-Cal includes the selection of a Managed Care Plan, access to full medical services including a Primary Physician, prescription benefits, dental and vision coverage, and more. Contact your local DHS worker for more information.

# Public Benefits

The Public Benefits program assists low-income families to ensure they have sufficient resources to meet the necessities of life.

Services include assisting with denials, reductions, terminations, and over-payments of public benefits including CalWORKs (cash aid), CalFresh (food stamps), General Assistance, and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS).

Additional services include providing counsel and advice, completing appeal forms, obtaining health and benefits records, and representing clients at hearings.

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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**Health Consumer Alliance**

(888) 804-3536

[www.healthconsumer.org](http://www.healthconsumer.org)

**Covered California**

[www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com)

**Kern County Department of Human Services**

[www.kcdhs.org](http://www.kcdhs.org)

Medi-Cal Application Line: (661) 631-6807

**CA Department of Health Care Services (FAQs on Medi-Cal Expansion)**

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/OlderAdultExpansion.aspx>