

Talking points for enrollees: Medical Assistance eligibility for certain noncitizen adults

There will be new requirements for certain noncitizen adults to maintain eligibility for Medical Assistance.

Get the facts about what you need to do to keep health care coverage through Medicaid, the federal health care program that's called Medical Assistance in Minnesota.

What is changing

- Starting Oct. 1, 2026, a federal law [Public Law 119-21, also known as H.R. 1 or the One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)] changes which immigration statuses qualify for Medicaid. Some lawfully present noncitizen adults age 21 or older who are not pregnant, will no longer qualify for Medical Assistance (MA) — Minnesota's Medicaid program.

Who this applies to

- This applies to noncitizen adults age 21 or older who are not pregnant, with certain immigration statuses such as refugees, asylees, Afghan and Ukrainian humanitarian parolees, trafficking victims, battered noncitizens, and qualified noncitizen veterans. They will not be eligible for MA starting Oct. 1, 2026.

Who will still qualify for MA

- Beginning Oct. 1, 2026, MA eligibility for non-pregnant adults (age 21 or older) is limited to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and the following "eligible noncitizens" who meet all other MA criteria.
 - Lawful permanent residents (LPRs or "green card holders") who satisfy a five-year waiting period or meet an exception to the five-year waiting period
 - Cuban or Haitian entrants
 - Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants – people who are citizens of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands.
- Individuals under age 21 who are lawfully present
- People who are pregnant regardless of their immigration status

How will I know if I am impacted by the new federal changes?

- In June 2026, the Minnesota Department of Human Services will send you a letter through the U.S. Postal Service if, based on your case information, you are impacted by the changes that are effective beginning Oct. 1, 2026.
- During late August through early September 2026, we will review eligibility to help ensure people maintain coverage if they are still eligible for MA. If you no longer qualify, we will mail a notice to you that says your MA coverage ends on Sept. 30, 2026.

What you should do right now

- Update your contact information: <https://mn.gov/dhs/mycontactinfo/>.
- Contact your county or Tribal human services agency right away to report these changes:
 - You recently became a U.S. citizen or U.S. national;
 - You recently became a Lawful Permanent Resident, Cuban or Haitian Entrant, or COFA Migrant; or
 - You are pregnant. (The new law does not apply if you are pregnant.)
- Watch your mail for important notices from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, read and respond to them right away.

If your coverage ends

- If you no longer qualify for MA, you may be eligible for another state health care program. We will review your information to see if you qualify for other coverage options. We will mail you a request if we need more information from you to determine your eligibility for other health care programs. Contact your county or Tribal office with questions about your eligibility.
- If you need care, contact your doctor or care provider for options.
- If you think you are eligible for MA again after your coverage ends (for example, immigration or pregnancy status changes), contact your county or Tribal office about eligibility. Go to mn.gov/dhs/health-care/county-tribal-state-offices/ for a directory.

Get help

- MNSure-certified navigators (assisters) provide free enrollment help through virtual meetings, phone appointments or in-person meetings. To find a navigator in your area visit: <https://www.mnsure.org/help/find-assister/index.jsp>
- The Refugee and Immigrant Helpline is a connection to helpful information, resources and services in your community. Call the Helpline at 800-814-4806 or visit: <https://mn.gov/dhs/resettlement/>. Note, the Helpline does not assist people in applying for coverage or assess their eligibility.

Legal questions

- If you have questions about sharing your immigration information with the government, you should speak with an immigration attorney. Free or low-cost help may be available.

- Legal Services State Support: Visit <https://www.lawhelpmn.org/> for an online guide to find a lawyer, information and learn more about your rights or a legal problem.

Learn more

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Human Services webpage about the federal law changes at mn.gov/dhs/federalchanges.