

Noncitizen Medical Assistance Eligibility Changes: Frequently Asked Questions

Communications for partner organizations: Frequently asked questions

Overview

A federal law changes which immigration statuses qualify for Medical Assistance. Some noncitizen adults age 21 or older who are not pregnant, will no longer qualify for Medical Assistance (MA) – Minnesota's Medicaid program. This change does not affect U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals.

Starting Oct. 1, MA will be limited to fewer groups. To qualify, noncitizens age 21 or older who are not pregnant, must be a: 1. Lawful Permanent Resident (Green Card) who satisfy a five-year waiting period or meet an exception to the waiting period, 2. Cuban or Haitian Entrant, or 3. Compact of Free Association (COFA) Migrant (from the Marshall Islands, Micronesia or Palau).

MA coverage will also still be available to: 1. Children under age 21 with any lawfully present status and 2. People who are pregnant regardless of their immigration status.

Do you know about the letter the state sent about my health coverage/Medical Assistance?

The letter is about who can get MA starting Oct. 1 2026, based on immigration status. It affects certain noncitizen adults. The Minnesota Department of Human Services sent letters to people who may be affected at the end of June. Translated versions of the letter are available in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Dari, Karen, Pashto and Russian in the Tools for partners section at <https://mn.gov/dhs/federalchanges/tools-for-partners>.

Where can I get more information?

Go to the Minnesota Department of Human Services website at <https://mn.gov/dhs/federalchanges/noncitizen-adults/>. It has information about who is affected, when it happens, what people should do and where to go for help.

Who will be able to get Medical Assistance?

The Oct. 1, 2026, changes to Medical Assistance DO NOT affect U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals.

To keep MA starting Oct. 1, noncitizens age 21 or older who are not pregnant, must be a: 1. Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holders) who satisfy a five- year waiting period or meet an exception to the waiting period, 2. Cuban or Haitian Entrant, or 3. Compact of Free Association Migrant.

MA coverage will still be available to: 1. Children under age 21 with a lawfully present status and 2. People who are pregnant regardless of their immigration status. You can get more information on the Minnesota Department of Human Services website at <https://mn.gov/dhs/federalchanges/noncitizen-adults/>.

What if I recently had an immigration status change?

Immediately contact your county or Tribal human services office with updates or corrections: For example, report if your status has changed and you are now a U.S. citizen or U.S. national; or are a Lawful Permanent Resident, Cuban or Haitian Entrant, or COFA Migrant; or are pregnant. Refer to the online directory of human services offices at <https://mn.gov/dhs/about-us/contact-us/county-and-tribal-nation-offices/> for contact information.

What can I do now?

Watch the mail for Medical Assistance notices, read carefully and respond right away. Keep your contact information up to date: <https://mn.gov/dhs/mycontactinfo/>.

What if I have questions about my immigration status?

If you have questions about your immigration status, contact an immigration attorney or trusted legal expert. Legal experts: <https://www.lawhelpmn.org/>.