



HEALTH CARE FOR IMMIGRANTS IN ILLINOIS

*I am not a citizen.
I can't afford private health insurance for myself
or my children. What can I do?*

KIDCARE is an Illinois Program that provides health insurance for the lowest income children and helps working poor parents pay the cost of private health insurance.

All children living in Illinois are eligible for the **KIDCARE** program, as long as they

- Are **Qualified Immigrants or PRUCOLS***, no matter when they entered the US; *and*
- Have family income below 200% of the poverty level.

Remember, if you are low-income, your citizen child can receive KidCare or any other program. *Your caseworker can only require the Social Security Number or immigration status of the person who is receiving benefits.*

*You are a Qualified Immigrant in Illinois if you are a lawful permanent resident; refugee, asylee, Amerasian, Haitian/Cuban entrant, trafficking victim, Hmong/ Highland Laotian, member of certain Native American nations, or granted withholding of removal/deportation; a battered spouse or child in certain circumstances; paroled for at least one year or granted conditional entry prior to 4/1/80.

PRUCOLS include persons granted temporary parole; persons whose deportation has been stayed, withheld, or suspended; persons granted deferred action status or under an order of supervision; applicants for permanent residency; *and* applicants for asylum from any country.

Every low income child or adult can get emergency care and free or low-cost vaccinations!

Also, *any pregnant woman*, no matter what her immigration status, can receive **PRENATAL and POSTPARTUM CARE** and **WIC** (Women, Infants and Children Food Supplements) for herself and her baby, if she:

- Has income below 200% of the poverty level.

Also, adults can receive **MEDICAID if they:**

- Are Qualified Immigrants*; *and*
- Are low-income; *and*
- Have dependent children, *or* are disabled, elderly (over 65) *or* pregnant.

- Lawful permanent residents who entered the U.S *after* 8/22/96 are not eligible until 5 years after they become Qualified Immigrants*.

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For more information about **MEDICAID, KIDCARE, PRENATAL CARE, WIC** or any other health programs, walk into your nearest neighborhood clinic! Most community clinics will see you and your children without asking about your immigration status.

WILL ENROLLING IN ANY OF THESE HEALTH PROGRAMS ENDANGER MY APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY OR CITIZENSHIP?

- NO! INS announced in May 1999 that it would *not* deny an application for lawful permanent residency if you or someone in your family is receiving health benefits for which you are eligible. The only exception is Medicaid for long-term nursing home care.
- Also, receiving public assistance of any kind should not endanger an application for citizenship, as long as you are truthful in filling out your application for public assistance.
- However, Medicaid *for long-term nursing home care* and cash benefits such as Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) *may* endanger:
 - Your application for residency, if you are depending on a family member's benefits to survive; *or*
 - Your immigration status, if you depend on the benefits to survive within your first five years as a lawful permanent resident, *but only in certain circumstances.*
- If you have not committed fraud, the immigration service cannot require that you pay back public assistance in order to become a lawful permanent resident!

For more information, call the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights at (312) 332-7360; fax: (312) 332-7044; email: info@icirr.org