

Eligibility of Ukrainians for MassHealth or Low Cost Health Coverage

Current as of May 9, 2022

Free or low cost health coverage may be available to Ukrainians who have recently arrived in Massachusetts. This flyer summarizes the requirements for qualifying for health coverage from MassHealth and other government-assisted programs. Congress is considering proposals to expand available benefits for Ukrainians; MLRI will post updated information [here](#).

Residence

Only residents of Massachusetts are eligible for any assistance from MassHealth or low cost private health insurance from the Health Connector. Both programs use the same application.

This is how the application form asks if you are a resident of Massachusetts –

12. Are you living in Massachusetts, and do you either intend to reside here, even if you do not have a fixed address, or have you entered Massachusetts with a job commitment or seeking employment? Yes No

If you are visiting in Massachusetts for personal pleasure or for the purposes of receiving medical care in a setting other than a nursing facility, you must answer No to this question.

Whether or not you are a state resident does not depend on your immigration status or how long you have lived in Massachusetts. Residence is based on your intention. Even if you entered Massachusetts only intending to visit, if the war has changed your plans, you may be a Massachusetts resident if that is now your intention.

Eligible Immigration Status

If you are not a citizen of the U.S., the application asks if you are an *eligible immigrant*. If you are an eligible immigrant, you may be able to qualify for comprehensive health benefits from MassHealth or the Health Connector. If you are not an eligible immigrant, you may still qualify for emergency assistance, services offered by hospitals and community health centers, a limited package of services for children and full coverage if you are pregnant.

These are among the **categories of eligible immigrants** that are currently most common for Ukrainians fleeing the war or unable to return home due to the war–

- **Humanitarian parole.** Individuals with humanitarian parole who were paroled into the US for any length of time
- **Temporary Protected Status.** Individuals who have applied for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and do not yet have a work permit, as well as those who have been granted TPS.

[\(Ukrainian TPS became available on April 19, 2022 for individuals in the US as of April 11, 2022\)](#)

- **Family reunification.** Individuals for whom a US Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident family member has filed an I-130 petition for family reunification that has been granted, as well as those for whom the petition has been filed and is still pending.
- **Refugees.** Individuals admitted as refugees including those under the Lautenberg program and people who have been granted asylum. These individuals are also eligible for refugee benefits. In addition, applicants for asylum are eligible immigrants for purposes of health coverage.
- **Nonimmigrant visas.** Individuals authorized to be in the US based on a valid non-immigrant visa including a B1-B2, J-1 or F-1 visa.
 - This was information in an April 6, 2022 announcement from MassHealth about nonimmigrant visas:

Reminder: Valid Nonimmigrant Visas

Per MassHealth regulations, applicants, and members with valid, unexpired “nonimmigrant visas” such as B1 ...and B2 (visitor) visas are considered Immigrants Lawfully Present (ILP). Other valid nonimmigrant visas such as J1 (work and study-based exchange visa) and F1 (student visa) would also place a member into ILP status. If an applicant or member with a nonimmigrant visa satisfies residency and other requirements, they may be eligible for MassHealth benefits or Health Connector coverage.

In some situations, a person may enter the country on a valid nonimmigrant visa and apply for a different immigrant status during that time. If an applicant’s nonimmigrant visa expires, but the applicant can provide proof of their filed application for an upgraded status with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or for an extension of their visa (and they do not yet have employment authorization) they may qualify for PRUCOL or Person Residing Under Color of Law status.

In some situations, if a nonimmigrant visa expires, and the applicant or member has not yet applied for an extension or an upgraded status, they may qualify for PRUCOL status if the circumstances of their case indicate that DHS is not contemplating enforcing departure. ...

- Individuals who may qualify as PRUCOL have an eligible immigration status for MassHealth but not for the Health Connector.

- Individuals who do not intend to remain in the US, or who may be renewing a B1/B2 visa, or traveling outside of the US, may want to consult with an immigration lawyer before applying for health benefits.
- More information about all the categories of “eligible immigrants” is available [here](#).

Financial Eligibility

Eligibility for MassHealth or for low-cost coverage from the Health Connector also depends on your income. The application will ask about your current monthly income and your expected annual income for calendar year 2022. It will also ask about tax filing for calendar year 2022. If you are age 65 or older, the application will ask about your current countable assets as well.

During the COVID 19 public health emergency which has just been extended to mid July 2022, you can verify the amount of your income and, if you are age 65 or older, your assets, by either calling MassHealth and swearing to the amount of your income and assets over the telephone, or by signing a form with the information and swearing that it is true.

Help applying for coverage –Free help from trained individuals working for community based organizations is available to help you apply for health coverage. Call the [Health Care for All Helpline](#) 800-272-4232, find certified [Navigators](#) or look for other local assistance near you [Enrollment Assister Search](#)

Buying insurance without financial help –If you are able to pay for the full cost of health insurance from the Health Connector, and you are an eligible immigrant under the Connector’s rules, you can complete an application form that does not ask for help with the costs of insurance; it will not ask any questions about your income. You can also purchase insurance directly from a health insurance company regardless of whether or not you are an eligible immigrant.

Help with prescription medications for elderly and disabled people –A program called [Prescription Advantage](#) provides help with the costs of medications to individuals age 65 or older or younger individuals with disabilities. Help is available regardless of citizenship or immigrations status. Income limits apply. For application assistance, call customer service at 1-800-243-4636, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST.

Resources for finding an immigration lawyer for advice regarding immigration matters-
<https://www.miracoalition.org/resources/covid19/>

The information in this flyer is based on the MassHealth and the Health Connector rules about eligibility of immigrants for health benefits and is not intended as legal advice regarding immigration matters. For questions or comments about the health benefits information in this flyer, email vpulos@mlri.org.