

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed H.R. 1, which limits eligibility for healthcare and social services programs for many immigrants. On April 8, 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a [State Health Official Letter](#) that requires states to redetermine eligibility for non-citizens by October 1, 2026 and provides guidance for how to do it. This Checklist provides suggestions for state advocates to ensure eligible immigrants and their family members stay enrolled, and tips for those losing eligibility.

1. Ask Your State's Medicaid Agency

- What outreach messages and notices are you providing to communicate with families, educate them about Medicaid eligibility changes, and allow them to update their information? How are you planning to provide language access?
- How will you identify Cuban-Haitian entrants¹ and Compact of Free Association migrants² who remain eligible for coverage?
- How will you identify lawful permanent residents who are exempt from the five-year waiting period because of a prior status as a "humanitarian" immigrant?³
- Are you focusing eligibility redeterminations on noncitizens only as required?⁴
- Are you conducting an ex parte redetermination first and then providing a reasonable opportunity for responses when you need more information?⁵
- How are you ensuring that people becoming ineligible on October 1, 2026 stay enrolled until that date?

2. Share with People Who May be Cut off from Medicaid In Error

- Open your mail
- Listen for robo-calls
- [Find Help](#) figuring out if you may still be eligible with the Directory of certified Navigators, assisters, and brokers in your state using: <https://www.healthcare.gov/find-local-help/>
- You should be given an opportunity to attest to your U.S. citizenship or immigration status, and then at least 90 days to provide documentation

3. Share with People Who will Become Ineligible for Medicaid

- Access medical, dental and vision care now, before coverage ends on October 1, 2026.
- Refill prescriptions (some states allow a 3 month supply for certain medications) before coverage ends on October 1, 2026.
- Acquire durable medical equipment (e.g. mobility aids, respiratory equipment, supplies for diabetes and other conditions) before coverage ends on October 1, 2026.
- Identify health clinics to access free or lower cost care:
<https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>.
- Find legal help to consider applying to adjust status:
<https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org/>.

More Information

- CMS, [State Health Official Letter #266-001](#), Guidance on Implementation of HR 1's immigrant restrictions (April 8, 2026)
- NHeLP, [Top 10 Suggestions for State Advocacy Regarding H.R. 1 Changes to Medicaid for Immigrants](#) (December 10, 2025)
- State Health & Value Strategies, [CMS Guidance on HR 1's Restrictions for Non-Citizen Coverage in Medicaid and CHIP](#) (April 17, 2026)
- PIF, [Changes in Immigrant Eligibility](#)
- PIF, [Chartpack: Updates to Program Eligibility by Immigration Status](#)
- PIF, [Health and Social Services Eligibility, 2025 Changes](#) (Community-Facing)
- NILC, [New Law Limits Health Care & Food Aid for Immigrants](#) (July 31, 2026)

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Notes

- 1 States face challenges identifying that Cuban-Haitian entrants are members of a group exempt from the five year bar. DHS provides a “Cuban-Haitian Entrant feature” to agencies required by law to verify whether the applicant is a Cuban-Haitian Entrant as part of determining benefit eligibility. This feature exists because Cuban-Haitian Entrant is not an immigration status, but a term related to federal public benefit eligibility, such as Medicaid or refugee assistance. Agencies have to be configured by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service’s Systematic “Alien Verification for Entitlements” (SAVE) system to access the Cuban-Haitian Entrant feature, and then they can request and receive the information by selecting the Cuban-Haitian Entrant button after selecting the benefit type. If an agency does not have access to the Cuban-Haitian Entrant feature, users will not see this option. When the Cuban-Haitian Immigration Entrant button is selected, users are required to upload a scanned copy of the applicant’s immigration document prior to submitting the case. For agencies with access to the Cuban-Haitian Entrant feature, the SAVE response will include whether the individual is a Cuban-Haitian Entrant. See, SAVE User Reference Guide, 11.5 Cuban-Haitian Entrant, <https://www.uscis.gov/save/current-user-agencies/guidance/save-user-reference-guide/11-additional-features-in-save-overview/115-cuban-haitian-entrant#:~:text=The%20Cuban%2DHaitian%20Entrant%20feature,is%20a%20Cuban%2DHaitian%20Entrant.>
- 2 States also face challenges identifying and verifying people eligible for Medicaid and CHIP due to Compacts of Free Association (COFA) agreements that established free association between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (PAL) (collectively referred to as the Freely Associated States, or FAS). FAS citizens are not citizens or nationals of the United States, but they are admitted to the United States under the Compacts, and may reside, work and study in the United States for an unlimited length of time. Based on information from a FAS citizen’s documentation, SAVE can provide an initial verification response of “Non-immigrant Employment Authorized – Indefinitely.” The initial verification response may also include employment authorization information if the FAS citizen has an Employment Authorization Document. If the automated SAVE response is unexpected or is not sufficient for an agency to make a benefit eligibility determination, the agency should institute additional verification. [https://www.uscis.gov/save/resources/information-for-save-users-how-to-verify-citizens-of-the-federated-states-of-micronesia-the-republic#:~:text=The%20Compacts%20of%20Free%20Association%20\(COFA\)%20establish,States%20for%20an%20unlimited%20length%20of%20time.](https://www.uscis.gov/save/resources/information-for-save-users-how-to-verify-citizens-of-the-federated-states-of-micronesia-the-republic#:~:text=The%20Compacts%20of%20Free%20Association%20(COFA)%20establish,States%20for%20an%20unlimited%20length%20of%20time.)
- 3 Lawful permanent residents who are exempt from the five year waiting period by statute include refugees, people granted asylum or withholding of deportation/removal, Amerasian immigrants, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Amerasians, Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants, certain Iraqi and Afghan parolees, certain survivors of human trafficking, and individuals with military connections. 8 U.S.C. § 1612 and 8 U.S.C. § 1613.
- 4 The CMS guidance states that states must identify “affected” beneficiaries and redetermine eligibility only for that group. It points out that states should not conduct an eligibility determination for U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, lawful permanent residents, Cuban/Haitian entrants, COFA migrants, or people who are lawfully residing children or pregnant women in states that have elected the CHIPRA 214 option. <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho26001.pdf>.
- 5 The CMS guidance requires states to comply with underlying Medicaid requirements when conducting these redeterminations. States must conduct ex parte redeterminations by verifying information against information available to the state and electronic data systems before attempting to contact the beneficiary. If there is a discrepancy with data sources, or electronic verification is unavailable, the state has to provide the individual notice of a reasonable opportunity period (ROP). The ROP begins on and extends 90 days from the date the notice is received by the individual. Section 1137(d)(4) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 435.956. <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho26001.pdf>