Changes to Medicaid Eligibility for Non-Citizens

Starting October 1, 2026

In October federal rules will change who can get Medicaid. Starting October 1, 2026, Medicaid will only be available to people with the following legal immigration statuses:

- U.S. citizens and nationals
- Lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who have met the 5-year requirement or are exempt
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) islanders
- Cuban and Haitian entrants

Michigan Exceptions

In Michigan, some people can still get Medicaid no matter their immigration status, if they meet all other requirements:

- Children and youth up to age 21
- People who are pregnant
- People up to 12 months after pregnancy

Who Will Not Be Eligible Starting October 1, 2026

People who do ***not*** have lawful permanent resident status will lose Medicaid eligibility if they are in one of these groups:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Amerasian immigrants
- People whose deportation or removal order has been withheld
- Victims of trafficking
- Certain Afghan and Ukrainian parolees, including:
    - People paroled under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2006
    - Afghans with humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023
    - Ukrainians with humanitarian parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024
- Parolees who have been in the U.S. for at least one year
- Certain American Indians admitted for permanent residence
- Lawfully residing active-duty service members, honorably discharged veterans, and their families
- Abused spouses and children (under the Violence Against Women Act)

5-Year Requirement for Lawful Permanent Residents

LPRs must wait 5 years before they can get Medicaid. Some people do ***not*** have to wait 5 years. These exemptions will stay the same way under the new rules. If a person becomes an LPR later and they previously held one of the statuses below, they do not have to wait 5 years:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Amerasian immigrants
- People whose deportation or removal order has been withheld
- Victims of trafficking
- Iraqi or Afghan individuals with Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)
- Certain Afghan or Ukrainian parolees, including:
    - People paroled under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2006
    - Afghans with humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023
    - Ukrainians with humanitarian parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024
- Certain American Indians admitted for permanent residence
- Hmong and Highland Laotian Tribal Members
- Lawfully residing active-duty service members, honorably discharged veterans, and their families

Keep Your Information Updated

Please report any changes to your MDHHS specialists or in MI Bridges (Michigan.gov/MIBridges). Update:

- Your address, phone number, and email
- Your valid immigration documents
- If you are pregnant or had a pregnancy end after October 2025

Eligibility Review Timeline

MDHHS will review eligibility on **Friday, August 21, 2026**. After this review:

1. If a person is ***not eligible***, their Medicaid will change to Emergency Services Only (ESO) starting October 1, 2026. They will get a Notice of Case Action (1606).
2. If a person ***is eligible***, they will keep full Medicaid coverage. They will not get a notice.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

RMA will still be available for:

- Newly arrived refugees
- Newly approved asylees
- People who recently became eligible for refugee benefits

People may receive RMA for up to 8 months from their date of arrival or approval date, if they meet all requirements.

Options for People Who Lose Medicaid Coverage

If someone loses Medicaid, they may still qualify for:

- **Emergency Services Only (ESO) Medicaid**
  - Covers life-threatening emergencies only.
  - Does ***not*** cover:
    - Regular doctor visits
    - Preventative care
    - Ongoing care for long-term illnesses
    - Most prescriptions medicines
    - Non-emergency procedures
- **Free Clinics**
  - Find a clinic: https://www.fcomi.org/find-a-clinic
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)**
  - Find a center: https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/
- **Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)**
  - (See section above)

Need Help?

For questions or help with translation:

- Call the Beneficiary Help Line: 1-800-642-3195
- TTY 1-866-501-5656.

You may also contact your MDHHS Specialist or case manager.