



# Medicaid eligibility changes for immigrants

## Toolkit for H.R. 1 (definition of qualified immigrant)

### Note to customer service and service providers:

With the upcoming H.R. 1 case reviews, many Medicaid members will have questions about their eligibility. To help you manage these difficult conversations, please use the attached scripts and FAQ. Following this wording closely will ensure that all members receive the most accurate guidance regarding the new 'Qualified Immigrant' standards and will help reduce confusion during this transition.

The goal is to maintain a supportive, empathetic tone while providing clear, factual information about eligibility changes effective October 1, 2026.

### Letters mailed to members:

- April 2026, Definition of a qualified immigrant member letter (blue paper)
  - [English](#)
  - [Spanish](#)

### Script:

A new federal law, H.R. 1 (OBBA), was signed on July 4, 2025, and changes who is considered a 'qualified immigrant' for Medicaid. Some groups that used to be eligible for Medicaid may not be able to get it anymore under the new law. This includes refugees and asylees, humanitarian parolees, and survivors of trafficking or domestic violence.

### Starting October 1, 2026, Medicaid will mostly be for:

- **U.S. citizens and U.S. Nationals**
- **Green card holders** (Lawful Permanent Residents) who have been in the U.S. for 5 years or more
- **People from Cuba or Haiti** who entered under special rules
- **COFA migrants** (citizens of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, or Palau)
  - **Note:** Children and pregnant people may still be able to get health insurance even if the rules for others have changed.

While some eligibility rules for non-citizens will change in late 2026, members do not need to take any action today. If you are worried about losing your health plan later, it is a good idea to see your doctor now. You should also try to fill your medicines before October 2026.

**This way, you get the care you need while you still have your plan.**

The Department of Health and Human Services is currently reviewing the new federal law (H.R. 1) to understand how it impacts our members and to identify who will be impacted. **If your coverage is affected, you will receive a personal letter by October 1, 2026, with instructions and information on how to appeal if you disagree.**

- **Make sure your information is up-to-date.** You will need to update your information if you moved recently or if any of your contact information has changed (like your phone number or email address).
- You can check to make sure your information is correct in your [myCase](#) account.
- Watch your mail or email for more letters from the Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

### **Pay attention to the deadlines.**

You can lose your Medicaid benefits if you don't return forms or miss deadlines.

**Would you like me to check to make sure your information is up-to-date?** I can update that information for you now if you'd like, or you can call any of the following to update your information:

- Your health plan
- The Department of Workforce Services at 1-866-435-7414
- A health program representative at 1-866-608-9422

### **Do you have any questions?**

## **FAQ**

### **What is H.R. 1?**

On July 4, 2025, H.R. 1, also known as the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act \(OBBBA\)](#), was signed into law. The bill included more than 21 changes to Medicaid. Most of the provisions in the bill will go into effect beginning in the fall of 2026 or later.

Utah Medicaid is currently reviewing the bill, analyzing it for impacts and estimates, and preparing for future programmatic changes. There are many details that have yet to be defined.

We anticipate that guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be provided to states over the next several months. This guidance will give Utah further direction from the federal government on how to implement these changes.

## What if I'm no longer eligible in 2026?

- There are still ways to get the care you need. For life-threatening emergencies, you can apply for [Emergency Medicaid](#).
- You should also review your status. If it changes, you can try to sign up for Medicaid again.
- If you lose your coverage, there are other resources that we can help direct you to, such as a Community Health Center. These are local clinics that help people even if they don't have much money or insurance. They will work with you to make sure you can afford your visit.

## Providers: What should I tell my patients?

- **Refer to the website:** Direct them to [medicaid.utah.gov/obbba](https://medicaid.utah.gov/obbba) for the most up-to-date information.
- **No action needed:** Remind them that they do not need to take action until they receive a personalized letter from the state.
- **Make sure their information is up-to-date:** Reiterate that they need to watch their mail and keep their information (email and mailing address up to date). The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) will send a letter or email if more information is needed to keep coverage, or if their coverage has been terminated.
- **Provide healthcare services now:** If you have patients who might lose their Medicaid coverage in October, **please help them now**. We suggest you see these patients for office visits as soon as you can. You can also help them get their prescription refills early. It is also a good idea to give your office staff a list of free or low-cost clinics. This way, you can help your patients find a new place for care if their plan ends. Please see the following link for resource lists organized by county: <https://211utah.org/printable-resource-lists/>
- **Refer pregnant members to DWS:** Some pregnant Medicaid members may lose coverage during their pregnancy or postpartum. Please direct them to DWS to request Emergency Medicaid coverage for delivery.
  - [Department of Workforce Services](#): 1-866-435-7414