

Upcoming Texas Medicaid Changes Effective 10/1/2026



What's changing?

Starting October 1, 2026, a new federal law (called H.R.1 or OBBBA) changes who is eligible for Medicaid. Under this new rule, **the following groups of people will lose their Medicaid eligibility** (collectively referred to as refugees throughout):

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Afghan & Ukrainian humanitarian parolees
- Survivors of Human Trafficking (VOTs).

They will remain ineligible for Medicaid again until they officially receive their green card (when they become a legal permanent resident).



Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

Newly arrived refugees in TX that are ineligible for Medicaid may now qualify for RMA during their **first 8 months** in the U.S.

- Covers healthcare and dental care similar to Medicaid.
- Includes an RMA insurance card.
- Requires an application through a Local Resettlement Provider.



Other considerations

- For those outside of the RMA time-eligibility period, **refugees who are pregnant, disabled or over 65 will not be eligible for Medicaid** until after they receive their green cards.
 - For those who are pregnant, they may be eligible for [CHIP-Perinatal](#), which covers only pregnancy-related costs.
- **More people will need to consider employment-sponsored health plans** and find low-cost/sliding scale health care options during a possible gap in health insurance.
 - [Click here](#) for information on other resources that may be available to clients in TX outside of the RMA eligibility timeframe.



Take action now!

For clients currently receiving Medicaid, it's recommended to:

- Schedule medical appointments
- Refill medications
- Discuss ongoing care with a doctor

Important notes:

Under **CHIPRA 214**, **refugee children in TX who are under 19 remain Medicaid eligible after 10/1/2026, if they meet other Medicaid eligibility requirements and:**

- Documentation hasn't expired AND
- Are lawfully present.

Refugees, asylees, VOTs, and Afghan & Ukrainian parolees are exempt from the 5-year waiting period for Medicaid.

- They are eligible for Medicaid immediately after receiving a green card.

Cuban/Haitian entrants and SIVs remain eligible after 10/1/2026, if they meet other Medicaid eligibility requirements and:

- Documentation hasn't expired AND
- Are lawfully present.

Emergency Medicaid may be available.

- Applies only to life-threatening emergencies.
- Does not cover routine medical care.
- May be eligible prior to receiving a green card and after RMA ends.