Noncitizen Eligibility Medicaid Presentation

September 30, 2026

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Medicaid Eligibility for Noncitizens: Upcoming Changes

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October 1, 2026, Changes

Noncitizens who may continue to qualify:	Noncitizens who may no longer qualify:
• **Green Card Holders** (also known as Lawful Permanent Residents)*****	• Refugees*
• **Cuban/Haitian Entrants**	• Asylum grantees*
• **Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants**, including individuals from Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau	• Victims of severe trafficking*
• Lawfully present non-citizens who are:	• Noncitizens whose deportation is being withheld*
◦ **Pregnant,** or	• Noncitizens granted conditional entry
◦ **Under the age of 19**	• Noncitizens victims of domestic violence by a spouse or parent
*Green card holders (lawful permanent residents) must:	• Iraqi and Afghani Parolees*
• Meet the five-year bar,	• Amerasian Immigrants
• Be credited with 40 working quarters, or	• Noncitizens who are veterans or active-duty military and spouses or unmarried dependents who also have qualified noncitizen status*
• Be exempt from meeting the 5-year bar	• Other humanitarian parolees
	• Other noncitizens
	*Unless they have adjusted and been granted lawful permanent resident status

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Five-Year Bar

- To receive Medicaid or CHIP, certain qualified noncitizens who lawfully enter the United States* must wait five years after receiving a qualified immigration status before they are eligible, unless they meet certain exceptions.
- Pregnant women and children under 19 do not have to meet the 5-year bar.

*Applies to people who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996

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Five-Year Bar

The noncitizens who **do not** need to meet the 5-year bar <u>after becoming lawful permanent residents</u> (green card holders) are:

- Asylees
- Refugees
- Certified victims of trafficking and their spouse, child, sibling, or parents
- Veterans or active-duty military and spouses or unmarried dependents,
- Amerasian immigrants
- Iraqi and Afghani special immigrants
- Certain Ukrainian or Afghan parolees
- People whose deportation is being withheld
- Certain Native Americans born abroad

Operational Updates

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Timeline/Impact

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What other assistance might be available for people who lose their full Medicaid coverage?

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599 Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

- Program covers unborn children of expecting mothers who are not eligible for Medicaid or CHIP
- Coverage limited to prenatal and pregnancy-related services, as well as labor and delivery
- Mother cannot have health insurance
- Common cases covered under 599:
  - Pregnant minors whose parents' income is too high
  - Pregnant women ineligible for Medicaid due to immigration status



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Emergency Medical Services for Aliens (EMSA)

- For Nebraska residents who are ineligible for Medicaid due to citizenship or immigration status
- Covers treatment for emergency medical conditions
- Emergency defined as:
  - Serious jeopardy to health
  - Serious impairment of bodily functions
  - Serious bodily dysfunction
- Treatment covered
  - Hospitalization and ER
  - Labor and delivery
  - Serious events like strokes, etc.
- There is a not separate application for these services



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Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP)

- Refugees are individuals who fled persecution in their homelands.
- RRP helps newly arrived refugees and other eligible populations establish a new life and self-sufficiency following their arrival in the United States.
- Services:
  - Medical and cash assistance for **up to 8 months** after arrival in the U.S. (only available if the refugee is not eligible for other programs)
  - Refugee Health Screening and Vaccinations – within 90 days after arrival



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DDA Special Health Care Needs Programs

- Medically Handicapped Children's Program (MHCP)
- Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP)
- Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS) Program
- Website: **dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Special-Health-Care-Needs.aspx**

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BH Network of Care Resources

- Website: **portal.networkofcare.org/Sites/Nebraska?state=Nebraska**
- Regional Provider Directories for Behavioral Health Regions:

Region 1 **Region 2** **Region 3** **Region 4** **Region 5** **Region 6**

- Same-Day Scheduling & Walk-In Access:
  dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Same-Day-Open-Access.aspx

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Parent Resource Coordinators

- Referrals available for individuals needing additional support
- PRCs are located at Munroe-Meyer Institute (UNMC)
- Program supported by Public Health and DDA through the *Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant*
- Website: **unmc.edu/mmi/resources/fcep/prc-support.html**

Questions and Discussion

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For more information, visit the webpage:

dhhs.ne.gov/NoncitizenEligibility

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Medicaid and Long-Term Care

Questions can be emailed to
DHHS.MLTCExperience@nebraska.gov

@NEDHHS NebraskaDHHS @NEDHHS

dhhs.ne.gov

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