

Health Programs for Immigrants in Washington State as of 7-1-20

Introductory Notes

The state and federal health coverage programs listed here have no or limited immigration status requirements. They consist of programs operated by the state Health Care Authority (HCA), the Washington Health Benefit Exchange, and smaller programs in other agencies.

HCA programs listed here are ones that do not require individuals to be citizens or “qualified” immigrants. See WAC 182-503-0535(1) for the definition of “qualified.” Certain qualified immigrants including Lawful Permanent Residents are subject to a 5-year bar before they can qualify for federal Medicaid; limited exemptions are listed in subsection (3). “Nonqualified” immigrants and those within the 5-year bar may qualify for programs below.

HCA has a Citizenship and Alien Status Guide that lists some, but not all, of these programs:

https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/citizenship_alien_status_guide.pdf

Financial standards for HCA health coverage programs: HCA Income and Resource Standards charts are available through a link on this page: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/program-administration/program-standard-income-and-resources>; for Apple Health children, pregnant women, and adult (Medicaid expansion) groups, charts that include the 5% income “disregard” are at <http://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/19-003.pdf>. Long Term Care Standards are available at <http://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/program-administration/standards-ltc>. Use caution as these charts may not describe whether gross or countable income is applied to the relevant standard. See program rules for details.

HCA interpretive materials: The Apple Health (Medicaid) Manual contains instructions to state agency staff on implementing the regulations: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/manual/Pages/index.aspx>. The manual includes detailed instructions regarding WAH eligibility issues. Provider guides, instructions and other resources can be found on the HCA website: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage>.

Northwest Justice Project's immigrant public benefits advocate with the Medical-Legal Partnership is available for consultation regarding immigrants' medical eligibility (phone 206-464-1519).

CATEGORY	BASIC REQUIREMENTS	WAC REFERENCES
HCA PROGRAMS FOR IMMIGRANTS NOT OTHERWISE QUALIFIED BASED ON IMMIGRATION STATUS		
Refugee Medical Assistance (CN)	<p>Refugees, for the first 8 months they are in the U.S., with countable income up to 200% of poverty and countable resources < \$1,000.</p> <p>Note: <u>During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance are automatically extended through 9/30/20 for eligible individuals who reach their 8-month time limit between 4/1/20 and 8/30/20. Also, refugees who arrived in the US or received their immigration status between 4/1/19 and 1/31/20 and have stopped receiving RCA/RMA benefits may be eligible for an extension and can reapply. For details, see https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ESA/oria/documents/DSHS-ORIA-Extension-of-RCA-RMA-Benefits-Final.pdf</u></p>	182-507-0130
Certain Aged, Blind, or Disabled Immigrants (ABD, HEN Referral clients)	<p>Medical Care Services is available to ABD recipients and HEN Referral recipients who are lawfully present in the U.S. but ineligible for WAH Adult program due to its immigration status requirements (the 5-year bar or other non-qualifying status).</p>	182-508-0005, -0150
Children’s Apple Health	<p>Child under 19 with countable family income up to 317% of poverty (312% plus automatic 5% income disregard), residing in Washington. No immigration status requirement; no resource limit. 12-month continuous eligibility. If family income exceeds 215% of poverty, child must be uninsured and premiums are required. Premiums for 215-260% of poverty are \$20/month per child up to \$40 per household. Premiums for 260%-317% of poverty are \$30/month per child up to \$60 per household.</p> <p>Note: Categorically Needy (federal) Medicaid has citizenship/immigration status, entry date, and Social Security Number requirements but noncitizen children qualify for WAH without meeting these.</p>	182-505-0210(1),(3),(4) 182-505-0215 182-505-0225 182-504-0125(6)
Pregnant women	<p>Countable family income below 198% of poverty (193% plus automatic 5% income disregard). No immigration status requirement for non-citizens. Unborn is counted as member of assistance unit. Eligibility continues through pregnancy and 2 months postpartum regardless of changes in income or living situation. No income standards for pregnant minors.</p>	182-505-0115 182-503-0535(2) 182-506-0010(2)(b) 182-505-0117(7) 182-505-0117
Family planning only – Pregnancy related	<p>Family planning services only, for 12 months after pregnancy coverage ends.</p>	182-505-0115(5), 182-532-510
Family planning only	<p>Women and men with income below 260% FPL may receive family planning coverage if uninsured for family planning (exemptions for those with insurance under certain circumstances). <i>This program became available to immigrants regardless of status as of January 1, 2020.</i></p>	182-532-510, 182-532-570; proposed rules pending (Emergency rule: WSR 20-10-20)

CATEGORY	BASIC REQUIREMENTS	WAC REFERENCES
<p>Emergency medical programs for immigrants (called “Alien Medical Programs”)</p>	<p>Immigrants with certain emergency medical conditions, who meet <u>Categorically Needy (CN) or Medically Needy (MN) Medicaid</u> eligibility requirements <u>except immigration status</u>, qualify regardless of date of arrival in U.S.</p> <p>CN groups include (in addition to children and pregnant women):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults age 19-64, with countable income below 138% FPL (133% plus automatic 5% income disregard), no resource limit. • SSI-related: Individuals with disabilities, blind, or over 65 (varying income and resource limits) • Current or former foster youth under age 26 <p>MN groups* include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Pregnant Women • SSI-related: Individuals with disabilities, blind, or over 65 <p><i>*These individuals must spend down income if above Medically Needy Income Level. Resource limits apply.</i></p> <p><u>Three types of coverage:</u></p> <p>1. Alien Emergency Medicaid. Covers only services necessary to treat an emergency condition that are provided in a hospital setting (inpatient admission, emergency room, or outpatient surgery) or by a physician immediately prior to a hospital admission. <u>Note: During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, AEM coverage includes COVID-19 testing and specified treatment and related services including in non-hospital settings as specified in emergency rule and agency policy at https://hca.wa.gov/assets/billers-and-providers/alien-emergency-medical-COVID19-policy.pdf.</u></p> <p>2. Alien Medical for Dialysis and Cancer Treatment, and Treatment of Life-threatening Benign Tumors. Covers only services related to a previously diagnosed condition – renal disease, cancer, and organ transplant anti-rejection medications.</p> <p>3. State-Funded Long-Term Care Services Program. Provides CN scope of care to individuals residing in their own homes, or in an adult family home, assisted living facility, enhanced adult residential care facility, adult residential care facility, or nursing facility. Requires pre-authorization by Aging & Disability Services Administration. Program has a very limited number of slots.</p> <p>More information about AMP programs: https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/program-administration/apple-health-alien-emergency-medical</p>	<p>182-507-0110; 182-505-0210(5) 182-505-0250 182-508-0001 182-505-0211 182-507-0115 (Emergency rule at WSR 20-15-069 7/13/20) 182-507-0120 182-507-0125</p>
<p>Kidney Disease Program (KDP)</p>	<p>Dialysis, medications and other services for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) after other funding exhausted; nonexempt countable resources below \$1,041 for individual, \$1,409 for couple; countable income under 220% FPL.</p>	<p>182-540-015 through -065</p>

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<p>COFA Islander Health Care</p>	<p>HCA pays premiums and out-of-pocket costs for a silver level Qualified Health Plan, described below, for low-income citizens of the COFA (Compact of Free Association) states – the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Income must be below 133% FPL.</p>	<p>182-524</p>
<p>WASHINGTON HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE: QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS WITH SUBSIDIES</p>		
	<p>The Washington Health Benefit Exchange offers individual health insurance through Qualified Health Plans (QHPs). These insurance products are available by applying through Washington Healthplanfinder, www.wahealthplanfinder.org, as is Washington Apple Health. (The Affordable Care Act prohibits undocumented individuals from enrolling in QHPs.)</p> <p><u>Immigrants eligible for premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions:</u> Immigrants who are lawfully present in the US may enroll in QHPs and may qualify for subsidies (described in next paragraph), including those who do not meet the Medicaid requirements for immigration status or the 5-year bar for green card holders (Lawful Permanent Residents). For more information, see https://www.wahbexchange.org/new-customers/who-can-sign-up/immigrants and a chart of statuses at https://www.wahbexchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HBE_SN_160328_Citizenship_Immigration_Toolkit.pdf.</p> <p><u>Insurance affordability programs:</u> Persons with household income under 400% FPL based on MAGI methodology may be eligible for health insurance premium tax credits to partially offset the cost of QHP premiums. Persons with household income under 250% FPL may also qualify for cost-sharing reductions if a “silver” level plan is purchased. These QHP subsidies, along with WAH, are called “insurance affordability programs.” Applicants for insurance affordability programs are considered for both WAH coverage and QHP subsidies. Applicants denied WAH are reviewed for the above QHP subsidies.</p>	<p>Overview at WAC 182-503-0001. Additional information available at www.wahbexchange.org and https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org/.</p>
<p>WASHINGTON STATE HEALTH INSURANCE POOL (WSHIP)</p>		
	<p>Residents who had not been accepted by private individual health insurance plans because of their medical conditions have been able to purchase coverage through WSHIP, also called the "high risk pool." Effective 12/31/13, WSHIP closed its enrollment to non-Medicare-supplement enrollees with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents enrolled in WSHIP before 12/31/13 can remain enrolled through 12/31/22 • Residents ineligible for Medicaid/Medicare, who live in a county where a non-catastrophic health plan is unavailable in the private market/Exchange during open or special enrollment periods, who applies for coverage prior to 12/31/22. <p>WSHIP is partially funded through assessments on commercial health plans but enrollee premiums can be costly. Premium discounts based on income may be available. RCW 48.41.200. Information: www.wship.org, 1-800-877-5187. Assistance: Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisor (SHIBA), 1-800-562-6900.</p>	<p>WAC 284-91-001</p>

CATEGORY	BASIC REQUIREMENTS	WAC REFERENCES
BREAST, CERVICAL, AND COLON CANCER SCREENING		
<p>The Breast, Cervical, and Colon Health Program provides free breast, cervical, and colon cancer screenings and diagnostics. To qualify, clients must be below 250% FPL (300% FPL in some counties for breast health screening), uninsured or underinsured, and meet certain age and/or risk criteria. More information:</p> <p>https://www.doh.wa.gov/portals/1/Documents/Pubs/342-031_BCCHPEligibilityCriteria.pdf, http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Cancer/BreastCervicalandColonHealth/Eligibility</p>	182-505-0120	
HIV/AIDS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EIP)		
<p>HIV/AIDS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EIP): Dept. of Health offers assistance for clients with HIV/AIDS with income below 425% FPL. The program helps with insurance premium payments, including Qualified Health Plans in the Exchange, and covers some costs of care and meeting Medicaid spenddown. Phone 360-236-3426 or 877-376-9316. More information: http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/HIVAIDS/HIVCareClientServices/ADAPandEIP/ApplicationandEligibility</p> <p>EVERGREEN HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM: Evergreen pays health insurance premiums and COBRA for clients with HIV/AIDS, with certain income and asset limits. To qualify, clients must first enroll in the EIP. Phone 206-323-2834 or 800-945-4256. More information: www.ehip.org, info on combined EIP/Evergreen application: https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/HIV/ClientServices</p> <p>The EIP program also provides Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Drug Assistance Program (PrEP DAP) for HIV-negative people at very high risk for HIV infection. The program pays for medications to reduce a person’s risk of becoming infected. For more info: https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/HIV/ClientServices And http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/150-055-PrEPDAPBrochure.pdf</p>	<p>WAC 246-130</p> <p>RCW 43.70.670</p>	