

Key messages: Noncitizen adults

Updated: 06/15/2026

Summary

Federal rules are changing who can qualify for federally funded Medical Assistance based on immigration status. Beginning Oct. 1, 2026, some lawfully present non-U.S. citizens who are eligible today may no longer qualify for the same federally funded coverage.

These changes may affect people with humanitarian protections, including refugees, asylum grantees, humanitarian parolees, victims of trafficking, certain abused spouses and children, and others. Some people may still qualify for Medical Assistance or other health care programs, depending on their circumstances.

Minnesota is required to implement this federal change. Our focus is on helping people understand whether they may be affected, what coverage options may be available and where to get trusted help.

Core messages

- Minnesota is required to implement new federal rules that will change who can qualify for federally funded Medicaid — called Medical Assistance in Minnesota — based on immigration status.
- These rules affect some lawfully present non-U.S. citizens who are living in the United States legally and who may currently qualify for Medical Assistance. Some people who are eligible today may lose access to the same federally funded coverage beginning Oct. 1, 2026.
- Our goal is to make sure people understand whether this change may affect them, what coverage options may be available, where to get help and how to get accurate information about health coverage and immigration-related questions.

What's changing?

- In July 2025, H.R.1, the federal 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act,' was passed, limiting Medical Assistance eligibility for some lawfully present non-U.S. citizens.
- Beginning Oct. 1, 2026, many groups of lawfully present non-citizens who previously qualified for Medical Assistance may no longer be eligible for federally funded Medical Assistance.

- This includes some people who have been eligible for Medical Assistance because they have humanitarian protections or another qualified immigration status.
- After the change, federally funded Medical Assistance eligibility for lawfully present non-U.S. citizens will generally be limited to fewer groups, including:
 - Lawful permanent residents.
 - Cuban or Haitian entrants.
 - Compact of Free Association, or COFA, migrants.
 - Children under age 21 and people who are pregnant may still qualify through existing Medical Assistance coverage pathways.
 - Minnesota will share more details as federal guidance is finalized and state implementation plans are completed.

Who may be affected?

- These changes may affect lawfully present non-U.S. citizens who are currently eligible for federally funded Medical Assistance but are not in one of the groups that will remain eligible under the new federal rules.
- Groups who may lose access to federally funded Medical Assistance include:
 - Refugees.
 - Asylum grantees.
 - Humanitarian parolees.
 - Victims of human trafficking.
 - Certain abused spouses and children.
 - Others with humanitarian protections.
- These are people who are living in the United States legally. The change is not about whether someone is lawfully present. It is about whether federal Medical Assistance rules will continue to allow coverage for their immigration category.

Who may still qualify?

- Some lawfully present non-U.S. citizens may still qualify for federally funded Medical Assistance after the change.
- This may include people who are:
 - Lawful permanent residents.
 - Cuban or Haitian entrants.
 - COFA migrants.

- Children under age 21.
- Pregnant.
- Some people who lose federally funded Medical Assistance may still qualify for other state or federal health care programs. Coverage options may depend on immigration status, income, age, pregnancy status, household circumstances and other eligibility rules.
- Some options may be more limited or more costly than Medical Assistance. Minnesota will provide more information about available coverage pathways as implementation plans are finalized.

The biggest risk is that people may lose coverage even though they are lawfully present and still need care.

- For many people, this change means fewer affordable health coverage options and more uncertainty about how to get care.
- People affected by this change may include Minnesotans who have fled violence, persecution, trafficking, abuse or unsafe conditions. These residents may rely on Medical Assistance for primary care, prescriptions, mental health care, treatment for chronic conditions, pregnancy care and other essential services.
- If someone loses Medical Assistance, they may delay care, go without medications, lose access to trusted providers or face higher out-of-pocket costs. Some people may still qualify for other coverage, but it may not provide the same level of affordability or access.
- This change could leave some of Minnesota’s most vulnerable residents without the coverage they currently rely on.

What people may need to do

- People who may be affected should read every notice they receive from Medical Assistance, their county or Tribal eligibility worker, or MNsure.
- People may need to:
 - Report changes in immigration status.
 - Renew coverage on time.
 - Respond to requests for information.
 - Review other health coverage options if Medical Assistance eligibility changes.
- Ask for help from a navigator, county or Tribal eligibility worker, legal services provider or trusted community organization.

- Reporting a change in immigration status may be especially important if someone has gained status as a lawful permanent resident, Cuban or Haitian entrant, or COFA migrant.
- People who have questions about immigration status, public charge, or whether to share immigration-related information should get advice from a trusted legal expert.

What people can do now

- People do not need to take action before they receive instructions, but they can take steps now to help avoid gaps in coverage.
- People with Medical Assistance should:
 - Watch the mail for Medical Assistance notices.
 - Read notices carefully and respond right away.
 - Keep contact information up to date: <https://mn.gov/dhs/mycontactinfo/>
 - Renew coverage on time to avoid gaps: <https://mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage/>
 - Get help from a navigator: <https://www.mnsure.org/help/find-assister/index.jsp>
 - Learn more about federal changes: <https://mn.gov/dhs/federalchanges/>
- People with questions about immigration status or sharing immigration information should speak with an immigration attorney or trusted legal expert.
- Free or low-cost help may be available through:
 - Refugee and Immigrant Helpline: 1-800-814-4806 or <https://mn.gov/dhs/resettlement/>
 - Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: 877-696-6529
 - Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: 877-696-6529

What Minnesota is working on

- Minnesota is waiting for additional federal guidance and is preparing to implement these changes.
- The state is working to:
 - Explain who is affected and who is not.
 - Identify available health coverage pathways for people who may lose federally funded Medical Assistance.
 - Prepare notices, website updates, frequently asked questions and training materials.
 - Coordinate with counties, Tribal Nations, MNSure, navigators, health plans, legal services providers and community organizations.
 - Help people understand what information they may need to provide.
 - Connect people to other coverage options where possible.

- Provide clear information without discouraging eligible people from applying for or keeping coverage.
- More information will be shared as federal guidance is finalized and Minnesota's implementation plans are completed.