

Receiving government health or nutrition benefits in NC should not prevent you from getting a green card.

The “public charge” rule changed in March 2021. Now, Immigration does not consider ANY health or nutrition benefits that either you or your family members may use when considering your application for a green card or other immigration benefit. You can use any health and nutrition program without concern, including: Emergency and Non-Emergency Medicaid*; the ACA/”Obamacare;” SNAP (food stamps); WIC; free/low cost health clinic services; treatment, testing or vaccines for COVID-19; school lunch and breakfast; and any other health or nutrition programs.

*The only exception is Medicaid that is used for long-term hospitalizations.

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, NC Health Choice, or an ACA insurance plan or are seeking care at a hospital or community health center. This is also true when applying for SNAP or WIC. Children should not be asked to translate for their parents or other adults.

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: 919-856-2162
- Western NC: (828) 253-0406
or (828) 210-3404 (*information about ACA and medical insurance*)

(Se habla español, interpreters are available in many languages)

For more information on Medicaid/ACA eligibility 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](#)

IMMIGRANT ACCESS TO HEALTH

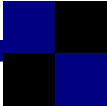
& NUTRITION PROGRAMS

North Carolina
Updated May 2021

 north carolina
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LEGAL SERVICES



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

yes! Medicaid, NC Health Choice, and the ACA 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. You may also safely access testing, treatment and vaccines for COVID-19.

Eligible people should apply for the benefits they need!

When you apply for Medicaid, NC Health Choice, an ACA 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, NC Health Choice, 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 application for a health or nutrition program 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. This is the same for COVID-19 programs such as treatment and vaccines.

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 (ACA). 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.

