

RESOURCES

- **N.C. Family Health Hotline** 1-800-367-2229
- **N.C. Care Line** 1-800-662-7030
(referrals on human services within NC DHHS as well as other non-profit organizations)
- **N.C. Assoc. of Free Health Clinics** 336-251-1111
(organization providing free health clinics for the uninsured and underinsured throughout N.C.)
www.ncfreeclinics.org
- **Health Check/Health Choice Hotline** 1-800-474-9000
- **DHHS Division of Medical Assistance** 919-855-4100
www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/
- **DHHS Office of Minority Health** 919-431-1613
www.ncminorityhealth.org
- **N.C. County Health Depts.** www.ncalhd.org/county.htm
- **N.C. Healthy Start** www.nchealthystart.org
- **N.C. Institute of Medicine** www.nciom.org
- **NC Community Health Center Assoc.**
www.ncchca.org 1-800-277-6092

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This brochure was created by the NC Justice Center to assist immigrants seeking health care, as well as immigrant advocates working on their behalf.

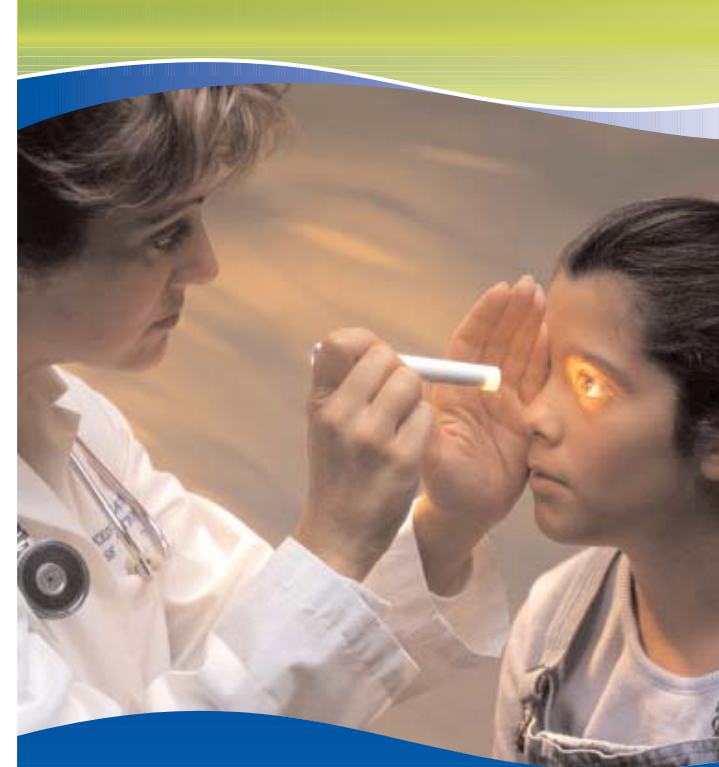
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The material and resources contained in this brochure are for information and educational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. For further information regarding your specific situation, please contact your local immigration advocacy agency or your local office of the Legal Aid of North Carolina (see toll-free number listed above.)



Immigrant Access to Health Care in North Carolina



North Carolina Justice Center

I am undocumented. Do I qualify for any public health care programs?

- Yes. Although people who are undocumented do not qualify for Medicaid (also called Health Check in North Carolina) or NC Health Choice (State Children's Health Insurance Program) they may be eligible for Emergency Medicaid, which pays for health care for active labor, and life threatening injuries or illnesses.

You may also be able to seek health care from a community health center in your community. Such centers provide health care at a reduced cost, regardless of immigration status.

County health departments also provide some limited health services for undocumented immigrants. These services may include immunizations, testing/treatment of communicable diseases (including HIV and sexually transmitted infections), substance abuse treatment and treatment for mental illness.

In addition, there are local health clinics in many areas of North Carolina that can provide free or low-cost health care examinations. To find a community health center or a "free clinic" near you, consult the "Resource" section on the back of this brochure.

I am undocumented but my children were born in the United States. Do they qualify for Medicaid or Health Choice?

- Yes. Even though you, yourself, are not eligible if you are undocumented, children who were born in the United States and whose families meet other requirements may qualify for Medicaid or NC Health Choice. Children born in the United States are United States citizens.

How can I get NC Health Check or Health Choice for my children?

- You can apply for Medicaid or NC Health Choice at your local Department of Social Services (DSS). Call the Care Line listed on the

back of this brochure to locate a DSS office near you. You only have to fill out one application and the DSS worker will determine if your child/children qualify for NC Health Choice, or Medicaid. You must only provide the Social Security numbers for the people for whom you are applying (your children), not for yourself. It is important to enroll as soon as possible as the NC Health Choice program is limited in available funds.

I want to become a legal permanent resident (LPR). If I or my children receive Medicaid or NC Health Choice, will it be harder to become LPRs (obtain a Green Card) in the United States later on?

- No. Using healthcare services will not make you a "Public Charge" and will not, by itself, prevent you or your children from obtaining a Green Card. An exception to this is long-term institutional care, such as a nursing home.

I am an LPR (Green Card Holder). Do I qualify for any public health care programs?

- Yes. As an LPR, you may qualify for Medicaid in North Carolina. However, if you entered the United States after August 22, 1996, you are subject to a five year waiting period for Medicaid. This five-year waiting period also applies to LPR children otherwise eligible for NC Health Choice. Some legal immigrants are exempt from this waiting period: refugees, asylees, active duty military personnel and veterans, victims of trafficking, and Amerasian, Cuban and Haitian entrants.

I am undocumented. Will I be reported to Immigration if I apply for Medicaid or NC Health Choice for my children?

- If an eligibility worker asks you about your immigration status, you should say that you are a

"not eligible" immigrant. "Not eligible" is not the same as undocumented. Do not tell anyone that you or anyone in your household is "undocumented" or "illegal." Do not give DSS a false Social Security number. Explain that you are only trying to get benefits for your children, not yourself. You only have to provide a SSN for the people who are applying for benefits. DSS is allowed, however, to ask you about your earnings or any property that you own.

REMEMBER: Do not give false information (such as a name or Social Security Number) when applying to receive any public health care assistance.

REMEMBER: It is illegal for the government to treat you differently just because of the way you look or because of your national origin. DSS should not ask you any more questions regarding your immigration status once you tell them that you are NOT applying for Medicaid for yourself and you do not want to provide any immigrant status information about yourself.

My children obtain their medical care through Medicaid or NC Health Choice. Will I eventually have to pay for the medical services they receive?

- No. The only payments you have to make for Medicaid or NC Health Choice will be issued at the time your child obtains medical services. You will not be billed in the future.

I want to apply for Medicaid or NC Health Choice for my children, but neither my spouse nor I receive an official paycheck. How can I provide proof of income?

- If you do not have a pay check stub, you can use a signed letter from your employer as proof of income. In this letter, your employer should state your name and how much you earn.