

IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS BT2026145 SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Immigration status requirement changes for Medicaid Eligibility

The Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) is announcing that, effective Oct. 1, 2026, in accordance with Section 71109 of Public Law 119-21, which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) refers to as the *Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC)* legislation, the immigration statuses that qualify for Medicaid will be changing. This change will impact eligibility determinations for all Medicaid programs other than Package E – Emergency Services Only (ESO). Presumptive Eligibility (PE) will also be impacted, because a person who cannot qualify for Medicaid due to immigration status is also not eligible for PE.



After Oct. 1, 2026, the only statuses that will qualify for PE (or full-coverage Medicaid) include the following:

- U.S. citizen or national
- Lawful permanent resident (“green card” holders) – After a five-year waiting period*
- Cuban/Haitian entrant
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrant

**Note: Certain lawful permanent residents are exempt from the five-year waiting period. This exemption applies to immigrants who have had their status adjusted to lawful permanent resident status from a humanitarian status (asylee, refugee or victim of trafficking). Also exempt from the five-year waiting period are lawful permanent residents who are honorably discharged veterans or the spouse, unmarried widow or child of such a veteran.*

Beginning Oct. 1, 2026, PE qualified providers (QPs) will see updated immigration status options for the citizenship question on the PE application tool. Based on the self-attestation provided by the applicant and entered by the QP, the results of the entry into this field of the PE application will be seen as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – PE application immigration status options and corresponding results, effective Oct. 1, 2026

PE application immigration status option	Entry result
Lawful Permanent Resident Living in U.S. for Five Years	Allows for PE approval if otherwise eligible
Lawful Permanent Resident for Less than Five Years – Adjusted from Asylee Status	Allows for PE approval if otherwise eligible
Lawful Permanent Resident for Less than Five Years – Adjusted from Refugee Status	Allows for PE approval if otherwise eligible
Lawful Permanent Resident for Less than Five Years – Adjusted from Victim of Trafficking Status	Allows for PE approval if otherwise eligible
Lawful Permanent Resident for Less than Five Years – U.S. Veteran with Honorable Discharge	Allows for PE approval if otherwise eligible (also applies to spouse, unmarried widow or child of such a veteran)

Table 1 – PE application immigration status options and corresponding results, effective Oct. 1, 2026

PE application immigration status option	Entry result
Cuban/Haitian Entrant Status	Allows for PE approval if otherwise eligible
Compact Of Free Association (COFA) Migrant Status	Allows for PE approval if otherwise eligible
Any Other Immigration Status, Including Undocumented Immigrant	PE will be denied with the reason “Applicant Non-Citizen without Qualified Immigration Status”

Individuals who do not qualify for PE or full-eligibility Medicaid coverage due to immigration status may still qualify for Medicaid Package E – ESO. The individual would need to submit a standard Medicaid application to have their eligibility for this benefit determined. If eligible and approved for ESO Medicaid, their benefit would begin as of the first day of the month of application, and potentially for one or more retroactive months based on the Medicaid aid category assigned.

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