

Noncitizen changes coming to Apple Health eligibility

Beginning October 1, 2026, changes to federal Medicaid eligibility rules will impact eligibility for certain Apple Health (Medicaid) programs. [Section 71109 of the House Resolution 1 \(H.R.1\)](#) changes the definition of qualified noncitizen to include only:

- Individuals admitted as lawful permanent residents (LPR),
- Certain Cuban and Haitian immigrants, and
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) islanders

Apple Health noncitizen changes starting October 1, 2026

Apple Health has been limited to the following statuses:

- U.S. citizens and nationals
- Lawful permanent residents who have met or are exempt from the 5-year bar
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) islanders
- Cuban-Haitian entrants

Children, pregnant individuals, and individuals within 12 months postpartum continue to be eligible for Apple Health regardless of immigration status if they meet all other requirements.

Noncitizens who are no longer eligible

Individuals with an immigration status indicated below will no longer be eligible for Apple Health after September 30, 2026:

- Asylees
- Conditional entrants
- Refugees
- Individuals for whom deportation or removal has been withheld
- Victims of trafficking
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioners
- Parolees, including:
 - Individuals paroled as part of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2006.
 - Afghans granted humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023.
 - Ukrainians granted humanitarian parole between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2024.

Refugee Medical Assistance program

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) is still available for newly arriving refugees or newly approved asylees or other categories newly approved for refugee benefits. Individuals may be eligible to receive RMA for up to four months from their date of entry or approved status.

Refugees and asylees

Refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, and other immigration categories that fall under refugees will no longer be eligible for federally funded Apple Health unless they have adjusted their status to permanent resident.

5-year bar and 5-year bar exemption

Lawful permanent residents (LPR) must meet the 5-year bar to be eligible for Apple Health. However, an individual with an immigration status that is currently exempt from the 5-year bar will continue to be exempt if they have adjusted their status to LPR.

The following immigration categories are exempt from the 5-year bar when they adjust their status to LPR:

- Refugee
- Asylee
- Amerasian
- Cuban-Haitian
- Victims of trafficking
- Immigrants from Iraq or Afghanistan granted the following:
 - Special immigrant status
 - Special immigrant conditional permanent resident

Armed service members

Lawful permanent residents who are armed service members on active duty, honorably discharged veterans, and their family continue to be exempt from the 5-year bar.

Impacted individuals benefits end date

Individuals who are no longer eligible for Apple Health due to H.R.1 changes will lose coverage after September 30, 2026.

Keep your information up to date

Report or update your application if any of the following changes apply to you:

- Change in immigration status
- Currently pregnant
- Had a pregnancy end after October 2025
- Receiving cancer treatment, anti-rejection medication, or dialysis
- Receiving or received emergency medical services

Options for individuals losing coverage

Individuals who lose coverage due to the H.R.1 changes may still qualify for certain coverage types if they meet all other eligibility program requirements, specifically:

- Apple Health for Pregnant individuals
- After-Pregnancy Coverage (APC)
- Emergency Medical (AEM)
- Apple Health Expansion (AHE)*
- Family Planning Only (FPO)
- Medical Care Services (MCS)
- Qualified health and dental plans with savings through Washington Healthplanfinder

*Apple Health Expansion is one of the few Apple Health programs with limited enrollment. At this time, the enrollment limit has been met. [Visit the Apple Health Expansion webpage](#) for more information.

Contact

Individuals age 19 – 64 can contact the Health Care Authority to get help:

- **Online:** [Washington Healthplanfinder](#)
- **Phone:** 1-800-562-3022
- [Contact an HCA Community-Based Specialist near you](#)

Individuals who are age 65 or older, eligible for Medicare, have blindness or disability, or long-term services and supports can contact the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to get help:

- **Phone:** 1-877-501-2233
- **Online:** [Washington Connection \(Your Link to Services\)](#)
- [Visit a local DSHS Community Service Office near you](#)

Resources

- [Sign up for Apple Health general information and updates](#)
- [Changes coming to Apple Health webpage](#)
- [Apple Health noncitizens webpage](#)
- [H.R.1 impact webpage](#)