



What You Need to Know About Medicaid

Medicaid pays for healthcare costs

Medical care in the U.S. can be expensive. Health insurance is a program that helps pay for some, or all, of a person's health care costs. Medicaid is a type of health insurance. It is provided by the U.S. government to people who qualify. When people have Medicaid, they can get free or low-cost medical care.

Most newly-arrived Afghans qualify for Medicaid

People who have arrived to the U.S. from Afghanistan come with many different immigration statuses and most are considered "qualified immigrants," making them eligible to apply for Medicaid.

When an adult qualifies for Medicaid, their children under 18 who live in their home usually qualify as well.

In some states, children and people who are pregnant and whose household is below a certain income will qualify for Medicaid regardless of immigration status.

People who qualify for Medicaid must:

- Live in the state in which they are applying for Medicaid
- Earn below a certain income (a change in your income may impact your eligibility for Medicaid)
- Be a US citizen or other qualified immigrant (most Afghans will fall into this category)

Immigration Type	Medicaid Eligible?
Refugee	✓
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee who entered before 10/01/23	✓
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee who entered after 10/01/23	✗
Special Immigrant Visa	✓
Seeking Asylum	✗
Granted Asylum (Asylee)	✓
U.S. Citizen	✓

About Medicaid



MEDICAID COVERS ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE, EMERGENCY CARE, MOST MEDICINES, AND MANY OTHER SERVICES

Each state in the U.S. manages their own Medicaid program. This means that what Medicaid covers is different from state to state.

In every state, Medicaid covers routine medical care, like going to the doctor for a yearly check-up or when you are sick. It also covers hospital and emergency care like if you are in an accident, get very sick, or need surgery.



The International Rescue Committee helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and regain control of their future.



The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM) is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support state and local health departments working with RIM communities. Learn more at nrcrim.org. Last updated: 09/07/2023.

Medicaid also covers most medicines a doctor prescribes. When Medicaid does not cover a certain medicine, the patient can ask the doctor to prescribe them a medication that Medicaid will cover.

Medicaid coverage for dental care, eye care, and medical supplies will be different from state to state.



YOU CAN APPLY FOR MEDICAID ONLINE OR OVER THE PHONE

If you have a caseworker at a Resettlement Agency, they can help you apply for Medicaid.

Afghans who have recently arrived to the U.S. can also reach out to the Virtual Resettlement Line (VRL) to receive information and referrals to local community organizations who may be able to help. Eligible Afghans may also be connected to a local resettlement agency for support, depending on their needs. **Call +1 (212) 551 - 3010 or email VRL@rescue.org to get connected.**

You can also contact your local Medicaid agency to find out more information or apply for Medicaid. You can search for the agency in your state at [medicaid.gov/about-us/beneficiary-resources/index.html](https://www.medicaid.gov/about-us/beneficiary-resources/index.html). If you do not have access to the Internet or read English, you may need to get someone to help you.

If you are applying for Medicaid in person or over the phone, you may need to make an appointment. When you are applying in person or over the phone, the agency should provide an interpreter in your language to help you.



MANY DOCTORS AND CLINICS TAKE MEDICAID

All Federally Qualified Health Clinics take Medicaid. You can find medical clinics that take Medicaid at findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov. The website is available in 16 languages, including Farsi. It is not available in Dari or Pashto. If you do not have access to the Internet or read one of the available languages, you may need to find someone to help you.

If you do not know if a medical clinic or doctor takes Medicaid, you should always ask “Do you take Medicaid?” when you make an appointment, so you do not get unexpected medical bills.



YOU NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEDICAID EVERY 6-12 MONTHS

Medicaid needs to be renewed every six or 12 months, depending on your state. Once you are granted Medicaid, you will receive notices by email, mail, or text, that tell you it is time to renew. You should always pay attention to these notices and act on them right away, so you do not lose health insurance.

You should make sure that your state Medicaid agency has your correct and most up-to-date contact information so that they can reach you. This means that if you move or change your phone number, you need to call the Medicaid agency in your state and update your information.



REMEMBER: You will never need to pay to receive or renew Medicaid. Do not trust anyone who asks you for money to renew your Medicaid. You can report this kind of call to the Department of Health and Human Services Office at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477).



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