



Federal Reconciliation Changes to Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits

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"One Big Beautiful Bill Act" aka OBBBA/H.R.1

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Programs

- Medicaid/CHIP
- Medicare
- ACA Marketplaces
- SNAP
- Staggered start dates

Affect

- Changes eligibility rules and reduces funding
- Especially for immigrants, including those lawfully present

Medicaid (Rite Care & CHIP)

- Still eligible:
 - Lawful permanent residents (Green Card holders), Cubans/Haitians entrants, and people from Micronesia, Palau, or the Marshall Islands living in the U.S.
 - All children up to age 19 (and pregnant and post-partum people) will still be eligible for health coverage regardless of immigration status.
- Not eligible (Beginning October 1, 2026): Refugees, humanitarian parolees, asylum grantees, certain abused spouses and children, and other non-citizens.
- Work requirements (Beginning Jan 1, 2027): Medicaid will require new work requirements/reporting for people between 100%-138% FPL (states may opt in earlier; some temporary exemptions possible).

Medicare & HealthSourceRI

- Medicare:
 - Still eligible: Lawful permanent residents (Green Card holders), Cuban/Haitian entrants, and people from Micronesia, Palau, or the Marshall Islands living in the U.S.
 - Not eligible (Beginning Jan 4, 2027): Refugees, humanitarian parolees, asylum grantees, certain abused spouses and children, and other non-citizens.
- HealthSourceRI (Beginning Jan 1, 2026): lawfully-present immigrants with income up to 100% FPL are no longer eligible for premium tax credits to help buy coverage through HSRI.

SNAP

- Reduced eligibility for non-citizens and expanded work requirements.
 - Still eligible: Lawful permanent residents (Green Card holders), Cuban/Haitian entrants, and people from Micronesia, Palau, or the Marshall Islands living in the U.S.
 - Not eligible (upon receipt and implementation of federal guidance): Refugees, humanitarian parolees, asylum grantees, certain abused spouses and children, and other non-citizens.
- Federal guidance pending. Some changes may begin as early as 2025; others phase in later.

Data Privacy

- The federal government is requiring states to turn over personal identifying information on all SNAP and Medicaid recipients.
- Rhode Island has not provided any of the requested personal identifying information to the federal government.
 - RI has joined lawsuits challenging the request by federal government. The outcome of the lawsuit is pending.

What can clients do?

- Expect more frequent paperwork for SNAP, Medicaid/CHIP; respond quickly to avoid gaps.
 - Check and open your mail. Make sure DHS has your most accurate mailing address.
- Some immigrants may lose eligibility for SNAP, Rite Care, Rite Share, and Healthsource RI subsidies; screen for state-funded or local programs.
- For SNAP, confirm status-based eligibility and any new work rules; connect clients to food banks and WIC where applicable.
- Keep documentation current (identity, status, income, residency).
- Appeal/ fair-hearing rights still apply.

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