

Overview of the Refugee Medical Assistance Program

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Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

What is Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)?

- RMA is a benefits program that provides eight months of coverage similar to state Medicaid.
- It is funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (DHHS).



Who may be eligible for RMA?

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Victims of trafficking
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants
- Amerasians
- Certain Afghan Humanitarian Parolees
- Certain Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees



Other eligibility criteria:

- Financial eligibility (200% FPL at time of application)
- **Not eligible for state Medicaid**
 - The list from the previous slide closely mirrors the list of non-citizens ineligible for Medicaid beginning October 1, 2026.



How to apply?

- In Wisconsin, RMA is manually administered in DCF by the Bureau of Refugee Programs at W-2 agencies (not part of [DHS](#)'s online health care application processes)
- Complete an RMA Application (Form DCF-F-5998, [DCF Forms Search](#)) at a W-2 agency



What else to know

- The eight-month eligibility clock begins on the date of arrival (or date of status granted, etc)
- RMA applicants must obtain verification of ineligibility for MA as a pre-condition of RMA enrollment, but RMA coverage may be backdated to the RMA date of application/filing date.
 - It is critical to start both RMA and Medicaid applications as soon as possible, at the same time!



Resettlement Agencies

- Most (but not all!) RMA-eligible individuals are connected to a Resettlement Agency and have help applying for programs.
- Use this page [Find a Refugee Services Provider](#) to contact an agency, or reach out to DCFRefugee@wisconsin.gov.



Thank you!

Questions?

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