

# Preparing Noncitizen Medicaid Customers for HR 1 Medicaid Changes

*FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, NONPROFITS,  
ADVOCATES AND OTHER PARTNERS*

June 2026



**HFS**

Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services

# Why This Matters

**HR 1 narrows Medicaid eligibility for certain noncitizens. Some noncitizen customers will lose coverage on October 1, 2026, and they must be informed in advance so they can prepare.**

**These changes are required under federal law and are not changes initiated by the State of Illinois.**

**Goal:** Provide clear, timely communication to prepare noncitizen Medicaid customers for the loss of coverage on October 1 because of HR 1.



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# What is Changing for Noncitizens?



**Starting October 1, 2026, some lawfully present immigrants will lose Medicaid coverage. This includes but is not limited to<sup>1</sup>:**

- **Refugees and Asylees:** Individuals who left their home country for safety and don't yet have a Green Card
- **Humanitarian parolees:** Individuals allowed into the United States for urgent reasons for at least one year (including Ukrainian & Afghan parole programs)
- **Survivors of domestic violence or human trafficking**
- **Amerasian immigrants not adjusted to legal permanent resident (LPR) status**
- **Individuals granted withholding of removal**
- **Conditional entrants** allowed to stay in the United States for humanitarian or safety reasons under a temporary immigration status.

1. Includes individuals with certain qualified immigration statuses, such as refugees, asylees, trafficking survivors, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, certain parolees, VAWA applicants, and other protected humanitarian categories.

# What is Changing for Noncitizens? (continued)



The following groups **will remain eligible**:

- **Naturalized Citizens**
- **Lawful permanent residents** (subject to the five-year waiting period unless federally exempt)
- **Certain Cuban and Haitian entrants**
- **Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants** (from Marshall Islands, Micronesia or Palau)
- **Children under 19 years old**
- **Pregnant individuals**
- Individuals enrolled in a state-funded program including Medical Benefits for Asylum Applicants and Torture Victims (AATV), Victims of Trafficking, Torture or Other Serious Crimes (VTTC), and Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors (HBIS).

\*The groups who are losing coverage due to the HR 1 noncitizen eligibility changes may still receive **Emergency Medicaid**, but not full-scope benefits—see slide 8.

# How You Can Help Healthcare Providers



- **Inform affected patients** that some groups, including refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, and survivors of trafficking or domestic violence, may lose federally funded Medicaid as of **October 1, 2026**.
- **Remind pregnant patients** they may still qualify for other Medicaid programs. HFS will send personalized notices about any changes to impacted individuals. Members can call **1-877-805-5312** to apply or confirm coverage.
- **At health visits, encourage customers to update their contact information with us.** Educate customers about updating their address and immigration status so we can inform them about benefit changes.
  - For anyone receiving benefits, make sure we have their current immigration status, and provide any documentation of updates. **In some cases, a change in a customer's immigration status may mean they are eligible for additional coverage alternatives.**
  - Inform everyone to update their address, phone number, and email **TODAY** by visiting **abe.illinois.gov**, or calling **877-805-5312**.
- **Post and distribute materials** from this toolkit in waiting areas and exam rooms. Share the provided messaging and graphics on your social channels.
- **Help patients prepare before Oct. 1, 2026**, by encouraging them to schedule needed care and refill prescriptions before any coverage changes occur.

# How You Can Help

## Stakeholders & Advocates



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HR 1 NONCITIZEN TOOLKIT

- **Identify community members who may lose coverage**, including refugees, asylum seekers, parolees, and survivors of trafficking or domestic violence. If they will lose coverage under the HR 1 changes, share with them the information and resources on the next page about healthcare alternatives.
- **Remind pregnant patients** they may still qualify for other Medicaid programs. We will send personalized notices about any changes. Members can call **1-877-805-5312** to apply or confirm coverage.
- **Help customers update** their address and immigration status on file with HFS so we can keep customers informed about benefits changes that may impact them. You can review and update your information through:
  - ABE Manage My Case: <https://abe.illinois.gov/access/>,
  - By going to your local Family and Community Resource Center,
  - By calling the All Kids Unit toll-free at 1-877-805-5312 (TTY: 1-877-204-1012), or
  - If you need help navigating this change, contact an Immigrant Resource Program partner at 1-855-435-7693.
- **Post flyers and distribute palm cards** at check-in or reception. Include palm cards in food bank bags or other distributions. Share the toolkit messaging and graphics on social media. Make a plan to integrate this toolkit into your regular communications with affected Medicaid customers.

# Loss of Full-Scope Medicaid Coverage

**Inform individuals whose Medicaid coverage ends that they may be able to get primary and preventative care in other places.**

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and free and charitable clinics serve uninsured and underinsured people regardless of their immigration status and ability to pay. More information and clinic locations are available online at [www.illinoisfreeclinics.org](http://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org) and [www.iphca.org/health-center-locator](http://www.iphca.org/health-center-locator).
- Those who are losing coverage may still receive **Emergency Medicaid**, which provides time-limited coverage for emergency medical services for individuals who are not eligible for full-scope Medicaid benefits solely due to their immigration status.
- Many hospitals are also required to provide charity care, and individuals who are uninsured can consult with the hospital's financial counselors.
- For information about your rights and responsibilities, call the Immigrant Family Resource Program at 1-855-435-7693 or visit "Support Services for Recently Arrived Migrants" at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=146838> to find a list of agencies serving immigrants.

# Emergency Medicaid for Noncitizens

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## Who is Eligible?

### Noncitizens who:

- do not qualify for federal Medicaid based on immigration status
- are aged 19 and older
- meet all other factors of federal Medicaid eligibility

**Emergency Medicaid** covers emergency medical services delivered in a hospital setting as a result of a condition that is severe enough to:

- Place health in serious jeopardy;
- Create serious impairments to bodily functions;  
or
- Create serious dysfunction in any organ or part.

Noncitizens (aged 19 and older) who lose full scope Medicaid due to the federal noncitizen criteria may be eligible for Emergency Medicaid if all other factors of eligibility are met.

In addition to traditional application pathways, hospitals may also apply for Emergency Medicaid on behalf of a customer.

# Noncitizen Flowchart

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## Is Your Medicaid Changing?



## MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR NONCITIZENS IS CHANGING, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026



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Read on to find out if you are affected and what options you may have.

If any of the following applies to you, you do NOT need to do anything. Your Medicaid eligibility is NOT affected. If you do not meet at least one of these qualifications, your Medicaid coverage is affected by the federal changes. However, you may qualify for AATV, a state-funded insurance program for select noncitizens.



### Naturalized Citizens

Born in the U.S., or became a citizen



### Lawful Permanent Resident (Green Card holder)

Subject to meet or are exempt from the 5-year eligibility bar - call 1-877-805-5312 to confirm.



### Cuban or Haitian Entrant

Only if you entered under a specific humanitarian program - call 1-877-805-5312 if this applies to you.



### COFA Migrant

From Marshall Islands, Micronesia, or Palau



### Pregnant

Pregnant people are covered under other Medicaid regardless of immigrant status. Visit HFS Moms and Babies website or call 1-877-805-5312 to confirm eligibility and apply today.



### Under 19 Years Old

Children are covered under "All Kids" regardless of immigrant status. Visit the HFS All Kids website or call 1-877-805-5312 to confirm eligibility and apply today.



### Not in one of these groups?

**Your Medicaid Coverage may end on October 1, 2026.**

Call 1-877-805-5312 to find out if your coverage is changing.

# Noncitizen Flowchart 2

## Is Your Medicaid Changing?



### GETTING COVERAGE THROUGH OTHER PROGRAMS

Illinois AATV is state-funded - HR 1 does not affect it.

**What is AATV?** AATV (Asylum Applicants & Torture Victims) is a medical program paid for by the state of Illinois - not the federal government. That means HR1 does not affect it. If you qualify, it may cover your medical care for up to 36 months. It includes the following noncitizen populations:

- Individuals receiving services through a federally funded torture treatment center
- Individuals who have filed for a T Visa, a U Visa, or Asylum
- Individuals who have an appeal pending regarding a T Visa, a U Visa, or Asylum application
- Individuals who have obtained their U Visa
- Individuals who have filed an application as a derivative family member or are included as a derivative family member in an application for a T Visa, a U Visa, or asylum of said applicants

**If you meet ALL of the following criteria, you may be eligible for AATV.**

If you do not meet all of these, call 1-877-805-5312 to find out what other options may be available.

**1 Have a pending asylum application or appeal - or are a victim of torture**  
A torture victim is someone getting treatment at a federally-funded torture treatment center.

**2 Live In Illinois**

**3 Are 19 and older**

**4 Have income at or below Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**  
About \$1,330/month for an individual (2026 level). Call 1-877-805-5312 to confirm.

**5 Have total assets of \$17,500 or less**  
Money in checking/saving accounts are included, but your home and one car do not count towards this limit. About \$1,330/month for an individual (2026 level). Call 1-877-805-5312 to confirm.

**✓ If you said YES to all five - you may qualify. APPLY TODAY**



Scan the QR Code to apply.

#### HOW TO APPLY

**1**

**Apply online or in person**  
abe.illinois.gov  
Your local DHS office

**2**

**Get your documents ready**  
ID, Proof of IL address,  
Asylum paperwork, Income Info

**3**

**Need free help?**  
Call 1-877-805-5312  
abe.illinois.gov

**Denied?** You can appeal. Ask for a Fair Hearing through the Illinois Department of Human Services within 60 days of getting your denial. Use the ABE portal or call 1-800-435-0774.

*Individuals whose Medicaid coverage ends may be able to get primary and preventative care in other places. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and free and charitable clinics serve uninsured and underinsured people regardless of their immigration status and ability to pay. More information and clinic locations are available online at [www.illinoisfreeclinics.org](http://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org) and [www.iphca.org/health-center-locator](http://www.iphca.org/health-center-locator). These individuals may also still receive Emergency Medicaid.*

# HR 1 Noncitizen Toolkit



## **Objective:**


Provide clear, easy-to-understand information to help noncitizen customers prepare for Medicaid changes on October 1, 2026. This toolkit will explain who may be affected, who will remain eligible, how to update contact information, and where to find other coverage options if Medicaid ends.

## **Audience:**

Including but not limited to refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, and survivors of trafficking or domestic violence.


## **Toolkit Items:**

- Flyer
- Palm Card
- Social Media Content
- Newsletter/Article
- Text Message Language
- Email/Letter Language



## MEDICAID RULES ARE CHANGING

Medicaid eligibility for noncitizens is changing, effective October 1, 2026.



**A new federal law (HR1) is changing who qualifies for Medicaid.**  
You may also know Illinois Medicaid by names like All Kids, Aetna, BlueCross BlueShield, CountyCare, Meridian or Molina.


**Some noncitizens may lose coverage starting October 1, 2026.**  
**Here's what is changing:** Some non-citizens, including but not limited to **refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, and survivors of trafficking or domestic violence will no longer qualify for federally-funded Medicaid.** Individuals in these groups may still receive Emergency Medicaid, but not regular full-scope benefits.

**The following groups will remain eligible:**

- Naturalized Citizens
- Lawful permanent residents who meet or are exempt from the 5-year eligibility bar
- Certain Cuban and Haitian entrants
- COFA migrants (from Marshall Islands, Micronesia or Palau)
- Children under 19 years old and pregnant people
- Individuals enrolled in a state-funded program including AATV, VTTC, and HBIS

**What to do now:**

- **Update your contact information at [abe.illinois.gov](http://abe.illinois.gov)** so HFS can reach you.
- **Watch your mail.** HFS will send you a personalized notice if you are affected.
- **Get care and pick up prescriptions before October 1, 2026.**
- **If you are notified that you lost coverage, look for another health plan.** Visit [GetCoveredIllinois.gov](http://GetCoveredIllinois.gov) and check employer plans. You may also call 1-877-805-5312 to speak with a caseworker.



Includes individuals with certain qualified immigration statuses, such as refugees, asylees, trafficking survivors, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, certain parolees, VAWA applicants, and other protected humanitarian categories. Medical Assistance for Asylum Applicants and Torture Victims, Victims of Trafficking, Torture, or Other Serious Crimes programs, and Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors. These groups may still receive Emergency Medicaid, but not full-scope benefits. More information and clinic locations are available online at [www.illinoisfreeclinics.org](http://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org) and [www.iphca.org/health-center-locator](http://www.iphca.org/health-center-locator).

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## Attention: Medicaid Customers Medicaid Rules are Changing

**Starting October 1, 2026, some noncitizens may lose Medicaid:** Those losing coverage, include refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, and survivors of trafficking or domestic violence, among others.

**The following groups will remain eligible:** Naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents who meet or are exempt from the 5-year eligibility bar, certain Cuban and Haitian entrants, COFA migrants (from Marshall Islands, Micronesia or Palau), children under 19 years old and pregnant people, and individuals currently enrolled in a state-funded program including AATV, VTTC, and HBIS.

**Update your contact information at [abe.illinois.gov](http://abe.illinois.gov) and watch your mail.** HFS will mail every affected member a personalized notice.

*Individuals who lose Medicaid coverage can still get primary and preventive care. Federally Qualified Health Centers and free/charitable clinics serve uninsured and underinsured individuals regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. Find locations at [www.illinoisfreeclinics.org](http://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org) and [www.iphca.org/health-center-locator](http://www.iphca.org/health-center-locator). These individuals may also still receive Emergency Medicaid.*



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### ATTENTION: MEDICAID CUSTOMERS MEDICAID RULES ARE CHANGING

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**The following groups will remain eligible:** Naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents who meet or are exempt from the 5-year eligibility bar, certain Cuban and Haitian entrants, COFA migrants (from Marshall Islands, Micronesia or Palau), children under 19 years old and pregnant people, and individuals currently enrolled in a state-funded program including AATV, VTTC, and HBIS.

**Update your contact information at [abe.illinois.gov](http://abe.illinois.gov) and watch your mail.** HFS will mail every affected member a personalized notice.

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Scan the QR Code and click "Manage My Case"

[abe.illinois.gov](http://abe.illinois.gov)  
If you have additional questions, call 1-877-805-5312

# MEDICAID CHANGES FOR NONCITIZENS

Some noncitizen groups may lose Medicaid coverage starting October 1, 2026.

## WHAT TO DO NOW

- Update your contact information at [abe.illinois.gov](http://abe.illinois.gov).
- Watch your mail.
- Get care and pick up prescriptions before October 1, 2026.
- If you are notified that you lost coverage, look for another health plan.



Update your contact info today at [abe.illinois.gov](http://abe.illinois.gov)

Updating your info does not mean your benefits are changing.

## Option 1

Starting October 1, 2026, eligibility rules for Illinois Medicaid are changing. Some noncitizens may lose coverage. Impacted members will receive a personalized notice by mail from DHS/HFS, so please update your contact info at [ABE.Illinois.gov](http://ABE.Illinois.gov).

Individuals who lose Medicaid coverage can still get primary and preventive care. Federally Qualified Health Centers and free/charitable clinics serve uninsured and underinsured individuals regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. Find locations at [www.illinoisfreeclinics.org](http://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org) and [www.iphca.org/health-center-locator](http://www.iphca.org/health-center-locator).

## Option 2

Important Medicaid Update for 2026: Beginning October 1, some noncitizen groups may no longer qualify for Medicaid.

Those who will REMAIN eligible include:

- Naturalized citizens
- Lawful permanent residents who meet or are exempt from the 5-year eligibility bar
- Certain Cuban and Haitian entrants
- COFA migrants
- Children under 19 & pregnant people
- Individuals enrolled in AATV, VTTC, or HBIS

Make sure your address is up to date at [ABE.Illinois.gov](http://ABE.Illinois.gov) so you don't miss your notice.

## Option 3

Medicaid changes are coming October 1, 2026. If you are a refugee, asylee, humanitarian parolee, or a survivor of trafficking or domestic violence, and do not have your green card (LPR Card) this change *may* affect your coverage.

HFS will mail notices to everyone impacted, check your mail and keep your info current at [ABE.Illinois.gov](http://ABE.Illinois.gov). Individuals who lose Medicaid coverage can still get primary and preventive care. Federally Qualified Health Centers and free/charitable clinics serve uninsured and underinsured individuals regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. Find locations at [www.illinoisfreeclinics.org](http://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org) and [www.iphca.org/health-center-locator](http://www.iphca.org/health-center-locator). Individuals who lose coverage may also still receive Emergency Medicaid, but not regular, full-scope benefits.

**Federal Medicaid rules are changing.** Starting October 1, 2026, some noncitizens, including but not limited to, refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, survivors of trafficking or domestic violence will no longer qualify for federally funded Medicaid.

**The following groups will remain eligible:** naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents who meet the 5-year requirement, certain Cuban and Haitian entrants, COFA migrants (from Marshall Islands, Micronesia or Palau), children under 19 years old and pregnant people, and individuals currently enrolled in a state-funded program, including AATV, VTTC, and HBIS.

**Here's what you need to do now to stay informed and prepare:**

- **Update your contact information** at [abe.illinois.gov](http://abe.illinois.gov) (click on Manage My Case) so HFS can reach you.
- **Watch your mail.** HFS will send a personalized notice if your coverage is affected.
- **Schedule appointments and refill prescriptions** before October 1, 2026.

Individuals who lose Medicaid coverage can still get primary and preventive care. Federally Qualified Health Centers and free/charitable clinics serve uninsured and underinsured individuals regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. Find locations at [www.illinoisfreeclinics.org](http://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org) and [www.iphca.org/health-center-locator](http://www.iphca.org/health-center-locator).

Questions? Call HFS at 1-877-805-5312.

### **SMS 1**

Medicaid rules change Oct 1, 2026. Some noncitizens may lose coverage. Update your contact info at [ABE.Illinois.gov](https://www.abe.illinois.gov). Watch your mail for a notice.

### **SMS 2**

Medicaid update: Starting Oct 1, 2026, some noncitizens may no longer qualify. Many groups remain eligible, including citizens, certain permanent residents, COFA migrants, kids under 19, pregnant people, and AATV/VTTC/HBIS members. Update info at [ABE.Illinois.gov](https://www.abe.illinois.gov).

### **SMS 3**

If you are a refugee, asylee, parolee, or survivor of trafficking or DV, Medicaid changes on Oct 1, 2026, may affect you. HFS will mail notices, keep your address current at [ABE.Illinois.gov](https://www.abe.illinois.gov).

## Subject: Attention, noncitizens: Medicaid Rules are Changing

Dear NAME/MEDICAID CUSTOMER,

### Federal Medicaid rules are changing, and you may be affected.

A new federal law (HR 1) is changing who qualifies for Medicaid. You may also know Medicaid by names like All Kids, Aetna, BlueCross BlueShield, CountyCare, Meridian or Molina. **Starting October 1, 2026, some noncitizens will no longer qualify for federally funded Medicaid in Illinois.** This includes but is not limited to refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, and survivors of trafficking or domestic violence with a pending status.

The following groups will remain eligible:

- Naturalized citizens
- Lawful permanent residents who meet the 5-year requirement
- Certain Cuban and Haitian entrants
- COFA migrants (from Marshall Islands, Micronesia or Palau)
- Children under 19 years old and pregnant people
- Individuals enrolled in a state-funded program, including AATV, VTTC, and HBIS

### Here is what you need to do now to stay informed:

- **Update your contact information at [abe.illinois.gov](http://abe.illinois.gov)** (click on Manage My Case) so HFS can reach you with important coverage updates.
- **Watch your mail.** HFS will send a personalized notice if your coverage is affected. Do not disenroll on your own.
- **Prepare before October 1, 2026.** Schedule needed appointments and refill prescriptions while you still have coverage.

Individuals who lose Medicaid coverage can still get primary and preventive care. Federally Qualified Health Centers and free/charitable clinics serve uninsured and underinsured individuals regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. Find locations at [www.illinoisfreeclinics.org](http://www.illinoisfreeclinics.org) and [www.iphca.org/health-center-locator](http://www.iphca.org/health-center-locator).

Call HFS at 1-877-805-5312 if you have questions.



# EMAIL / LETTER