

NC MEDICAID CHANGES

AGES 18 AND UNDER



FOR MORE
INFORMATION

What may affect your child, what will not, and what to do next



IMPORTANT DATES

October 1, 2026: eligibility rules change for some non-U.S. citizens
Children and teens under 19 are NOT subject to the new 80-hour work requirement.

1 WHAT WILL NOT AFFECT MOST CHILDREN?

- Children and teens under age 19 do not have to meet the new work and community engagement rule.
- If your child is a U.S. citizen, these non-U.S.-citizen eligibility changes usually do not apply.
- If you are not sure, contact your local DSS.



2 WHO CAN STILL QUALIFY FOR MEDICAID?

Beginning **October 1, 2026**, Medicaid may still be available if your child or family member fits one of these groups:

- A child up to age 19 who is lawfully residing in the U.S.
- A lawful permanent resident (green card holder) - most must also meet a 5-year waiting period.
- A pregnant teen, or someone who gave birth in the last 12 months, and is lawfully residing in the U.S.
- A person with Cuban or Haitian entrant status.
- A citizen of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, or Palau living in the U.S.

Regular Medicaid rules, including income and age requirements, still apply.



3 WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

1. Make sure your local DSS has your current address, phone number, and immigration status.
2. Read and respond to every letter from DSS right away.
3. Create an enhanced ePASS account in case you need to upload documents.
4. If you recently received a green card, make sure DSS has your updated status.
5. If you are unsure whether the new rules apply to your child, ask your local DSS.



4 IF COVERAGE MAY END

- Schedule any needed doctor, dental, or mental health visits before October 1, 2026.
- Refill eligible prescriptions.
- Emergency Medicaid may still be available if the medical need meets emergency criteria and other eligibility rules are met.
- Basic care may also be available at federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and free or charitable clinics.



Latest information: medicaid.nc.gov/changes

Information may change as additional federal guidance is released.

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