Getting the Health Care You Deserve

Your immigration information is safe, secure and confidential

It's important to have health coverage to keep you and your family healthy

Covered California is a place where you can compare and get health insurance plans, and get financial assistance to pay for your health coverage if you qualify. When you apply through Covered California, you can also determine if you are eligible for reduced premiums or Medi-Cal.

Most California residents who are U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or who are "lawfully present" can get health insurance with financial help through Covered California. Individuals with other immigration statuses may be eligible for health coverage through Medi-Cal, although the benefits may be limited.

If you are applying for health coverage for yourself or your family members, know that all of your information is safe and confidential.

Covered California, in partnership with the National Immigration Law Center, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles, the California Immigrant Policy Center and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles is encouraging everyone to apply for health coverage, without fear that their application will affect their immigration status or the status of their family members.

Your immigration information is protected

When you apply with Covered California or any of our partners – Certified Insurance Agents, Certified Enrollment Counselors and county eligibility workers – immigration status information is needed for the family members applying for coverage, but all of your information is kept private and secure.[1] It will not be used by any immigration agency to enforce immigration laws.[2] All information you submit is used only to determine your eligibility for health programs in Covered California or Medi-Cal.[3]

When you apply through Covered California, you may be asked to provide information about your immigration status or that is on your documents, like a number on your "Green Card" or information on an Employment Authorization Card. In some circumstances, you may need to mail or fax copies or upload them to your online application. Your immigration information and documents are always kept secure.

If you are applying for someone else, you do not need to provide information about your immigration status

If you are applying for health coverage for another person, like your child, and not for yourself, you do not need to provide any information about your own immigration status.[4] Covered California asks for a social security number (SSN) to help determine whether a family is eligible for financial assistance, but you are not required to have and input a SSN to apply for coverage.[5] If you do not have a SSN, you can still apply for coverage for your family members.

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Immigrant and undocumented family members on your application are not at risk

The information you provide to Covered California will not be used for immigration enforcement purposes, even if members of your family are undocumented immigrants or immigrants with temporary status like Temporary Protected Status or deferred action. In 2013, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) clarified that it "does not use information about [immigration] obtained for purposes of determining eligibility for such coverage as the basis for pursuing a civil immigration enforcement action."[6] This means that all information on your application is safe, secure, confidential, and will not be used for immigration enforcement purposes.

Applying for Covered California does not affect your immigration status

Getting health coverage from Covered California will not affect your immigration status, even if you receive financial assistance. In addition, you do not have to be afraid of being labeled a "public charge" and it will not make it harder for you to become a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident.[7] There's one exception for certain people getting Medi-Cal: people receiving long-term care in an institution through Medi-Cal may face barriers getting a green card.

Remember: you or your family may be eligible for Medi-Cal

While undocumented Californians are not eligible for Covered California health plans, they may be eligible for specific, limited Medi-Cal programs. Any immigrant who meets the income requirements can receive Medi-Cal for emergency care, regardless of immigration status. It is important for all individuals and their families to apply and see what health coverage options are available to them.

If you qualify for deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA)

People granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are not eligible to purchase a health plan through Covered California.[8] However, depending on their income, they may be eligible for Medi-Cal.

Where to get help

To find more information about your coverage options, go to CoveredCA.com. On the website, click on the "Find Local Help" button to locate a Certified Insurance Agent, Certified Enrollment Counselor or county eligibility worker who can provide free and confidential help and answer any questions you may have. Or you can call Covered California at (800) 300-0516 (English), (800) 300-0213 (Spanish), (800) 300-1533 (Chinese), (800) 738-9116 (Korean) and (800) 652-9528 (Vietnamese).

A link to download this document can be found at: www.CoveredCA.com/news/PDFs/immigration-fact-sheet-ca.pdf

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[1] See, e.g., Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-148, § 1414 (2010); 45 C.F.R. 155.260(a)(1)(2014); Covered California Notice of Privacy Practices, available at http://www.coveredca.com/privacy; 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(7)(2012); 26 U.S.C. § 6103(2012).

[2] Clarification of Existing Practices Related to Certain Health Care Information, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Oct. 25, 2013), available at http://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/ice-aca-memo.pdf.

[3] 45 C.F.R. § 155.260(a)(1)(2014).

[4] 45 C.F.R. § 155.310(a)(2)(2014).

[5] 45 C.F.R. §§ 155.305(f)(6),155.310(a)(3)(ii)(2014).

[6] ICE Clarification of Existing Practices, supra.

[7] See, e.g., Field Guidance on Deportability and Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, 64 Fed. Reg. 28689, 28692 (May 26, 1999); Public Charge Fact Sheet, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security (revised Nov. 15, 2013), available at http://www.uscis.gov/news/fact-sheets/public-charge-fact-sheet.

[8] Memorandum from Janet Napolitano, Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Persons Who Came to the United States as Children, Department of Homeland Security (June 15, 2012), available at: http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/s1-exercising-prosecutorial-discretion-individuals-who-came-to-us-as-children.pdf; 45 CFR §§ 152.2, 155.20, 155.305(a)(1)(2014).