



Community Call:

Changes for Non-Citizen Medicaid Eligibility

Tue, Aug 4, 2026
12pm-1pm
Zoom

Welcome

Name, Organization, Role, Email in Chat



Federal Changes

Starting October 1, 2026, Medicaid **will only** be available to people with the following legal immigration statuses:

- U.S. citizens and nationals
- Lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who have met the 5-year requirement or are exempt
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) islanders
- Cuban and Haitian entrants



Michigan Exceptions

In Michigan, some people can still get Medicaid no matter their immigration status, if they meet all other requirements:

- Children and youth up to age 21
- People who are pregnant
- People up to 12 months after pregnancy

Who will **NOT** be eligible?

People who do **not** have lawful permanent resident status will lose Medicaid eligibility if they are in one of these groups:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Amerasian immigrants
- People whose deportation or removal order has been withheld
- Victims of trafficking
- Certain Afghan and Ukrainian parolees, including:
 - People paroled under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2006
 - Afghans with humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023
 - Ukrainians with humanitarian parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024

Who will NOT be eligible? (continued)

People who do **not** have lawful permanent resident status will lose Medicaid eligibility if they are in one of these groups:

- Parolees who have been in the U.S. for at least one year
- Certain American Indians admitted for permanent residence
- Lawfully residing active-duty service members, honorably discharged veterans, and their families
- Abused spouses and children (under the Violence Against Women Act)

5-Year Requirement for Lawful Permanent Residents

Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) must wait 5 years before they can get Medicaid. Some people do **not** have to wait 5 years. These exemptions will stay the same way under the new rules. If a person becomes an LPR later and they previously held one of the statuses below, they do not have to wait 5 years:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Amerasian immigrants
- People whose deportation or removal order has been withheld
- Victims of trafficking
- Iraqi or Afghan individuals with Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)
- Certain Afghan or Ukrainian parolees, including:
 - People paroled under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2006
 - Afghans with humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023
 - Ukrainians with humanitarian parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024



5-Year Requirement for Lawful Permanent Residents (continued)

LPRs must wait 5 years before they can get Medicaid. Some people do **not** have to wait 5 years. These exemptions will stay the same way under the new rules. If a person becomes an LPR later and they previously held one of the statuses below, they do not have to wait 5 years:

- Certain American Indians admitted for permanent residence
- Hmong and Highland Laotian Tribal Members
- Lawfully residing active-duty service members, honorably discharged veterans, and their families

Local Information on LPRs

What are wait times for LPR applicants? (submission to approval)

- Times vary
- Nearly complete inactivity and movement in the last year
- Most clients have been waiting since 2024-2025
 - Averaging 1-2.5 years; almost 3 for longest
- Processing times per U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) averaging 30.5 months

Local Information on LPRs

How many are waiting for their LPR in the GR area?

- For FY2023, FY2024, FY2025 an average of 400 individuals were resettled in Kent County per year
- Given that, there are probably at least 1,500 individuals who are waiting on LPR based on refugee admission.

What are the predominant languages spoken by the 1500 individuals waiting on LPR?

- Kinyarwanda, Swahili, Dari, Pashto, Arabic, Burmese, Tigrinya

Eligibility Review Timeline



Upload immigration documents to MIBridges Account

MDHHS will review Medicaid eligibility

After review:

- If a person is not eligible (or information is not uploaded), their Medicaid will change to Emergency Services Only (ESO) starting October 1, 2026. They will get a Notice of Case Action.
- If a person is eligible, they will keep full Medicaid coverage. They will not get a notice.

Keep Your Information Updated

Please report any changes to your MDHHS specialists or in MI Bridges
(Michigan.gov/MIbridges)



Contact Info

Your address, phone number, and email



Immigration Documents

Your valid immigration documents



Pregnancy Status

If you are pregnant or had a pregnancy end after October 2025

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

RMA will still be available for:

- Newly arrived refugees
- Newly approved asylees
- People who recently became eligible for refugee benefits

People may receive RMA for up to 8 months from their date of arrival or approval date, if they meet all requirements.

Options for People who Lose Medicaid Coverage

Emergency Services Only (ESO) Medicaid

Covers life-threatening emergencies only.

- Does **not** cover:
 - Regular doctor visits
 - Preventative care
 - Ongoing care for long-term illnesses
 - Most prescriptions medicines
 - Non-emergency procedures

Free Clinics

Find a clinic:

<https://www.fcomi.org/find-a-clinic>

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

Find a center:

<https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>

Refugee Medicaid Assistance (RMA)

See previous Slide

Need Help?

For questions or help with translation:

- Call the Beneficiary Help Line: 1-800-642-3195
- TTY 1-866-501-5656.

You may also contact your MDHHS Specialist or case manager.



Thanks

Do you have any questions?

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www.westmimedicaid.org

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