Medicaid is Changing for Some Non-U.S. Citizens.

Know What's Next

New federal rules start on October 1, 2026.

Who can still get Medicaid?

Beginning October 1, 2026, you may still be able to get Medicaid if:

- You are a lawful permanent resident (you have a green card). Most green card holders must also meet a five-year waiting period.
- You are a child up to age 19 who is lawfully residing in the U.S.
- You are pregnant or gave birth in the last 12 months and are lawfully residing in the U.S.
- You have Cuban or Haitian entrant status.
- You are a citizen of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands or Palau living in the U.S.

You must also meet the regular Medicaid rules, like income and age requirements.

If your situation is not listed here, you might lose your Medicaid starting October 1, 2026.

If you are not sure, contact your local Department of Social Services (DSS).

What should you do now?

If you still qualify for Medicaid:

1. **Check that your local DSS has your correct contact information and immigration status.**
2. **Answer any letters from your local DSS right away.** They usually have a deadline. Read and respond to every notice you receive.
3. **Get an enhanced ePASS account.** You may need to upload documents to keep your Medicaid coverage.

We know this change will be hard for many people and families. If these new rules mean you will lose Medicaid, you can:

- Schedule and attend any needed doctor, dental or mental health appointments before October 1.
- Refill eligible prescriptions.
- If you recently received your green card, make sure your local DSS has your updated immigration status.

If you lose Medicaid, you may still be able to receive:

- Emergency Medicaid if the medical need is determined to meet the emergency criteria and the person meets all other factors of eligibility for Medicaid.
- Basic health care at federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics and free or charitable clinics. Costs vary based on income. Learn more: ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services.

Know What's Next

medicaid.nc.gov/changes

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