

COVID-19 Resource Guide for Undocumented Immigrants 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](#)- Go to rihca.org to find a health center near you (adults and children)
 - [Rhode Island Free Clinic](#)- call 401-274-6374 (adults only)
 - [Clínica Esperanza- Hope Clinic](#)- call 401-347-9093 (adults only)
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Testing:

If you have COVID symptoms and think you need to be tested, call your doctor. If you do not have a doctor, call a [community health center](#) in your area.

You can also check these testing sites:

- Clínica Esperanza/Hope Clinic. Call 401-408-0238
- The RI Free Clinic. Call 401-922-6843.
- Open Door health. Call 401-648-4700
- Central Falls and Pawtucket residents ONLY. Call 855-843-7620

For more information about testing, including information on testing if you do not have symptoms, see: health.ri.gov/covid/testing/

 **Note:** You **will not** need to provide information about **immigration status for testing**, and testing is free if you do not have insurance.

Hospitalization:

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


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:

Pregnant women, regardless of immigration status, are eligible for Medicaid. You can apply for Medicaid anytime. Call 1-855-840-4774 or apply online at 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. If you don't have health insurance, you can say, "**I am not eligible for health insurance and do not want to apply**".

WHERE CAN I FIND FOOD ASSISTANCE?

Food Pantries: 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/

SNAP (food stamps): although undocumented people are not eligible for SNAP, if you live with children or other household members who may be eligible (e.g. citizens), you can apply for these household members. DHS staff are not allowed to report information to Immigration. Apply: healthyrhode.ri.gov or call 1-855-697-4347

P-EBT: If you have school-aged children who received free/reduced price meals in school last year, and you do not receive SNAP benefits, you should have received a P-EBT card(s) in the mail for each of your children around last April. Each child would have received a total of \$387.60 for all days out of school in March, April, May, and June. Another P-EBT payment was made for September based on days that children were not in their school building. This additional payment was added to the card(s) you received last spring and a new card will be sent for a child who has just started school. If you do not have the P-EBT card sent last spring, **call 1-888-979-9939** to request a new card. Keep the P-EBT cards so you can use them again if more benefits are added in the future.

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

School Meals: In addition to the meals programs in school, "Grab n Go" meals are available for children who are learning from home either full-time or part-time and are not in the classroom. All children under age 18 are eligible, regardless of immigration status. Check with your school about how meals are provided and any requirements to pick up meals without a child present. You can also go to: health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/about/foodsites/ to see a list of 'Grab n Go' sites.

WHAT IF I NEED INCOME?

weR1 Rhode Island Relief Fund:

The weR1 Fund provides cash assistance to undocumented immigrants during the COVID-19 crisis. The fund provides **\$400** on a pre-paid no fee debit card to individuals. The debit card can be used at stores and at banks to withdraw cash.

Applications close on 10/20/2020. We will provide updated information if the fund reopens.

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 or call 1-855-697-4347

CAN MY UTILITIES GET SHUT OFF?

The protection against utilities (gas and electric) shut-off ended on September 30 and people may now receive a shut-off notice for failing to pay their bill.

However, if you are enrolled in a discount rate program with National Grid, you are protected from shut-off until April, 2021. You can enroll in the program at any time – including when you receive a shut-off notice. Eligibility is based on household income. If a person in the household is receiving SNAP, SSI, Medicaid Assistance, RI Works or LIHEAP, you meet the income test. If you are not receiving one of these benefits, you may be able to get a statement from a local CAP agency that your income is within the LIHEAP limits. You can find the application for the discount rate program here: nationalgridus.com/RI-Home/Bill-Help/Discount-Rates

[The George Wiley Center](#) (728-5555) or the [Center for Justice](#) (491-1101) may be able to help.

CAN I BE EVICTED FROM MY HOUSING?

If you cannot pay rent, **you can be protected from eviction until January 2021**, regardless of immigration status, if you meet these conditions:

- Your income is less than \$99,000 per year (\$198,000 for a joint tax return)
- You can't pay your rent because of loss of income, wages, hours or work or high medical expenses
- You are trying your best to make a payment, and if you were evicted, you would become homeless, need to move into a shelter, or with relatives.

To get the protection from eviction, **you need to sign a declaration**, which you can find here: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/declaration-form.pdf. Make a copy for yourself and give the declaration to your landlord.

If you need help paying for rent, you can apply for the [Safe Harbor Program](#) online. Assistance is available regardless of immigration status. You can also call 2-1-1 to find out about other rental assistance.

[The Center for Justice](#) (491-1101) or [RI Legal Services](#) (274-2652) can help you with more information and assistance with housing problems, regardless of immigration status.

A NOTE ABOUT USCIS OFFICES AND EMBASSIES CLOSING

USCIS: Certain USCIS field offices and asylum offices resumed non-emergency face-to-face services to the public on June 4. USCIS has enacted precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in reopened facilities. [Click here](#) for details and more information, including updates on Application Support Centers (ASC).

Embassies/consulate: The Department of State suspended routine visa services worldwide in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As global conditions evolve, U.S. Embassies and Consulates are beginning a phased resumption of routine visa services. For more information, [click here](#).

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/covid19
Department of Health COVID19 hotline: 401-222-8022
For Mental Health Services: 401-414-5465