



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES

# Federal Eligibility Changes for Non-U.S. Citizens

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Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
May 12, 2026



# Welcome

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# Background

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Who can get SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as a non-U.S. citizen is changing due to the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' (OBBBA).

This affects Wisconsinites who get FoodShare and health care benefits through BadgerCare Plus and other Medicaid programs.



# Impact in Wisconsin

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We estimate that around 7,200 members in Wisconsin will lose eligibility for FoodShare and/or Medicaid.



# Eligibility for Non-Citizens

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FoodShare and Medicaid **are available** under federal law to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and people with certain **qualifying** immigration statuses.

As verified using a data exchange with the federal government, as well as immigration documents provided by applicants



# Eligibility Without a Qualifying Status

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If someone is undocumented or is not in a qualifying immigration status:

- They are not eligible for FoodShare.
- In the case of a life-threatening emergency, they may qualify for a Medicaid program known as “Emergency Services” or “Emergency Medicaid.”
- If pregnant, they may qualify for the BadgerCare Plus Prenatal Program.



# Which statuses no longer qualify?

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OBBBA removes eligibility for people with the following immigration statuses:

- ❌ Refugees
- ❌ Asylees
- ❌ Parolees
- ❌ Conditional entrants
- ❌ Battered non-citizens
- ❌ Trafficking victims and certain family members
- ❌ Deportation (or removal) withheld
- ❌ Amerasian (no longer eligible for Medicaid)
- ❌ Foreign-born Tribal members

Non-U.S. citizens with these statuses can still qualify for BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid if they are under 19, or are under 21 and living in an institution for mental disease, or are pregnant.



# Which immigration statuses still qualify?

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- ✓ Lawful permanent residents
- ✓ Cuban-Haitian entrants
- ✓ Compact of Free Association citizens
- ✓ Amerasians (FoodShare only; not Medicaid)



# Changes in Immigration Status

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Members who become a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident can become eligible for FoodShare or Medicaid.



Members who gain a qualifying status should let their local agency know right away



# Pending Federal Guidance

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## Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid and Foster Care Medicaid

States have received indication from the federal government that non-citizen eligibility changes apply to members enrolled in SSI Medicaid and Foster Care Medicaid.



However, the federal government hasn't issued guidance about how states will apply the changes to members in these programs.



Until federal guidance is issued, Wisconsin will maintain the current eligibility process for SSI Medicaid and Foster Care Medicaid.



# Medicaid Timeline

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## People with a newly non-qualifying status

### New Medicaid applicants

- Starting October 1, 2026, will not qualify

### Existing Medicaid members

- As of October 1, 2026, will no longer qualify, unless they are under 19, are under age 21 and living in an institution for mental disease, or are pregnant



# FoodShare Timeline

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## People with a newly non-qualifying status

### New FoodShare applicants

- As of July 1, 2026, will not qualify

### Existing FoodShare-only members

- After July 1, 2026, will no longer qualify as of their next renewal date

### Existing members with both FoodShare and Medicaid

- As of October 1, 2026 (at the latest), will no longer qualify for FoodShare



# Communication to Members



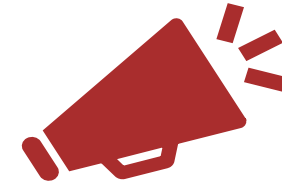
FoodShare-only members will receive a letter ~60 days before their next annual renewal.



Medicaid members will receive two letters:

- 90 days before October 1, 2026
- 30 days before October 1, 2026

Includes members with both FoodShare and Medicaid.



All members will get a notice in the mail when their eligibility is changing.



# Communication to Members



## Messaging to members:

- Let your local agency know if your immigration status has changed.
- If you no longer qualify, you can still use any remaining FoodShare benefits on your QUEST card.



# Sample Member Letter

MILWAUKEE  
MILWAUKEE ENROLLMENT SERVICES  
SHAWANOCODEPTOFHUMANSERVICES  
6055 N 64TH STREET  
MILWAUKEE WI 53218

Mailing Date: 11/20/2025

000001  
TOM JERRY  
901 N HIGH POINT RD  
MADISON WI 53717 2311



State of Wisconsin

Case #: 4005143741

**Milwaukee Enrollment Services**  
Phone: 888-947-6583  
Fax: 414-438-4580  
Online at [access.wi.gov](http://access.wi.gov)



The State of Wisconsin is an equal opportunity service provider. This letter contains information that affects your benefits. If you need this material in a different format because of a disability or if you need this letter translated or explained in your own language, please call 1-888-947-6583. These services are free.

## FoodShare is Ending for Someone in Your Household

Due to recent changes in federal law, one or more people in your household are no longer eligible for FoodShare because of their immigration status. Their FoodShare benefits will stop on August 31, 2026. Any benefits left on their QUEST card can still be used, even after that date.

This letter lists who in your household will stop getting FoodShare and the immigration status we have on file for them.

- If someone in your household is not listed here, their FoodShare enrollment is not affected because of the change in federal law.
- If someone's immigration status is different from what is shown below, **call the agency listed at the top of this letter by August 18, 2026.**

Who	Immigration status on file
JOHN SMITH	Person Paroled for at Least One Year
TOM JERRY	Person Granted Withholding of Removal

This enrollment change will not take effect until after the household's next FoodShare renewal on August 31, 2026. However, someone's enrollment could change before then if other changes are reported that affect their case.



# Member Resources

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- Certain people in the newly non-qualifying statuses may qualify for Refugee Medical Assistance if they are in their first four months in the U.S.
- Some people who aren't eligible for BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid because of their non-qualifying status can use the [Emergency Services program](#) to help pay for serious health care emergencies.
- Some clinics in Wisconsin provide health care services for free or at a low-cost. To learn more about these clinics, members can:
  - Visit the [ForwardHealth: Free or Low-Cost Health Clinics webpage](#)
  - Contact 211 by texting their ZIP code to 898211, calling 211 or 877-947-221, or visiting the [211 website](#)



# Partner Resources

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Main partner page for OBBBA changes:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/partners/federal-changes.htm>

Coming soon:

- Operations Memo on FoodShare-related changes—June 2026
- Operations Memo on Medicaid-related changes—fall 2026
- Partner toolkit
- Updates to the DHS Medicaid for Non-Citizens webpage
- New DHS FoodShare for Non-Citizens webpage



# Contact Us

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Send your questions and feedback to the ForwardHealth Partner inbox.

[DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

