

Medicaid for Non-Citizens

Effective October 1, 2026

Medicaid eligibility for individuals who are not U.S. citizens or nationals has changed. Only certain immigrant groups called “Qualified Aliens” may be eligible for full Medicaid benefits, **if all other eligibility rules are met.**



Full Medicaid Eligible Non-Citizen

**Eligible immediately
with no waiting period**

Non-Citizen groups that **meet the citizenship requirements for full Medicaid with no waiting period** include the following groups:

- Pregnant Women, Postpartum Women or Children Under Age 21: Must be lawfully residing in the U.S.
- Cuban-Haitian Entrants (CHE): Must have verified CHE status
- COFA Citizens: Citizens of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, or Palau
- Military members on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or veterans with honorable discharge
- Spouse or unmarried dependent child of a veteran or active duty service member
- Surviving spouse of a deceased veteran or service member, if not remarried and marriage meets requirements



Lawful Permanent Resident Status (LPR)

**Eligible after five-year
waiting period**

Non-Citizen groups that **meet the citizenship requirements after a 5-year waiting period:**



Adjusted to Lawful Permanent Resident Status (LPR)

**Eligible immediately
with no waiting period**

Some Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders) may meet the citizenship requirements **without a 5-year wait** if they meet any of the following conditions:

- Admitted as Refugees with status adjusted to LPR
- Individuals whose deportation has been withheld
- Admitted as an Amerasian Immigrant with status adjusted to LPR
- Individuals granted Asylum
- Victim of Trafficking
- Certain American Indians born abroad
- Certain Indian Tribe members
- Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant (SIV) with status adjusted to LPR
- LPRs with forty qualifying work quarters or that can be credited with

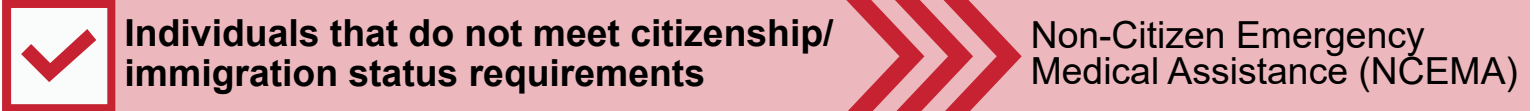


Department of Health and Human Services
Cuyahoga Job and Family Services



Department of
Medicaid

Non-Citizen Emergency Medical Assistance



Certain individuals are not a U.S. citizen or national and who do not meet citizenship/immigration status requirements may be eligible for Non-Citizen Emergency Medical Assistance (NCEMA) only, **if all other eligibility rules are met**. NCEMA is limited to coverage for approved emergency medical conditions, including:

- A medical condition with a sudden onset, where the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably result in placing the individual's health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment of bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of a bodily organ
- Labor and delivery (not including routine prenatal or postpartum care)

Community Healthcare Resources for Non-Citizens



United Way 2-1-1

- Call 2-1-1 any time to find food pantries, shelters and other help.
- Use their online chat at <https://www.211oh.org/>



Neighborhood Family Practice (NFP)

- Phone: 216-281-0872
- Location: 3569 Ridge Rd., Cleveland, OH 44102
- Learn more at <https://www.nfpmedcenter.org/refugee-newcomer-health-services/>



Care Alliance

- Phone: 216-535-9100
- Learn more at <https://carealliance.org/>



The Centers - Integrated Health and Wellness

- Phone: 216-325-WELL (9355)
- Learn more at <https://thecentersohio.org/integrated-health-and-wellness/>



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