



Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors

What is the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program?

The State of Illinois is the first state in the US to create this Medicaid-look-alike program: the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors. This program provides affordable health coverage to low-income seniors, including undocumented seniors. The program is entirely state-funded and became effective on December 1, 2020. It follows the same eligibility criteria and covers similar services as the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program (formerly known as the Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (AABD) program). This new program overrides the common barrier that requires applicants to be US citizens or Permanent Residents (green card holders) for more than 5 years in order to qualify for services - leaving many ineligible and uncovered.

Who qualifies for this program?

- Residents of Illinois age 65 or older, or who are under 65 and blind or disabled
- Those who are not eligible for health benefits through another program
- Those who are not US citizens
- *And* those who have a household income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) with resources below \$2000 (for an individual) or \$3000 (for a couple)*

**Note: There is no resource limit during the COVID-19 pandemic*

For this program, a household includes: the applicant, a spouse living in the home, and children under 19 living at home. Individuals are not eligible for this program if they are an inmate of a public institution or if they are eligible for a federal-funded Medicaid program. This program must be renewed annually and it does not negatively affect the Public Charge test. A social security number is *not* required in order to enroll in this program. In addition, if an applicant's income is above the 100% FPL limit, they can be considered for a spenddown.

What benefits does this program provide?

Once enrolled in the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program, recipients will receive medical benefits similar to those offered under the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program. With \$0 premiums and \$0 co-payments, covered services include: doctor and hospital care, mental health and substance use disorder services, lab tests, home health care, rehabilitative services (e.g., speech, physical, and occupational therapy), transportation services, vision services, durable medical equipment, and prescription drugs. This program also provides coverage for medically necessary services that are covered in a hospital or outpatient setting, medically necessary follow-ups to a medical procedure, medically necessary organ transplants (e.g., liver or kidney), and dental services.

This program *does not* cover any type of nursing facility care (including short-term rehabilitation), home- or community-based services, funeral or burial expenses, or services that are provided indefinitely and require a Determination of Needs Assessment (such as waiver services, homemaker services, adult day services, or living indefinitely in a facility).

How do you apply?

You can apply for the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program online at www.ABE.illinois.gov, by calling the ABE Customer Call Center at **1-800-843-6154**, or by mail using either the online Paper Application or a requested paper application (request by calling the same ABE number above). The Department of Human Services (DHS) processes the applications.

Documentation requirements will vary case-by-case, but the following documents are required for virtually all applicants: proof of IL residency, proof of income from all sources in the past month, and proof of assets.*

**Note: There is no resource limit during the COVID-19 pandemic*

The DHS Family Resource Center for Champaign County:

705 N. Country Fair Dr.
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 278-5605

If you would like assistance from a CCHCC staff member to apply for the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program or to see if you qualify, you may call CCHCC at (217) 352-6533 to make an appointment with a Community Health Worker.

Last Updated: March 2021

Source: IDHS Policy Memo - <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=128154>

Champaign County Health Care Consumers

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Materials made possible in part by funding from Carle Foundation Hospital and City of Urbana.