

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.

PROGRAM	LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS ¹ (age 18 and over)	LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (under age 18)	LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (pregnant women)	REFUGEES, ASYLEES, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, certain ABUSED IMMIGRANTS OTHERS ²	LAWFULLY PRESENT INDIVIDUALS ³	UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS (including children) ⁴
	If entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996:					
Health Source RI (premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible²	Not Eligible (Also not eligible to buy full-priced insurance through HealthSource RI)
MEDICAID (Rite Care, Rhody Health Partners, etc.)	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Pregnant Women and Children under age 19 Eligible²	Pregnant Women are eligible. All others eligible only for emergency Medicaid
SNAP	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work)	Eligible	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work)	Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
RI WORKS	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period)	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period)	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period)	Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
SSI	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> have met another exception)	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> have met another exception)	Not Eligible (Until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work)	Only Eligible during first 7 years after status is granted	Not Eligible	Not Eligible

¹ Lawful Permanent Residents have a “green card”.

² Also includes Amerasian immigrants, Iraqi or Afghan special immigrants and individuals granted withholding of deportation or removal.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.