

What You Need To Know & Do To Apply For Medicaid



Per Florida Health: “Refugees (and SIVs) **are eligible** for eight months of free Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). If a spouse or child of a refugee enters the United States with refugee status later, their eight months of eligibility begins upon their arrival.” Humanitarian Parolees (also known as Afghan Parolees) are also eligible for Medicaid. TPS (Temporary Protected Status) recipients are *not*. At this time, RAA does not work with any TPS recipients. Refugees and Humanitarian Parolees must [apply for Medicaid online](#) to receive services; this often takes time to process. Resettlement agencies (like CWS) *will apply* for their clients.

The **application approval and timeline** is out of their control, and some clients will receive Medicaid before others. Any time there is a backlog in the this government system, it will affect our clients, and wait times may be frustratingly long.

RAA volunteers may check on their family’s status, contact CWS to make sure they have applied, and re-apply if necessary (though dual applications may slow the process down, so check with CWS first, please. See **CWS Contact Sheet**).

While waiting for Medicaid eligibility to be processed, “capital R” Refugees and Humanitarian Parolees are eligible to receive a **free health assessment** at the county health department within 90 days of the date of arrival. CWS will have done this with any clients *before* they are referred to RAA. This includes blood and stool tests to determine any medical problems and immunizations required for adjustment to Lawful Permanent Resident status. If a medical problem is identified during assessment, patients are referred for additional medical care. Medical care is paid by Medicaid or RMA for eight months from date of arrival in most cases. After eight months, refugees need to **reapply for Medicaid** and meet the eligibility criteria to receive those benefits again. If they **do not qualify** for Medicaid and do not have employer-based healthcare, they can apply for healthcare through the Affordable Care Act or Healthcare Marketplace (see below for links)

Any **bills incurred** *before* the Refugee or Humanitarian Parolee is approved for Medicaid will have *all or a portion retroactively covered* once they are approved.

Initial Coverage (First 8 Months):

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/health>

Getting Health Insurance on the Marketplace:

<https://www.healthcare.gov/>

- *How to Use the Marketplace (Arabic):*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZ48ujCOB-Y&list=PLypiJrod4DeiTGk3xfmD-XkkX6dO9W-fj&index=2>

- *How to Use the Marketplace (English):*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZUgQvIoHHw&list=PLypiJrod4DeiTGk3xfmD-XkkX6dO9W-fj&index=5>

- *Affordable Care Act Fact Sheet for Refugees:*

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/fact_sheet_refugees_and_the_affordable_care_act_508_8_27_13b_508.pdf

- <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/immigrants-refugees-affordable-care-act-with-notes.pdf>

- *Required Documentation for Coverage:*

<https://www.healthcare.gov/immigrants/immigration-status/>

- *Florida-Specific Insurance Information:*

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/community-health/refugee-health/refugee-information.html>

- Florida Health Helpline: 850-245-4444

- Email: health@flhealth.gov