

# Afghan Parolees (SQ/SI Designation), Afghan Parolee (Non SQ/SI Parole), & Afghan with SIV

September 2023

If you have been designated an [Afghan Parolee with SQ/SI](#) or have been granted Afghan Parolee status under Humanitarian or Significant Public Benefit Parole (also known as non SQ/SI parole) or are an Afghan with a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), 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.
- **VTTTC 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 designated an [Afghan Parolee with SQ/SI](#) or have been granted Afghan Parolee status under Humanitarian or Significant Public Benefit Parole (also known as non SQ/SI parole) or are an Afghan with a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), this fact sheet will help you understand your eligibility for health coverage in Illinois. You are eligible for Federal Medicaid programs without a five-year wait and are eligible for ACA Marketplace health coverage.

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	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 designated an [Afghan Parolee with SQ/SI](#) or have been granted Afghan Parolee status under Humanitarian or Significant Public Benefit Parole (also known as non SQ/SI parole) or are an Afghan with a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), you are eligible for benefits under the [Office of Refugee Resettlement \(ORR\)](#). ORR provides cash assistance, medical assistance, employment preparation, job placement, English language training, and other services for Afghans with SQ/SI parole. See this [ORR Factsheet](#) for more information. You are also eligible for [SNAP and TANF](#), [WIC](#) and for the benefits and programs provided in [this fact sheet](#).

### Need More Information?

- Fact sheet published by federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Health Coverage for Afghans with a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and Afghan Parolees: [here](#).
- [Guide to Client Documentation and Benefits for Afghan Parolees](#), co-published by CLINIC and Migration Refugee Services, provides information and samples of the type of documents that Afghan parolees may be issued by DHS.
- Public Charge questions? email [pifillinois@povertylaw.org](mailto: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](mailto:pifillinois@povertylaw.org)