

# COVID-19: Resources for DACA, TPS, and DED holders in Rhode Island

## WHERE CAN I GET HEALTH CARE?

If you feel ill, it is safe and smart to get the care you need. These places provide health care regardless of your immigration status:

**Community Health Centers** - call 401-274-1771 ([rihca.org](http://rihca.org)) to find a health center near you (adults and children)

**Rhode Island Free Clinic** - call 401-274-6374 (adults only)

**Clinica Esperanza- Hope Clinic** - call 401-347-9093 (adults only)



### Testing:



If you think you need to be tested, call your doctor.

If you do not have a doctor, call a **community health center** for an evaluation.

Community health centers will help you, regardless of your immigration status.



**Note:** there is no cost for testing

### Hospitalization:

If you need to be hospitalized, you will be able to access Emergency Medicaid and Charity Care programs at hospitals.

**Emergency Medicaid** provides medical coverage for emergency situations. The hospital will help you apply for Emergency Medicaid to cover costs.

**Charity Care** programs at hospitals may cover all or part of your bill if you are unable to pay. Ask the business office of the hospital for an application.



### Health Insurance:

Lawfully present individuals, including TPS and DED holders (but not DACA recipients), can get health insurance through:

**HealthSource RI (HSRI)** - RI's health insurance marketplace. You can purchase health insurance through HSRI with tax credits to help make the premiums affordable.

- *Apply through April 15th, 2020 if you are currently uninsured (COVID-19 special enrollment).*
- *Note: you can apply anytime if you have a life change, such as losing or changing your job.*

**Medicaid** - if under 19 years old or pregnant (all pregnant women are eligible, including DACA/undocumented)

- *Apply anytime*



To enroll in Medicaid or HSRI coverage call 1-855-840-4774 or apply online at [healthsourceri.com](http://healthsourceri.com)

## Know Your Rights:

-  **Remember:** you have the right to an interpreter when applying for and seeking health insurance and care, at no cost, and regardless of your immigration status.
-  **Remember:** anyone, regardless of immigration status, can seek health care at hospitals, emergency rooms, and health centers. You do not need to share your immigration status with hospital or health center workers.

## WHAT IF I NEED INCOME?

If you have a work-eligible social security number, including TPS, DED, and DACA recipients, and have lost your job or temporarily cannot work, then you may be eligible for the following benefits to replace your lost wages:

<u>Benefit</u>	<u>When to use?</u>
<b>Unemployment Insurance (UI)</b>	your employer has closed, laid you off, or reduced your hours
<b>Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI)</b>	your place of work is open, but you are ill or need to be quarantined
<b>Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI)</b>	your place of work is open, but you need time to care for an ill loved one; or care for your child due to school/childcare closures

### **Three Important Updates on UI during COVID-19 emergency:**

- 1) Independent contractors, self-employed individuals, gig workers, and part-time workers with social security numbers are eligible for UI
- 2) Everyone on UI will receive an extra **\$600** per week until July 31st, 2020 on top of the RI state benefit.
  - (this payment will not be counted for Medicaid eligibility)
- 3) Everyone can receive up to 39 weeks of UI



To apply for these benefits, go to: [www.dlt.ri.gov/](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/) or call 401-243- 9100

## Sick Leave:

For a few hours or days off from work, use sick leave.

- If you work for a RI employer, you are likely eligible for up to **5 days** (40 hours) of job-protected paid or unpaid sick leave.
- A new emergency paid sick leave benefit is also available in certain COVID-19 circumstances. For information about paid sick leave see: [EPI Paid Leave Fact Sheet](#)

 **Note:** UI, TDI, TCI, and Sick Leave are based on being legally employed, not legal status.

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## COVID-19 One-time Cash Payment:

If you have a social security number, you will receive a one-time cash payment from the government. If your income is under \$75,000/year, you will receive **\$1,200** per adult and \$500 per child.



- Payments are based on your 2019 tax return, if filed, or your 2018 tax return.
- You will get your payment the same way you receive your tax returns- either electronically or by mail.
- If your income is higher than \$75,000/year, you will receive a reduced payment.
- This payment will not count for SNAP, Medicaid, RI Works or Subsidized Housing.

 **Note:** children must have a social security number to be eligible. For married couples, the family is ineligible if spouses file jointly, and one has an ITIN, or if file separately and both have ITINs.

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## Families with children:

RI Works: If you are not eligible for RI Works cash assistance because you lack the required status, you can apply for your eligible citizen children. All information is kept confidential. To apply: [healthyrhode.ri.gov](http://healthyrhode.ri.gov) or call 1-855-697-4347

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## WHERE CAN I FIND FOOD ASSISTANCE?

**Food Pantries:** the RI Community Food Bank has a list of food pantries around the state. Food pantries are open to everyone, regardless of immigration status. View the list of food pantries here: [rifoodbank.org/find-food/](http://rifoodbank.org/find-food/)



**SNAP (food stamps):** although you may not be eligible for SNAP, because you lack status, you can apply for your citizen children. DHS staff are not allowed to report information to Immigration. Apply: [healthyrhode.ri.gov](http://healthyrhode.ri.gov) or call 1-855-697-4347

**Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):** Provides vouchers to purchase foods to pregnant and post-partum women and children under age five who meet certain income guidelines, regardless of immigration status. For information and where to apply: [health.ri.gov/wic](http://health.ri.gov/wic)

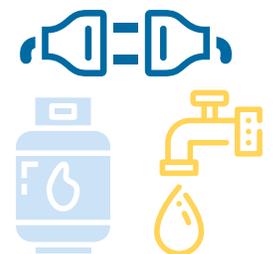


**'Grab and Go' Meals** for school children: Anyone aged 18 or under who shows up at a 'Grab and Go' site gets a free meal. There are no ID or residency requirements. All children, regardless of status, can receive a free meal. View the latest 'Grab and Go' sites here: [health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/about/foodsites/](http://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/about/foodsites/)

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## CAN MY UTILITIES GET SHUT OFF?

**Not now.** The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission adopted an emergency order on March 16, covering all electric, natural gas, water, and sewer utilities through April 16, 2020. This order prevents your utilities from being shut off if you're unable to pay your utilities bills. This protection applies to everyone in RI, regardless of immigration status, and may be extended past April 16.





## CAN I BE EVICTED FROM MY HOUSING?

**Not now.** Rhode Island courts have stopped hearing eviction cases until at least April 17th. This means you cannot legally be evicted from your housing at this time. If your landlord is telling you to move out, or you have other rental concerns, call the Center for Justice at 401-491-1101 for help.

For more, see: [Homes RI fact sheet](#)

## A NOTE ABOUT USCIS OFFICES AND EMBASSIES CLOSING

**USCIS:** has cancelled all in-person services (ie. adjustment interviews, naturalization ceremonies, biometric appointments) until at least May 3, 2020 to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Scheduled appointments will be rescheduled when USCIS reopens.

Those who had an appointment scheduled after March 18th, 2020 or who filed an application to extend employment authorization, will have their application processed using previously submitted biometrics.

See updates and more info: [www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19](http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19)

**DACA recipients:** For DACA recipients who still need to submit a renewal application, you still can. Your application will arrive at USCIS and begin initial processing.

See more: [EPI's DACA Fact Sheet](#)

**Embassies/Consulates:** Department of State (DOS) has cancelled all immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments at embassies and consulates worldwide. Currently, this means that individuals cannot pursue visa processing at any embassy or consulate abroad.

See more: [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/suspension-of-routine-visa-services.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/suspension-of-routine-visa-services.html)

## A NOTE ABOUT PUBLIC CHARGE

New public charge rules have caused many immigrants to fear seeking and applying for health care and other forms of assistance.

**Important:** use of assistances/benefits listed above on this document and public benefits used by your family members will not be considered in a public charge determination.

In addition, USCIS has released a [statement](#) declaring that testing, treatment, and preventative care related to COVID-19 will not negatively affect any immigrant in a future public charge determination.

## NEED MORE RESOURCES?

For more information on COVID-19, go to:

The Economic Progress Institute- [www.economicprogressri.org/covid-19](http://www.economicprogressri.org/covid-19)

Department of Health COVID19 hotline: 401-222-8022

For Mental Health Services: 401-414-5465