

Medicaid is health insurance for people with low incomes. On July 4, 2025, the “One Big Beautiful Bill” was signed into law. This law says some immigrants cannot get Medicaid. On October 1, 2026, these Medicaid changes will start.

Upcoming Medicaid Changes for Immigrants



Who can get Medicaid after October 1, 2026?

- U.S. citizens;
- Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs);
- Certain Cuban and Haitian entrants;
- Individuals from Compact of Free Association (COFA) states (Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau).



Who cannot get Medicaid after October 1, 2026?

- Refugees;
- Asylees;
- Survivors of trafficking over 21 years old;
- Special immigrant juveniles;
- Individuals with bona fide VAWA petitions.



Do these changes apply to children and pregnant women?

No. Pregnant women and children under 21 who are “lawfully residing” can still get Medicaid.



Who is “lawfully residing”?

Lawfully residing generally means that someone is a documented immigrant. A documented immigrant is a person who has turned in an immigration petition to the government.

Examples of “lawfully residing:”

A child or pregnant woman may be “lawfully residing” if they fall into one of the following categories:

- Has approved visa and pending green card application;
- For people over 14 years old, has a pending asylum application and received work authorization;
- For people under 14 years old, has a pending asylum application and work authorization is pending for 6 months;
- Granted withholding of removal;
- Has a pending Special Immigrant Juvenile petition;
- Entered the United States with humanitarian parole within the last year;
- Has Temporary Protected Status (TPS);
- Has certain types of work authorization;
- Currently has deferred action;
- Survivors of trafficking.



Some Lawful Permanent Residents have a 5-year waiting period.

The 5-year bar is a waiting period for LPRs to receive benefits. Once a person receives a green card, they are not eligible for Medicaid until five years after the date on their green card. The five years start from the date listed next to the “Resident Since” row. Only certain LPRs are subject to the five-year bar.

Who does not have to wait 5 years?

Only certain LPRs have to wait five years to receive benefits. The following LPRs do not have to wait five years if their green card is based on these statuses:

- Special Iraqi/Afghan visa (SIV);
- Approved trafficking petition;
- U.S. military connection;
- Refugee;
- Asylee;
- Cuban or Haitian entrants.



Your rights to an interpreter.

You have the right to information in a way you can understand. Ask for an interpreter or for letters to be sent to you in your language or a way you can read them at <http://www.ohiomh.com/home/translationservices>.



What should I do if my Medicaid stops and I am still eligible?

You have **90 days** to appeal if you think your Medicaid decision was wrong. If your Medicaid benefits are stopped, appeal within **15 days** to keep your benefits on until you get a hearing decision. Here are some ways to ask for a state hearing:

- **Online** - Fill out the form at <https://hearings.jfs.ohio.gov>
- **Email** - Send an email to BSH@jfs.ohio.gov. The subject line should be "State Hearing Request." In the message, include your name, case number, and reason for requesting a hearing, or attach a copy of the completed State Hearing Form that came with your decision you want to appeal.
- **Fax** - Fax the required information to (614) 728-9574
- **By Mail** - Send appeals by mail to the following address:

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Bureau of State Hearings
P.O. Box 182825
Columbus, OH 43218

- **Phone** - 1-888-635-3748

Have Questions? We Can Help.

LASCO can provide free legal help with noncriminal issues.



Call 1-888-246-4420



Online lasco.org

Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio (LASCO) provides free noncriminal legal help to people experiencing poverty, seniors, and veterans in 36 Ohio counties.

This information is based on current law, which is subject to change. If you have questions, contact LASCO.

