

Health Care Changes for Immigrants in Washington

March 2026

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

- 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.

October 1, 2026

Medicaid and CHIP eligibility federal restrictions go into effect.

*Washington State will 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.

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

Learn about affordable health options on [page 2](#)

Health Care Affordability Resources for People Losing Coverage in Washington

January 2026

Congress is Changing Health Coverage For Many Washingtonians

Medicaid (Apple Health), CHIP, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace are changing in ways that exclude many Washingtonians – even if you’ve received care from these programs in the past. This is a result of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA or HR 1) that was passed by Congress.

Washingtonians can access the following regardless of immigration status: Free and Reduced Cost Care in Washington

Charity Care at Hospitals

Did you know HALF of all Washingtonians can get free or discounted care at most hospitals?

Fill out an application at the hospital to see if you can get help with:

- Hospital bills
- Copayments
- Deductibles



Community Health Clinics

You can get medical care at Community Health Clinics (CHCs, also known as federally qualified health centers) and pay on a sliding scale based on your income. WA also has free clinics staffed by volunteers.

Find a free or low cost clinic:
wahealthcareaccessalliance.org

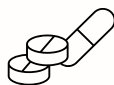
Cascade Care Savings (CCS)

Washington helps with the cost of monthly health insurance premiums with CCS. WA residents may be able to save up to \$250/month depending on income.

Find out if you qualify:
wahealthplanfinder.org

Drug Discounts

ArrayRx is a state-sponsored prescription drug discount card for Washingtonians. It also provides discounts on over the counter medications without a prescription.



Learn more or enroll:
arrayrxcard.com

Medical Condition Programs

Washingtonians with cancer, kidney disease and HIV may be eligible for help with costs.

tinyurl.com/med-conditions

Dental Referrals

A free referral service to oral health providers.

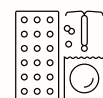
DentistLink.org



Family Planning Only

Washingtonians up to 260% FPL can sign up for free access services, including:

- Contraception
- STI screening
- HPV & Hep B vaccination



Get more information or enroll:
1-800-562-3022 ext. 12533

Questions? Talk to a Navigator: 1-855-923-4633



Buyer Beware! Avoid Health Insurance Scams

You may find lower price options that look like health insurance, but they may not cover essential health benefits or include consumer protections. Learn more: <https://www.insurance.wa.gov>



This is not legal advice. Changes are happening rapidly. CheckNoHLA.org for updates.