

Individuals Admitted as Refugees or Granted Parole under Central American Minors (CAM) Program September 2023

If you have been admitted as a refugee or granted granted parole under the [Central American Minors \(CAM\) Program](#), this fact sheet will help you understand your eligibility for health coverage in Illinois. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace and Medicaid both cover services such as doctor visits, hospital care and medications. To be eligible for the Marketplace or Medicaid, you must be a resident of Illinois. If you are on an active non-immigrant visa you may not qualify.

[HealthCare.gov](#) is the Marketplace in Illinois where you can get coverage with lower monthly premiums or savings on out-of-pocket costs (e.g., co-pay, deductible) based on your income.

Medicaid and Medicaid-like programs are state health coverage for low income populations depending on age, immigration status, household size, and income:

- **ACA Adult Medicaid:** 19-64 years old with income up 138% FPL.
- **Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD) Medicaid:** 65 or older or disabled with income up to 100% FPL.
- **Moms & Babies:** Pregnant and up to 12 months postpartum with income up to 213% FPL.
- **Health Benefit for Immigrant Seniors (HBIS)** Medicaid-like program: 65 or older with income up to 100% FPL.
- **Health Benefit for Immigrant Adult (HBIA)** Medicaid-like program: Must be ages 42-64 years old with income up 138% FPL.
- **VTTC Medical** Medicaid-like program: 19 years of age and older with income up to [100% of FPL](#).
- **All Kids Medicaid program:** up to age 19, with household income up 318% FPL.
- **Family Planning Program (FPP/FPPE):** comprehensive reproductive health services for individuals of any age or gender with income up to 213% FPL; FPPE is available regardless of immigration status.

What About Public Charge?

When certain individuals (most likely applying through the family immigration pathway) apply for LPR (commonly known as green card) status, immigration officials assess several factors to determine whether the applicant is *likely to become primarily dependent on the government for their subsistence* -- and if so, the applicant could be denied the green card on *public charge* grounds. **Enrollment in health coverage (such as Medicaid and Marketplace coverage) is NOT counted in the public charge test; the only counted health benefit in the public charge test is use of long term care in an institution paid for by Medicaid.** For a longer list of “safe” benefits see [this link](#). Green card holders when *renewing* their green card or when *applying for citizenship* are not subject to the public charge test. For a longer list of immigration statuses that are exempt from the public charge test see [this link](#).

How to Apply:

- **Medicaid:** Use ABE – Application for Benefits Eligibility to apply for Medicaid and other benefits in Illinois: <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/>. Medicaid can be backdated up to three months from the day you apply, if you were eligible and had medical expenses during those three months.
- **Marketplace Coverage:** Use [HealthCare.gov](#) to apply for Marketplace coverage during Open Enrollment (Nov. 1 – Jan. 15) or if you qualify for a [Special Enrollment Period](#) during other parts of the year. [A Navigator or Assister](#) can help you enroll in Marketplace or Medicaid for free.

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Eligibility For Medicaid and Marketplace Coverage

If you have been admitted as a refugee or granted granted parole under the [Central American Minors \(CAM\) Program](#), this fact sheet will help you understand your eligibility for health coverage in Illinois. By definition, a qualified child for CAM must be under the age of 21. In some cases, an in-country parent of the qualifying child may also qualify for the CAM program. If you were admitted as a CAM refugee or granted CAM parole status, and you are under the age of 19, you are eligible for All Kids. You are also considered “lawfully present” and eligible for ACA Marketplace coverage. If you are over age 19 years old and you have been admitted as a refugee or granted granted parole under CAM, your health coverage eligibility depends on whether you:

1. **Have been granted CAM Parole Status for More Than One Year (after 8/22/96) AND have had this status for less than 5 years**
2. **Have been granted CAM Parole Status for More Than One Year (after 8/22/96) and have had this status for 5 years or longer**
3. **Admitted as a CAM refugee**

Active Parole Status under CAM for < 5 Years

	ACA Adult	AABD	All Kids	HBIA	HBIS	VTTC Medical*	Moms & Babies	Marketplace
Eligible?	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

*If you have been granted parole under CAM but have had this designation less than 5 years , you may also be eligible for the Victims of Trafficking, Torture and Other Crimes (VTTC) cash/ food/medical assistance program **if** you are preparing to file an application, (or have filed an application) for a U visa, T visa, or asylum. For more information on VTTC, please see this [VTTC Fact sheet](#).

Active Parole Status under CAM for 5 or More Years

	ACA Adult	AABD	All Kids	HBIA	HBIS	VTTC Medical	Moms & Babies	Marketplace
Eligible?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Admitted as a Refugee Under CAM

	ACA Adult	AABD	All Kids	HBIA	HBIS	VTTC Medical	Moms & Babies	Marketplace
Eligible?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Eligibility for Additional Benefits & Programs

If you have been granted parole under CAM and have have had this designation for five or more years (or meet these [exceptions](#)) you may be eligible for [SNAP](#) and [TANF](#). You are also eligible for [WIC](#) and for the benefits and programs provided in [this fact sheet](#). Minors who enter the U.S. through the CAM Program as refugees are eligible for ORR benefits and services to the same extent as any other child with refugee status and can find more information on Refugees’ eligibility for health coverage by visiting the [Refugee Factsheet](#) on health care coverage eligibility. See the [USCIS page](#) and [ORR information on CAM](#) for more information.

Need More Information?

- Public Charge questions? email pifillinois@povertylaw.org or visit the [Protecting Immigrant Families Illinois](#) website or visit Keepyourbenefits.us website to determine if you would be subject to the public charge test.
- Statewide [Community Service Agencies Serving Immigrants](#) and [IDHS Welcoming Centers](#) and ICIRR-administered [Family and Community Resource Centers](#) (FCRCs)

Have a question or want to report a concern about this fact sheet?: pifillinois@povertylaw.org