KNOW YOUR BENEFITS:

A Guide for Immigrants

Children

If you are the caregiver of a non-citizen child under the age of 19, here's what you need to know about upcoming Medicaid changes.

- Certain groups of adult, lawfully present non-citizens such as refugees, asylees, and trafficking survivors will lose access to Medicaid in 2026.
- However, it's important to know that **lawfully present present children under the age of 19 will continue to be eligible for Medicaid** after October 1, 2026, in a *wide variety of immigration statuses*.
- Essentially, children who are lawfully present, *in any form of immigration status*, are eligible for Medicaid except DACA holders. Children must meet other criteria for Medicaid eligibility, such as income.
  - Medicaid coverage for children who are non-citizens has no waiting period. They can be eligible immediately once they obtain any form of lawful status except DACA.

IMPORTANT:

Non-citizens who are pregnant women and children under 19 will continue to be eligible for Medicaid after October 1, 2026, even if they do not yet have their green cards.

To learn more about data privacy when applying for programs, please visit ncjustice.org/data-privacy.

- Children who are eligible for Medicaid include green card holders, refugees, asylees, asylum applicants, victims of domestic violence, work visa holders, student visa holders, those with Temporary Protected Status, victims of human trafficking, Special Immigrant Juveniles, and many more. For a full chart of eligible statuses, please visit ncjustice.org/immigrant-eligibility.
- Children with *any* immigration status, or with *no immigration status at all,* can be eligible for:
  - Emergency Medicaid to cover emergency medical needs
  - Women, Infant, and Children's Supplemental nutrition program (WIC) (until age 5)
  - Free and reduced price school lunch and breakfast

TO FIND OTHER HEALTH CARE OPTIONS:

For help finding low or no cost health care / prescription drugs, applying for benefits, finding local food or housing options and more, check out our Health Resources sheet at www.ncjustice.org/health-resources.

The IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS team protects and defends the rights of immigrants and refugees through advancing pro-immigrant public policies and providing strategic legal representation.

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