

FACT SHEET

Immigrants, Their Children, and Medicaid

Are non-U.S. citizens eligible for Medicaid?

Depending on the date an immigrant arrived in the United States, they may be eligible for Medicaid.

- Immigrants who arrived before August 22, 1996 may be eligible for Medicaid as long as the other eligibility guidelines are met.
- Immigrants who arrived on or after August 22, 1996 are not eligible for Medicaid unless one of the following exceptions are met. To be eligible, an immigrant must be:
 - a refugee who has been granted asylum
 - a refugee who has been granted status as a victim of a severe form of human trafficking
 - a refugee whose deportation is being withheld
 - a permanent residents who have worked 40 quarters under the Social Security Act
 - a veteran or has been in military active duty status (includes spouse and dependents)

Does Medicaid report non-U.S. citizens to the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS)?

No. The Medicaid program does not report citizenship information to the USCIS.

Can children of non-U.S. citizens get Medicaid?

If the children are U.S. citizens, they can get Medicaid if they meet the eligibility requirements.

Do non-U.S. citizens who are applying for Medicaid for their U.S.-born children, do they have to prove citizen status?

No. If the person applying is not a U.S. citizen and is applying for Medicaid for U.S. born children, they are not required to provide proof of their citizenship status.

Does a non-U.S. citizen need a social security number if they are applying for their child who is a U.S. citizen?

No. If a non-U.S. citizen applies for Medicaid for a U.S. born child, they do not have to give their social security number. However, the child's social security number must be provided or the applicant must show proof that they have applied for a number for the child.

Is my sponsor required to supply their income information if I am applying for Medicaid for my children and myself?

As a non-U.S. citizen, your sponsor's income is used to determine only your Medicaid eligibility. A sponsor's income is not used when determining Medicaid eligibility for children born in the U.S.; only the parent's income is used in this case.

What is Refugee Medical Assistance?

The Refugee Medical Assistance program is for those who are classified as refugees by the USCIS and are not eligible for any other type of Medicaid. Refugee Assistance is good only for the first eight months after an individual arrives in the U.S.

What is Alien Emergency Medical Assistance (AEMA)?

Non-U.S. citizens who are not eligible for Medicaid may be eligible for AEMA. AEMA will only pay for medical costs for an emergency medical condition (e.g., cost of childbirth, labor and delivery). Applicants are not required to provide a social security number or documentation of immigration status.

Interpretation Services

A person who has difficulty speaking or understanding English, or who is hearing impaired and is not able to communicate effectively with county job and family services staff, has the right to an interpreter. The cost of the interpreter will be paid by the county department of job and family services. The county office must provide an interpreter to you if you need one. Individuals may bring an interpreter with them, such as a bilingual friend or relative. However, friends and relatives who are not trained interpreters may not be able to accurately and completely translate some things the agency says. Minor children should never be used as an interpreter.

**If you have questions or need more information, please call the
Medicaid Consumer Hotline:
1-800-324-8680, TTY/TDD: 1-800-292-3572**