

# A Quick Guide to Immigrant Eligibility for ACA and Key Federal Means-Tested Programs in Rhode Island

This guide shows you whether an immigrant has an eligible status for affordable health insurance coverage and other programs.

Immigrants still need to meet the financial and other requirements of the individual programs.

This includes the rules for people who entered the U.S. on or after September 22, 1996.

| PROGRAM  | LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS <sup>1</sup><br>(age 18 and over)   | LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS<br>(under age 18)   | LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS<br>(pregnant women)   | REFUGEES, ASYLEES, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, and OTHERS <sup>2</sup> | LAWFULLY PRESENT INDIVIDUALS <sup>3</sup>                                | UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS <sup>4</sup><br>(including children)  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|  | If entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996:   |  |  |  |  |   |
| <b>Health Source RI</b><br>(premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions) | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Eligible <sup>2</sup></b>   | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Also not eligible to buy full-priced insurance through HealthSource RI)                           |
| <b>MEDICAID</b><br>(RIte Care, Rhody Health Partners, etc.)                  | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> military connection <sup>5</sup> )   | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Pregnant Women<sup>6</sup> and Children under age 19 are Eligible</b> | <b>Pregnant Women and Children under 19 are eligible<sup>6</sup></b><br>(All others eligible only for emergency Medicaid) |
| <b>SNAP</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> military connection)        | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> military connection)    | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b>   |
| <b>RI WORKS</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> military connection <i>or</i> receiving disability-related assistance)     | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> military connection)   | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> military connection <i>or</i> receiving disability-related assistance) | <b>Eligible</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b>   |
| <b>SSI</b>   | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> have met another exception) | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> have met another exception) | <b>Not Eligible</b><br>(Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work)                                  | <b>Only Eligible during first 7 years after status is granted</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b>  | <b>Not Eligible</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> Lawful Permanent Residents have a “green card”.

<sup>2</sup> Also includes Amerasian immigrants, Iraqi or Afghan special immigrants and individuals granted withholding of deportation or removal. Certain abused immigrants are also eligible, but have a 5-year waiting period except for RI Works. Iraqi or Afghan special Immigrant status and certain Ukrainian parolees are eligible as follows:

- Iraqi and Afghan special immigrant visa holders (SIV) and special immigrant parolees (who have applied for SIV status) are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Other Afghans granted parole between July 31, 2021 and Dec. 16, 2022 - and their spouses and children, and parents/guardians of unaccompanied children granted parole after Sept. 30, 2022 - are also eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees.
- Ukrainians paroled into the US between Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023 - and their spouses and children, and parents/guardians or primary caregivers of unaccompanied children paroled into the US after Sept. 30, 2021 - are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Benefits are available to this group regardless of the length of their parole period - but only until their parole is terminated.

<sup>3</sup> Lawfully present individuals have a status that allows them to live in the U.S., such as temporary protected status, child of a citizen pending adjustment of status.

<sup>4</sup> As of August 2012, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) grantees, while legally in the U.S., are treated the same as undocumented for purposes of Medicaid, eligibility for HSRI and other public benefit programs

<sup>5</sup> Veteran or spouse or child of a veteran or active duty service member

<sup>6</sup> Includes women 12 months post-partum for women who were enrolled in Medicaid when they gave birth