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Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Public Assistance for Undocumented Immigrants

*I am an undocumented immigrant.
Which public benefits can I receive?*

If you are an undocumented immigrant, you may qualify for the following benefits:

MEDICAL

- Emergency Medicaid
- Prenatal Care
- Immunizations and testing and treatment for the symptoms of communicable diseases

FOOD

- Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- School Lunch and Breakfast programs

EDUCATION

- K-12 Education
- Head Start

OTHER

- Benefits delivered at the community level regardless of income, including domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse services, homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food banks

Remember, you can apply for benefits for your citizen or eligible non-citizen child. The IDHS caseworker is prohibited from asking for information about your immigration status if you are requesting benefits for your child only.

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

- NO! INS announced in May 1999 that they will *not* deny an application for lawful permanent residency if you or someone in your family is receiving non-cash benefits for which you are eligible.
- 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