Some Immigrants Will No Longer be Eligible for Medicaid Starting October 1, 2026.

Refugees, asylees, and certain humanitarian parolees will no longer be eligible for Medicaid as of October 1, 2026. This includes new applicants and those already enrolled in Medicaid.

These changes were part of significant changes to Medicaid in the **"One Big Beautiful Bill"** (also called **H.R.1**) that was passed in July 2025 and supported by Nebraska's members of Congress – Senators Fischer and Ricketts and Representatives Bacon, Flood, and Smith.

Nebraskans with many types of immigration statuses will no longer be eligible for Medicaid starting October 1, 2026.

Immigration Statuses	**Eligible for Medicaid / CHIP Before October 1, 2026**	**Eligibility for Medicaid / CHIP Starting October 1, 2026**
Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), also called green card holders	**Eligible**	**Eligible:** LPRs remain eligible for Medicaid.
Cuban / Haitian Entrants	**Eligible**	**Eligible:** Cuban / Haitian Entrants remain eligible for Medicaid.
Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants - individuals residing in US who are migrants from Compact of Free Association nations (The Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau)	**Eligible**	**Eligible:** COFA migrants remain eligible for Medicaid.
"Lawfully present" children and pregnant people (Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) or CHIPRA 214 option)[1]	**Eligible**	**Eligible:** "Lawfully present" noncitizens who are children or pregnant. H.R.1 did not change or limit a state's ICHIA option.
Humanitarian Immigrants: Including refugees, asylees, certain survivors of domestic violence (VAWA), certain survivors of trafficking (T visa), survivors of certain crimes (U visa), individuals paroled into the U.S. for a period of at least one year, individuals granted conditional entry, individuals granted Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant Visas and certain Afghan parolees, certain Ukrainian parolees, and certain American Indians born in Canada or members of a federal tribe (who do not have another eligible status).	**Eligible**	**No longer eligible:** Many different status types, including refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian immigrants will no longer be eligible for Medicaid starting October 1, 2026. **If you have questions about your specific status, find legal help at the resources below.**

[1] Per longstanding CMS guidance, lawfully residing children or pregnant individuals include qualified non-citizens defined in PRWORA (including LPRs within their five-year waiting period as well as refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, others), non-citizens with a nonimmigrant status (e.g., a work or student visa), non-citizens paroled into the U.S. for less than one year (with exceptions), individuals with Temporary Protected Status, an approved visa petition or with a pending application for adjustment of status, among others. *See* State Health and Values Strategies, *H.R. 1's Changes to Non-Citizen Coverage: Frequently Asked Questions*, April 17, 2026, https://shvs.org/resources/h-r-1s-changes-to-non-citizen-coverage-frequently-asked-questions/.

H.R. 1 Did Not Change the Five-Year Waiting Period

Certain "qualified non-citizens" (QNCs), including the statuses listed in the chart below, are eligible for Medicaid only after satisfying a five-year waiting period or "the five-year bar." In Nebraska, some QNCs, children under 19, and people who are pregnant are eligible for Medicaid/CHIP without meeting the five-year bar.

H.R. 1 did not change requirements related to the five-year bar. The statuses that are subject to the waiting period or exempt from it have not changed.

QNCs who have to meet the five-year bar	**QNCs who do not have to meet the five-year bar**
• Lawful permanent residents (LPRs) (some exceptions) • Certain people paroled into the U.S. for at least one year • Conditional entrant granted before 1980 • Certain survivors of abuse who are non-citizens, spouses, children, or parents	• Refugees • Asylees • Cuban/Haitian entrants • COFA migrants • Victims of trafficking and their spouse, child, sibling, or parents • Granted withholding of deportation • Certain special immigrants and parolees (i.e., Afghan and Ukrainian parolees) • Amerasian immigrants • Certain LPRs (e.g., long-term work history, LPRs who obtained permanent residence through certain humanitarian protections, including refugee/asylee status, U or T visas, or SIJS) • Veterans or active-duty military and spouses or unmarried dependents who also have QNC status • In Nebraska, some QNCs, children under 19 and people who are pregnant are eligible for Medicaid/CHIP without meeting the five-year bar.

Need Help Understanding Your Health Coverage?

Not everyone will lose Medicaid. If you need to find new health coverage, find free, local assistance: https://howtogetcare.org/

To learn more about whether these changes may affect you, consider contacting the following resources:

- **Contact Nebraska Medicaid:**
  - Call (855) 632-7633 to find out which category of Medicaid you have and whether you will be subject to the changes;
  - Log onto the iServe portal and update your contact information to ensure you receive any updates about your coverage: https://iserve.nebraska.gov/.
- **Contact a local Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)** to determine if you qualify for another Medicaid category, or discuss other available healthcare options: https://www.hcanebraska.org/health-centers/find-health-center/.
- **Call the Douglas County Health Department Info Line:** (402) 444-3400 for local assistance and information. Interpreters are available.
- **Find a health department in your area:** https://nalhd.org/about-local-health-departments/

Need Medical Services?

Find a health center near you: https://www.hcanebraska.org/health-centers/find-health-center/.

Other health clinics that provide services for free or sliding scale fees:

- Heart Ministry Center Monen Healthcare Clinic, https://www.heartministrycenter.org/monen-healthcare-clinic/
- SHARING Clinics (Omaha) https://www.unmc.edu/sharing/
- Clinic with a Heart (Lincoln) https://clinicwithaheart.org/
- People's City Mission Free Clinic (Lincoln) https://www.pcmlincoln.org/free-clinic
- Third City Community Clinic (Grand Island) https://www.pcmlincoln.org/free-clinic
- HelpCare Clinic (Kearney) https://helpcareclinic.org/

What Should I Do Now?

Update your address and phone number so DHHS can reach you:

- Visit iserve.nebraska.gov and select "Log in"
- Email DHHSANDICenter@nebraska.gov
- Call Nebraska Medicaid at 855.632.7633 or fax 402.742.2351

Make sure to:

- Open and read all mail from DHHS or Medicaid
- Keep copies of your health paperwork
- Contact the resources on this factsheet to find health care options

Need Immigration-Related Legal Help?

If you need immigration assistance contact the Nebraska Immigration Legal Assistance Hotline (NILAH) at 1-855-307-6730. NILAH may be able to connect you with free and low cost immigration legal service providers. Learn more information: https://ciraconnect.org/legal-representation/#nilah.