

A Quick Guide to Immigrant Eligibility for ACA and Key Federal Means-Tested Programs in Rhode Island

This guide shows you whether an immigrant has an eligible status for affordable health insurance coverage and other programs. Immigrants still need to meet the financial and other requirements of the individual programs. This includes the rules for people who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996.

PROGRAMS	LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS ¹ (age 18 and over)	LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (under age 18)	LAWFUL PERMANENT Residents (pregnant people)	CUBAN/ HAITIAN ENTRANT and COFA MIGRANTS	REFUGEES, ASYLEES, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, and OTHERS ²	LAWFULLY PRESENT INDIVIDUALS ³	UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS (including children) ⁴
	If entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996:						
Health Source RI (premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	No longer eligible (starting Dec. 31, 2025 for ACA subsidies if under FPL)	Eligible ²	Not eligible
Medicaid (Rite Care, Rhody Health Partners, etc.)	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> military connection ⁵)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	No longer eligible (starting Oct. 2026)	Pregnant people and children under 19 are eligible	Pregnant people and children under 19 are eligible
Medicare	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> disability <i>or</i> meet age criteria)	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> disability)	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> disability <i>or</i> meet age criteria)	Eligible	No longer eligible (starting July 2025 & if already enrolled coverage ends Jan 4, 2027)	Not eligible	Not eligible
SNAP	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period and have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> military connection)	Eligible	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> military connection)	Eligible	No longer eligible (starting before Jan. 2026)	Not eligible	Not eligible
RI Works	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> military connection <i>or</i> receiving disability- related assistance)	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> military connection)	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> military connection <i>or</i> receiving disability- related assistance)	Eligible	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
SSI	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> have met another exemption)	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> met another exemption)	Not eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work)	Only Eligible during first 7 years after status is granted	Only Eligible during first 7 years after status is granted	Not eligible	Not eligible

1 Lawful Permanent Residents have a “green card.”

2 Also includes Amerasian immigrants, Iraqi or Afghan special immigrants and individuals granted withholding of deportation or removal. Certain abused immigrants are also eligible, but have a 5-year waiting period except for RI Works. Iraqi or Afghan special Immigrant status and certain Ukrainian parolees are eligible as follows:

- Iraqi and Afghan special immigrant visa holders (SIV) and special immigrant parolees (who have applied for SIV status) are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees.
- Other Afghans granted parole between July 31, 2021 and Dec. 16, 2022 - and their spouses and children, and parents/guardians of unaccompanied children granted parole after Sept. 30, 2022 - are also eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees.
- Ukrainians paroled into the US between Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023 - and their spouses and children, and parents/guardians or primary caregivers of unaccompanied children paroled into the US after Sept. 30, 2021 - are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Benefits are available to this group regardless of the length of their parole period - but only until their parole is terminated.

3 Lawfully present individuals have a status that allows them to live in the U.S., such as temporary protected status, child of a citizen pending adjustment of status.

4 As of August 2012, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) grantees, while legally in the U.S., are treated the same as undocumented for purposes of Medicaid, eligibility for HSRI and other public benefit programs.

5 Veteran or spouse or child of a veteran or active duty service member.

6 Includes 12 months post-partum for people who were enrolled in Medicaid when they gave birth.