

HEALTHCARE ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS IN ILLINOIS

I am low-income and my children and I do not have health insurance. What healthcare coverage can my children and I be eligible for?

All Kids is a program that provides free or affordable healthcare coverage to low-income children in Illinois. This coverage includes regular checkups, dental appointments, immunizations, hospital visits, physical therapy, mental health services, and vision care.

All children are eligible for the program regardless of immigration status, as long as they meet the following criteria:

- are 19 years or younger
- live in Illinois
- be at or below 300% of the federal poverty level; for example a family of four should have a monthly income of \$5,888 or less.

Family Care is a program that provides healthcare coverage to parents or relative caretakers of children 19 years or younger. To be eligible for this coverage adults must meet the following criteria:

- be a U.S. Citizen, Lawful Permanent Resident for 5 or more years, or other qualified immigrant*
- be the legal guardian of a child 19 years or younger
- live in Illinois
- be at or below 133% of the federal poverty level; for example a family of four should have a monthly income of \$2,610 or less.

AABD Medical is a healthcare coverage option for people who are 65 or older, blind or disabled and who meet the following criteria:

- are U.S. Citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents for 5 or more years or other qualified immigrants*
- are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level; for example, a family of four should have a monthly income of \$1,921 or less.

Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility and **Moms and Babies** provide prenatal and postpartum care for pregnant women regardless of immigration status, as long as they are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; for example a family of four should have a monthly income of \$3,925 or less.

Emergency Medicaid provides emergency care to those who are in serious need of medical attention. It is available to every low-income person regardless of immigration status. Coverage is provided only for the medical services related to the medical condition. An application must be submitted within three months of receiving hospital services.

Community health centers such as hospitals or clinics provide healthcare services to anyone regardless of immigration status. Services are provided for free or at low-cost depending on your income.

To learn more about these and other public assistance programs your family may be eligible for, call ICIRR's Immigrant Family Resource Program at the multilingual information line at 1-877-537-7460, or go to the website at

www.ifrpil.org.

**You are a Qualified Immigrant in Illinois if you are a Lawful Permanent Resident; Refugee, Asylee, Amerasian, Haitian/ Cuban entrant, trafficking victim, Hmong/ Highland Laotian, member of certain Native American nations, or granted withholding of removal/deportation; a battered spouse or child in certain circumstances; paroled for at least one year or granted conditional entry prior to 4/1/80.*

Medicaid Expansion

Starting in January 2014, in the state of Illinois, Medicaid will be expanded by eliminating the categorical eligibility requirements. In January 2014, free healthcare through Medicaid will also be available to those who meet the following criteria:

- are childless adults age 19 and older
- are U.S. Citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents for 5 or more years or other qualified immigrants*
- have income at or below 133% of the federal poverty level

County Care

County Care is an early expansion of the new Medicaid program for Cook County residents. County Care provides free healthcare coverage to low-income individuals in Cook County, as long as they meet the following criteria:

- live in Cook County
- are 19-64 years old
- not already eligible for Medicare
- be a U.S. Citizen, Lawful Permanent Resident for 5 or more years, or other qualified immigrant*
- have a social security number, or have applied for one
- have income at or below 133% of the federal poverty level

Get Covered Illinois (Health Insurance Marketplace)

Starting in January 2014, Legal Permanent Residents can purchase health insurance through Get Covered Illinois. They will be eligible for tax credits and tax subsidies to help them pay for insurance premiums, as long as they have income within 100%-400% of the federal poverty level.

Will enrolling in any of these programs hurt my application for permanent residency or citizenship?

USCIS announced in May 1999 that it would not deny an application for Lawful Permanent Residency if you or someone in your family is receiving benefits for which you are eligible.

However, Medicaid for *long-term nursing home care* and cash benefits such as Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) **might** endanger:

- Your application to become a Lawful Permanent Resident if you are depending on a family member's benefits to survive; OR
- Your immigration status, if you depend on the benefits to survive within the first five years of becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident, **but only in certain circumstances**.

Receiving public assistance of any kind should not endanger an application for citizenship, as long as you are truthful in filling out your application for assistance. If you are eligible, you can apply for and receive federal, state or local public benefits, without worrying about the status of your citizenship application.

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