

Refugee Medical Assistance

Office of Medicaid Eligibility Policy (OMEP)
IT Innovation & Customer Experience Administration (ITICEA)
March 7, 2024



Agenda

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

Eligibility for RMA

Countable income for RMA

Entering immigration information

Authorized representative

RMA application assistors

RMA resources



Refugee Medical Assistance



Refugee medical assistance overview

The Refugee Medical Assistance program (RMA) is for individuals who:

- ▶ Are not eligible for Apple Health (AH) programs but who meet the income and resource standard of the RMA program.
- ▶ May be eligible for RMA if they are able to provide documentation issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration services (USCIS).

If determined eligible the certification period for RMA ends on the last day of the twelfth month from the month an individual enters the United States (U.S.).

- ▶ For example, if the individual entered the U.S. on May 28, 2022, they are eligible for RMA coverage through the end of April 2023.

For more information on refugee medical assistance status requirements see [Apple Health for Refugees | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)



RMA Eligibility



Eligibility for RMA

- ▶ Individuals may be eligible for RMA when they:
 - ▶ Meet immigration status requirements listed in the [Health Care Authority Apple Health for Refugees webpage](#).
 - ▶ Have countable resources below \$1000 on the date of application.
 - ▶ Have a countable income equal to or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) on the date of application.
 - ▶ Receive refugee cash assistance (RCA).



Eligibility for RMA

- ▶ When an individual's spouse arrives in the U.S., they may be eligible for Apple Health and other programs depending on countable income.
 - ▶ If they are not eligible due to income requirements, the spouse is still eligible for RMA for twelve months following their entry into the U.S.
- ▶ An individual is not eligible for RMA if they are:
 - ▶ Already eligible for an Apple Health program or a children's health care program as described in WAC 182-505-0210.
 - ▶ A full-time student in an institution of higher education, unless the educational activity is part of a DSHS-approved individual responsibility plan (IRP).
 - ▶ A nonrefugee spouse of a refugee.



RMA Countable Income



RMA countable income

- ▶ Income for individuals entering Washington may be received from supporters, organizations, or federal programs.
- ▶ Some income types may be counted depending on whether an individual is applying for:
 - ▶ Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) based programs
 - ▶ Through Washington Healthplanfinder; or
 - ▶ Apple Health Classic Medicaid programs
 - ▶ Through Washington Connection.



MAGI-based income examples

- ▶ MAGI-based “countable” income:
 - ▶ Earned income from a job including wages, salaries and tips.
 - ▶ Foreign earned income. Any amount of foreign income excluded from gross income under Section 911 of the IRS.
 - ▶ Unearned income such as Title II Social Security benefits or dividends.
- ▶ MAGI-based “non-countable” income:
 - ▶ Needs-based assistance from other agencies.
 - ▶ Child support payments.
 - ▶ Income from the Uniting for Ukraine program.



Apple Health Classic Medicaid income

- ▶ Income must be reported when applying for Apple Health Classic programs. Countable income includes but is not limited to:
 - ▶ Gifts (cash support/gift cards)
 - ▶ Educational benefits (student loans, grants, work-study)
 - ▶ Child support/Spousal maintenance
 - ▶ Gaming income
 - ▶ Rental income
 - ▶ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)




Entering Immigration Information in WA Healthplanfinder



Entering immigration information

- ▶ Most individuals create an application using Washington Healthplanfinder.
- ▶ Selecting “no” to the citizenship question will allow additional options to answer as shown on the following slides.

Are all the members listed above U.S. citizens (including naturalized or derived citizens) or U.S nationals? * 

Yes

No



Entering immigration information

- ▶ Additional questions in the application:
 - ▶ Lawfully present status
 - ▶ Date of entry
 - ▶ Immigration documents (yes/no)
 - ▶ If yes, document type

Please check the box below for any member who is not a US citizen or national.

Helen Incredible

Is this person lawfully present in the US? *

[Yes] No

Date of entry to U.S. *

E.g.: MM/DD/YYYY

Does this person have an immigration document? *

Yes No

Immigration Document Type *

Select an option

- Select an option
- Permanent Resident Card with photograph (Form I-551)
- I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for non-immigrant student
- I-327 Reentry Permit
- I-571 Refugee Travel Document
- DS2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor
- I-766 Employment Authorization Card
- Temporary I-551 Stamp
- I-94 Arrival or Departure Record
- Machine Readable Immigrant Visa (with Temp I-551 Language)
- Other

Bob Incredible

Violet Incredible

Dash Incredible



Selecting document type: Other

Please check the box below for any member who is not a US citizen or national.

Jimbo Limbo

Is this person lawfully present in the US? * ⓘ

Yes	No
-----	----

Date of entry to U.S. * ⓘ

01/01/2022

Does this person have an immigration document? *

Yes	No
-----	----

Immigration Document Type * ⓘ

Other ▼

Alien Number * ⓘ

Alien Number

Description * ⓘ

Description

Does this person have a foreign passport? *

Yes	No
-----	----

- ▶ If an 'A' number is available, select document type Other. Then enter the 'A' number and description of the document.
- ▶ If an 'A' Number has 8 digits, add a zero to the beginning to make it a 9-digit number.
- ▶ Entering passport information is not required.
 - ▶ However, if the only document available is a passport, the information should be entered.



Foreign passport with stamp

- ▶ The date of entry is located on the stamp.

Does this person have a foreign passport? *	<input type="button" value="YES"/>	<input type="button" value="NO"/>
Passport number *	<input type="text" value="E.g.: 1234567890"/>	
Country of Issuance *	<input type="text" value="Select an Option"/>	
Passport Expiry Date *	<input type="text" value="E.g.: MM/DD/YYYY"/>	

- ▶ The passport number is located on the upper right corner and is either all numbers or alpha numeric.





Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : 51415565885

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2017 July 25

Class of Admission F1

Admit Until Date D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :



First (Given) Name :



Birth Date :



Passport Number :



Country of Issuance : China

I-94 arrival/departure record

Immigration Document Type *	I-94 Arrival or Departure Record
I-94 Number *	I-94 Number
Sevis ID	Sevis ID

- ▶ The I-94 record number is 11 characters either all numbers or alpha numeric.



Authorized Representative



Authorized representative overview

- ▶ An Authorized Representative (AREP) is an individual or organization that is authorized by an applicant or recipient to act on their behalf for Apple Health eligibility purposes.
 - ▶ This can be designated on the application or verbally.
- ▶ An AREP may:
 - ▶ Sign an application on the applicant's behalf.
 - ▶ Complete and submit a renewal form.
 - ▶ Receive copies of the notices and communications from the agency.
 - ▶ Act on behalf of the applicant in all eligibility matters with the agency.



AREP responsibilities

- ▶ An AREP can share any information relevant to eligibility; however, the agency can only share information with the AREP that is necessary for the purposes of determining financial eligibility.
 - ▶ Examples of information the agency cannot share are:
 - ▶ Social Security Numbers (SSN)
 - ▶ Birthdates
 - ▶ Home or mailing addresses
 - ▶ Places of employment that are outside of a request for specific employment verification
 - ▶ Estimated Due Dates (EDD)



Termination of AREP authorization

- ▶ The AREP designation may be terminated at any time by either the applicant or AREP, verbally or in writing.
- ▶ When the applicant or beneficiary is deceased the AREP designation terminates, except when the AREP is:
 - ▶ The executor or administrator of the deceased's estate; or
 - ▶ Legally authorized by the courts or by state law to act on behalf of the deceased or their estate.
- ▶ Legal guardianship and power of attorney (POA) assigned while the client is living ends after the client is deceased.



RMA Application Assisters



VOLAG responsibilities

- ▶ When a refugee is granted permission to come to the U.S. and granted a legal immigration status, voluntary resettlement agencies called "VOLAG's" are contracted for initial resettlement.
 - ▶ The VOLAG is responsible for meeting and picking up the refugee at the airport; establishing housing; and helping with necessities and cultural orientation within the first 90 days of the refugee being in the U.S.
 - ▶ The VOLAG also assists refugee's with submitting Apple Health applications through the WA HealthPlanFinder or Washington Connection.

For more a list of VOLAG locations in Washington State visit: [Voluntary Refugee Resettlement Agencies \(VOLAGs\) In Washington State.](#)



Volunteer Assister Access

- ▶ Community partners who are affiliated with a community-based organization in Washington State can complete training and gain volunteer access to the Washington Healthplanfinder website.
- ▶ The application process includes a registration form, Washington State Patrol background check, and Health Benefit Exchange User Agreement.
- ▶ Contact the volunteer assister program to begin the process at hcavolunteerassister@hca.wa.gov.
- ▶ To learn more about the process, see [hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-help-others-apply-and-access-apple-health/community-based-training](https://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-help-others-apply-and-access-apple-health/community-based-training) for more information.



RMA Application process

- ▶ Medical assistance applications for refugees under the age of 65 should be submitted through WA Healthplanfinder.
- ▶ HCA determines eligibility for MAGI based Apple Health programs first.
- ▶ If an error occurs when submitting the application, complete a paper application and email it to HCAWAHRMAapps@hca.wa.gov and include:
 - ▶ Primary applicant name
 - ▶ WA HealthPlanFinder app ID
 - ▶ Managed care organization (MCO) plan selection (optional)
 - ▶ Error code (if any)
- ▶ If an applicant is not eligible for MAGI-based Apple Health, or becomes ineligible during the certification period, HCA will determine eligibility for RMA.



RMA Application process

- ▶ DSHS determines eligibility for medical assistance for clients over age 65 who are refugees or have other eligible immigration statuses. Refugees can apply via:
 - ▶ **Online:** Go to [Washington Connection](#)-select the "Apply Now" button.
 - ▶ **Paper:** Submit an [Application for Aged Blind Disabled or Long-Term Services and Support \(HCA 18-005\)](#).
 - ▶ **Phone:** Call 1-877-501-2233.
 - ▶ **In-person:** local community services office.
- ▶ Interpreter services are available.



RMA Resources



HCA resources

- ▶ **Apple Health Citizenship and Immigration status guide**
 - ▶ hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/citizenship_alien_status_guide.pdf
- ▶ **Apple Health Eligibility for Individuals from Ukraine**
 - ▶ hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/apple-health-for-individuals-from-ukraine.pdf
- ▶ **Apple Health Eligibility for Individuals from Afghanistan**
 - ▶ hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/afghan-special-immigrant-visas-and-parolees.pdf
- ▶ **Immigration status requirement for refugee medical assistance**
 - ▶ **WAC 182-507-0135:**
hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-help-others-apply-and-access-apple-health/wac-182-507-0135-immigration-status-requirement-refugee-medical-assistance-rma



HCA resources

▶ **Cross-agency Desk Aid:**

- ▶ hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/customer_support_center_referrals.pdf

▶ **HCA Stakeholder Training & Education Resources:**

- ▶ hca.wa.gov/stakeholder-training

▶ **HCA Community-Based Specialists**

- ▶ hca.wa.gov/hcacommunitystaff



HCA resources

▶ **Application for MAGI Medicaid and Qualified Health Plans**

- ▶ wahealthplanfinder.org
- ▶ Application for health care coverage (HCA 18-001P):
hca.wa.gov/health-care-application

▶ **Application for Classic Medicaid**

- ▶ washingtonconnection.org
- ▶ Application for Aged Blind Disabled or Long-Term Services and Support (HCA 18-005):
hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/18-005.pdf

▶ **AREP form (DSHS 14-532) shared by DSHS and HCA**

- ▶ dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/forms/pdf/14-532.pdf



Questions?

