



Frequently Asked Questions About Virginia Medicaid for Noncitizens

Are noncitizens eligible for Medicaid?

Medicaid eligibility rules for noncitizens vary for different groups. Assuming noncitizens meet the other eligibility requirements, including income requirements, some noncitizens are eligible for emergency services only, while others are eligible for full benefits.

We encourage you to apply for Medicaid by calling the Cover Virginia call center at 1-855-242-8282. Translation and interpreter services are available. You can also apply online at www.commonhelp.virginia.gov or at your [Local Department of Social Services](#).

When you apply, please make sure you have the following information ready:

- Full legal name, date of birth, Social Security Number, citizenship or immigration status for you and anyone in your household who is applying for health care coverage.
- Most recent federal tax filing information (if available).
- Job and income information for members of your household for the month prior or or the current month. Having recent pay stubs or W-2s to reference may be helpful.
- Information about other taxable income for members of your household such as unemployment benefits, Social Security benefits, pensions, retirement income, rental income, alimony received, etc.
- Policy numbers for any current health insurance.

Generally, which groups of noncitizens qualify for full benefits under Medicaid?

Assuming individuals meet other eligibility requirements, the following groups are generally eligible for full benefits under Medicaid. The references below are to sections in the Medicaid eligibility manual, [which can be found here](#).

- An alien who receives SSI (M0220.305);
- An American Indian born in Canada to whom the provisions of section 289 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) apply, or a member of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)) (M0220.306);
- A “qualified” alien (defined in M0220.310 below) who entered the U.S. before 8-22-96;
- A qualified lawful permanent resident who entered the U.S. on or after 8-22-96 who has at least 40 qualifying quarters of work, but only AFTER 5 years of residence in the U.S. (M0220.313 B);

- A qualified alien refugee; asylee; deportee; Amerasian; Cuban or Haitian entrant; victims of human trafficking; or a qualified Afghan or Iraqi immigrant admitted to the U.S. on a Special Immigrant Visa; who entered the U.S. on or after 8-22-96, but only for the first 7 years of residence in the U.S. (M0220.313 C);
- A qualified alien who meets the veteran or active duty military requirements in M0220.311; or
- A lawfully residing noncitizen child under age 19 or pregnant woman who meets the requirements in M0220.314.

A “full benefit alien” is eligible for full Medicaid benefits if he/she meets all other Medicaid eligibility requirements. Aliens who are not “full benefit” aliens are “emergency services” aliens and may be eligible for emergency Medicaid services only if they meet all other Medicaid eligibility requirements. See section M0220.400 for emergency services aliens.

What is the 40-quarter requirement?

There is a requirement that lawful permanent residents who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996 meet two requirements to be eligible for full benefits under Medicaid, in addition to other eligibility criteria:

1. Five years of residence in the U.S.
2. 40 qualifying quarters of work

A qualifying quarter of work means:

- A quarter of work as defined under Title II of the Social Security Act which is worked by the alien, and/or
- All the qualifying quarters worked by the spouse of such alien during their marriage while the alien remains married to such spouse or such spouse is deceased, and all of the qualifying quarters worked by a parent of such alien while the alien was under age 18 years.

What about children or pregnant women who are noncitizens?

Most legal immigrant children under age 19 and pregnant women who meet the financial requirements are eligible for full benefits without having to meet the five years of residency or the 40 quarters of work requirements outlined above. Some immigrant children or pregnant women, such as those with visas or undocumented children or pregnant women, may only be eligible for emergency medical services.

**Visit www.coverva.org for more information.
To apply, go online to www.commonhelp.virginia.gov
or call 1-855-242-8282 (TDD:1-888-221-1590).**