

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES TO YOUR COMMONWEALTH CARE BENEFITS

**Important! This is about your health insurance coverage.
Please read the whole notice to find out about changes in your benefits.**

This is an advance notice of a proposed change to state law that will affect your eligibility for Commonwealth Care benefits. Under this change, the Commonwealth Care program would no longer provide health coverage to non-citizens whose immigration status does not qualify them to receive federally-funded benefits. We are notifying you of this proposed change, because if enacted, your eligibility for Commonwealth Care will end. This notice provides information about the impacts of this change.

If this change to State law occurs, we are exploring options to put in place a successor health insurance program that would cover Commonwealth Care members who might lose coverage. We will keep you informed of any developments related to eligibility changes to Commonwealth Care or a successor program.

Our records show that this change in state law would affect you because you are an adult who has an immigration status and/or United States entry date or legal status date that does not qualify you to receive federally-funded benefits. As a result, your Commonwealth Care benefits would end effective July 31, 2009. Please call the Commonwealth Care Customer Service Center at 1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765) if you have questions about this notice.

However, if the information we have about you is not accurate or up to date, you may still be eligible for Commonwealth Care, please read the whole notice to find out who is eligible and what to do if you think you are still eligible.

Citizens of the United States can continue to get Commonwealth Care benefits.

WHICH NON-CITIZENS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO GET COMMONWEALTH CARE BENEFITS?

Certain non-citizens can continue to get Commonwealth Care benefits because their immigration status qualifies them to receive federally-funded benefits. These immigration statuses are the following:

- Certain Legal Permanent Residents, certain Parolees, or certain Conditional Entrants; who
 - a. Received any one of these statuses at least 5 years ago; or
 - b. Had any one of these statuses before August 22, 1996; or

- c. Entered the United States before August 22, 1996 and have been living in the United States continuously (without a single absence of greater than 30 days or total absences of greater than 90 days) from the last date of entry before August 22, 1996 until the date they got one of these statuses.

Certain noncitizens may also be eligible to continue to get Commonwealth Care if their immigration status is or was any of the following statuses, regardless of your date of entry into the United States:

- Certain Refugees, Asylees, or Deportation Withheld Noncitizens;
- Certain individuals and their children who have been victims of domestic violence and are no longer living with their abuser;
- Certain Cuban/Haitian Entrants;
- Certain Amerasians;
- Certain Native Americans who were born in Canada or other territories outside of the United States;
- Certain Filipino veterans or spouse/child;
- Certain Hmong or Highland Lao veterans or spouse/child;
- Certain veterans or Active Duty Personnel or spouse/child;
- Certain victims of severe forms of trafficking; or
- Certain Iraqi or Afghan special immigrants

Our records show that you have not had and do not now have any of these statuses. This means you are not eligible to continue to receive Commonwealth Care benefits. If you DO have any of these statuses, or if you are a United States citizen, please call the Commonwealth Care Customer Service Center at 1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765) and they will direct you on how to update your immigration status. You can call from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

MASSHEALTH AND HEALTHY START

Certain immigrants who can no longer get Commonwealth Care coverage may be eligible for MassHealth or Healthy Start if they meet financial guidelines and are:

- Pregnant
- Age 65 or older, or
- Disabled

HEALTH SAFETY NET

If you are no longer eligible for Commonwealth Care, you may be able to get certain services from certain hospitals and community health centers through the Health Safety Net. You will receive another notice that will explain if you are eligible for services for the Health Safety Net.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We will send you another notice during the month of July that confirms the information about the end of your Commonwealth Care benefits and that will tell you:

- If you are eligible for MassHealth, and when your MassHealth benefits will start; and/or
- If you are eligible to receive services from the Health Safety Net

That notice will also explain your right to appeal.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call the Commonwealth Care Customer Service Center at 1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765) from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.