Upcoming Health Care Changes for Immigrants in WA

August 2025

Congress Reduces Health Care Access For Many Lawfully Present Immigrants

The federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act ("OBBBA") changes eligibility standards for Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace in ways that newly exclude many lawfully present immigrants who have previously received care from these programs.

Only The Following People Will Be Able to Keep or Get Coverage

The following individuals will continue to qualify for health coverage under the new federal restrictions:

- U.S. Citizens including Naturalized Citizens
- Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders)
- Individuals with Cuban-Haitian Entrant Status
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) Migrants

This applies to coverage under:

- Medicaid*
- · CHIP*
- Medicare
- · ACA Premium Tax Credits

Timeline of Health Coverage Changes for Immigrants

Federal policy changes are already affecting Medicare eligibility for immigrants who would have been newly eligible and will soon impact access to other programs for many immigrants in Washington. The timeline below outlines when these restrictions take effect.

January 1, 2026

All lawfully present immigrants below the poverty line who are ineligible for Medicaid due to immigration status lose premium tax credits.

NOTE: All Washingtonians to 250% FPL are still eligible for Cascade Care Savings.

October 1, 2026

Medicaid and CHIP eligibility federal restrictions go into effect.

Washington State will likely continue to cover children under age 19 and pregnant women.

January 1, 2027

Lawfully present Immigrants other than those listed above lose advance premium tax credits for WA Healthplanfinder coverage.

January 4, 2027

Lawfully present Immigrants other than those listed above who were already enrolled in Medicare will lose their eligibility.

