



Department of Job and Family Services

Russell M. Pry Building
1180 S. Main Street, Suite 102
Akron, OH 44301-1256

844.640.OHIO (6446)
866.351.8292 Fax
summitcountyjfsOhio.gov

NON- CITIZEN MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY CHANGES

Effective October 1, 2026

What is changing? Starting October 1, 2026, federal legislation changes Medicaid eligibility rules for non-citizens. Most non-citizens must have a qualifying immigration status and meet a five-year waiting period to receive full Medicaid benefits. Some groups are exempt from the five-year waiting period.

IF YOU ALREADY RECEIVE MEDICAID

- Your coverage can continue if you meet the updated eligibility rules below.
- If you do not meet satisfactory immigration status requirements, your Medicaid coverage ends September 30, 2026.
- Receiving SSI or Social Security no longer provides automatic Medicaid eligibility. Non-citizens receiving these benefits must still meet the immigration-status rules.

IF YOU APPLY ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2026

- Full Medicaid eligibility is limited to:
 - Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)
 - Cuban or Haitian Entrants (CHE)
 - Compact of Free Association (COFA) individuals

Most full-benefit non-citizens must wait 5 years after their qualifying status was granted before they are considered to have a satisfactory immigration status.

No 5-year waiting period for:

- Lawfully residing children.
- Pregnant women, including postpartum coverage.

Who may qualify for full Medicaid on October 1:

- Cuban-Haitian Entrants and COFA individuals.
- LPRs with 40 qualifying quarters, or LPR status granted 5 or more years ago.
- Lawfully residing children and pregnant or postpartum women.
- Individuals who became LPRs after previously holding Refugee, Asylee, Withheld Deportation, Amerasian Immigrant, Victim of Trafficking, Afghan/Iraqi SIV, American Indian born in Canada with at least 50% of American Indian blood, or membership in a federally recognized tribe.

IF FULL MEDICAID IS NOT AVAILABLE

People who are not U.S. citizens or nationals and do not have satisfactory immigration status may qualify for Non-Citizen Emergency Medical Assistance (NCEMA).