

# BADGERCARE+

## Immigrants and BadgerCare Plus

BadgerCare Plus is a health care program for children, pregnant women and families. More information about this program can be found at [badgercareplus.org](http://badgercareplus.org).

**Note:** The following information is general in nature and should not be considered legal advice.

### 1. Are immigrants able to enroll in BadgerCare Plus?

Yes. If you meet all other BadgerCare Plus rules and you are one of the following, you may be able to enroll.

- “Qualified aliens” (for example, a refugee, asylee, legal permanent resident, battered spouse or child, or certain others), if they meet all other BadgerCare Plus requirements.
- The citizen children or citizen spouse of an undocumented immigrant.

Please keep in mind, undocumented immigrants are not able to enroll in the full coverage BadgerCare Plus program, but may be able to enroll in:

- BadgerCare Plus Prenatal Program which covers pregnancy-related services, or
- BadgerCare Plus Emergency Services which covers emergency medical conditions when there is a serious risk to the patient’s health

### 2. Can children who were born in the US be able to enroll in BadgerCare Plus even if their parents are undocumented immigrants?

Yes, as long as they meet all other BadgerCare Plus rules.

### 3. Can immigrants who have a legal immigration status get BadgerCare Plus?

Yes. However, legal immigrants entering the U.S. after 8/22/96, are subject to a 5 year waiting period before being able to enroll in public assistance, including BadgerCare Plus. The law does allow immigrants in certain categories to be exempt from the 5 year waiting period. Examples of these categories are:

No 5-year wait period after obtaining legal status.	Must wait 5 years after obtaining legal status (if entered the US on or after 8/22/96)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refugees</li><li>• Victims of Severe Trafficking</li><li>• Asylees</li><li>• Legal Permanent Residents in U.S. military or honorably discharged plus spouse and dependent(s)</li><li>• Other immigrants who entered the U.S. before 8/22/96</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legal Permanent Residents</li><li>• Battered Immigrants</li></ul>

### 4. Will undocumented immigrants be reported to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)?

No. Information is not shared for the purpose of enforcing immigration laws.

### 5. Are immigrants participating in BadgerCare Plus considered “public charges”, which could have a negative impact on their ability to obtain or adjust their immigration status in the future?

Generally, no. Participation in BadgerCare Plus does not establish the person as a public charge. However, an undocumented, non-qualifying, or qualifying immigrant in a medical institution for more than the length of a rehabilitative stay while getting BadgerCare Plus would be considered a public charge.

For more information, see [cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidEligibility/05a\\_Immigrants.asp](http://cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidEligibility/05a_Immigrants.asp) or [uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis) or call USCIS National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283.