



Community Partner Reference: **Navigating Medicaid Coverage Changes for Some Immigrants**

Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program)

Changes effective October 1, 2026 | FOR COMMUNITY PARTNER STAFF USE

IMPORTANT!

— Federal Changes to —
Colorado's Medicaid Program

Remember: Members may be scared or confused. Lead with calm and compassion. You are often their first and most trusted point of contact.

Key challenge: Members may not receive mailed notices if their address on file is outdated. Proactive outreach by trusted staff is essential.

Eligibility reference — October 1, 2026

Current immigration status	May keep full coverage?	Options after October 1, 2026	Language to use with member
U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals	YES	Health First Colorado	Good news — your coverage is not changing.
Lawful Permanent Resident status holders (LPR/green card) who meet the 5-year requirement	YES	Health First Colorado	Good news — your coverage is not changing.
Citizens of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, or Palau living in the U.S. (COFA migrants)	YES	Health First Colorado	Good news — your coverage is not changing.
Certain current Cuban or Haitian entrants	YES	Health First Colorado	Good news — your coverage is not changing.
Children age 18 or younger*	YES	Health First Colorado	Your coverage is protected. Let's confirm your status is on file.
Pregnant women, or pregnant within the last 12 months*	YES	Health First Colorado	Your coverage is protected. Let's confirm your status is on file.
Current refugees or asylees	Only if pregnant or age 18 or younger†	Emergency Medicaid; Connect for Health Colorado	This is a hard change. You still have some options — let's look at them together.
People granted humanitarian parole	Only if pregnant or age 18 or younger†	Emergency Medicaid; Connect for Health Colorado	This is a hard change. You still have some options — let's look at them together.
People granted withholding of removal	Only if pregnant or age 18 or younger†	Emergency Medicaid; Connect for Health Colorado	This is a hard change. You still have some options — let's look at them together.
Survivors of domestic violence with a pending or approved application under the Violence Against Women Act	Only if pregnant or age 18 or younger†	Emergency Medicaid; Connect for Health Colorado	This is a hard change. You still have some options — let's look at them together.
Survivors of trafficking with a pending or approved application for a victim of trafficking visa	Only if pregnant or age 18 or younger†	Emergency Medicaid; Connect for Health Colorado	This is a hard change. You still have some options — let's look at them together.
Refugees with a "conditional entrant" status granted before 1980	Only if pregnant or age 18 or younger†	Emergency Medicaid; Connect for Health Colorado	This is a hard change. You still have some options — let's look at them together.
Members of a U.S. federally recognized Indian tribe or American Indians born in Canada who do not yet have US citizenship	Only if pregnant or age 18 or younger†	Emergency Medicaid; Connect for Health Colorado	This is a hard change. You still have some options — let's look at them together.
Not lawfully present or undocumented	NO‡	OmniSalud; Cover All Coloradans	There are still programs that can help. Let's find the right one for you.

* This is not a complete list of lawfully present immigration statuses that may qualify children or pregnant women for coverage.

† May qualify for Cover All Coloradans coverage regardless of immigration status.

‡ May qualify for Emergency Medicaid Services and Reproductive Health Care Services; may qualify for Cover All Coloradans if pregnant or age 18 or younger.

Outreach guidance for navigators

- **Verify contact information at every opportunity**

Ask members to update their information and communication preferences at co.gov/PEAK or with their community partner. An outdated address means missed notices.

- **Members may have concerns about how their information will be used**

Direct members to HealthFirstColorado.com/datasharing to learn how their information is used and protected.

- **Lead with reassurance as many are not affected**

Start by calming fears, then work through the details. Panic may shut down the conversation.

- **Create urgency around using benefits now**

Encourage appointments, dental, behavioral health and prescription refills before October 1.

- **You are the trusted bridge**

Members may fear government contact. Your relationship is the reason they'll engage. Use it.

- **Direct people to HealthFirstColorado.com/Changes**

This is the official, up-to-date source for information and guidance. Point here rather than specific program details that may shift.

- **Co-brand the member flyer**

Add your logo and contact info to the companion flyer. Use it at appointments, waiting rooms and events. Access this and other H.R. 1 communications resources at hr1toolkit.healthfirstcolorado.com



Official resources:

Latest updates:

HealthFirstColorado.com/Changes

County services:

cdhs.colorado.gov/contact-your-county

Colorado PEAK:

co.gov/PEAK

Privacy info:

HealthFirstColorado.com/datasharing

Free language assistance available.
Ayuda disponible en su idioma.

Your agency:

[Partner logo]

Organization:

Phone:

Website:



HealthFirstColorado.com/Changes