

Receiving government health or nutrition benefits in NC should not prevent you from getting a green card, even with recent changes.

Under the new changes to the “public charge” rule, Immigration officials will consider many factors, some positive and some negative, including the use of certain public benefits, when they consider a person’s application for a green card (permanent residence).

The most important thing to remember is that no one else’s benefits are counted against you, only benefits used directly by the person applying for a green card. If your children or family members use benefits for which they are eligible, they can continue using them without any effect on your immigration application.

Everyone has a right to an interpreter when applying for health insurance or seeking health care, at no cost.

Regardless of your immigration status, you have a right to an interpreter at no cost, whether you are applying for Medicaid, CHIP, or a Marketplace insurance plan, or are seeking care at a hospital or community health center. This is also true when applying for SNAP or WIC benefits. Children should not be asked to translate for their parents

RESOURCES

For a free appointment to enroll in Medicaid or ACA health insurance:

1-855-733-3711

For questions or problems enrolling in public benefits programs:

- Charlotte and surrounding counties:
704-376-1600
- Eastern NC, the Triangle and the Triad: 919-861-2064
- Western NC: 828-210-3452

(Se habla español, interpreters available in many languages)

For Medicaid/ACA eligibility information for immigrants:

English:

bit.ly/CCLANCJCIImmEligibility

Spanish:

bit.ly/CCLANCJCIImElegibilidad

More Information on Public Charge:

- www.ncjustice.org/public-charge
- <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/know-your-rights>

(Information available on these sites in multiple languages)

IMMIGRANT ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE & NUTRITION PROGRAMS

North Carolina
Updated September 2019

 north carolina
JUSTICE CENTER


charlotte center
for legal advocacy
justice lives here.


PISGAH
LEGAL SERVICES

Is it safe for immigrants to apply for health insurance and nutrition programs?

yes! Medicaid, The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the ACA/Obamacare provide low-cost health coverage to citizens and many lawfully present immigrants, including individuals in mixed-status families. Programs like SNAP (food stamps) and WIC help families put healthy food on the table for their children.

Eligible individuals should apply.

When you apply for Medicaid, CHIP, a Marketplace plan, SNAP or WIC:

- **Your information will be and must be kept private and confidential even if your family has members with different immigration statuses.**
- **Your information cannot be used for immigration enforcement purposes.**
- **The law protects you and your family's information and privacy.**

Applying for someone else? You are NOT required to provide any information about your immigration status!

Applications for Medicaid, CHIP, Marketplace insurance, SNAP and WIC require citizenship or immigration status information only from people who are applying for coverage for themselves. The applications may not ask for citizenship or immigration status information about other people who are part of the household who are not seeking coverage for themselves. If you are undocumented, you should not provide any information about your immigration status. Instead you may say, "I am not applying for health insurance (or food stamps) for myself." Non-applicants may still have to provide other information such as their address, tax filer status, and income.

Immigrants should NOT misrepresent information when completing public benefit applications or dealing with any government agency.

Misrepresentations such as providing a false name or Social Security Number can cause serious problems with benefit agencies and Immigration.

If you don't have a Social Security number (SSN), you don't have to provide one.

Whether you are applying for health coverage or benefits for yourself or on behalf of eligible family members, your health insurance or nutrition program application may not be delayed or denied because you don't have an SSN. Only people who have a valid SSN are required to provide one.

Even if you are not a US Citizen or Green Card holder, you may still qualify for assistance.

Most lawfully present immigrants are eligible to purchase coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace. In North Carolina, low income pregnant women and children who have a legal status can also qualify for Medicaid. Qualifying legal statuses include many categories of immigrants including individuals with U Visas, Student Visas, Work Visas, TPS, VAWA, applicants for SIJS, applicants for asylum and more. Anyone (with or without immigration status) may receive nutrition benefits from the WIC program. Rules are more restrictive for SNAP (food stamps) eligibility for immigrants.