

# DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

EFS\_RA\_AL-1-2018

## Refugee Assistance Program

**TO:** County Directors of Social Services

**ATTENTION:** Medicaid and Work First Administrators, Managers, and Supervisors

**DATE:** February 21, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Eligibility for Refugee Medical Assistance Clarification

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon Receipt

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of this letter is to provide policy clarifications and procedures related to the utilization of the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) as a program of last resort. Refugees must FIRST be evaluated for all Medicaid program categories and determined ineligible PRIOR to being placed on RMA. RMA provides health care to refugees who are adults without minor children. For those who qualify, RMA is available for the first eight months after their date of arrival, or attaining eligible status, in the United States (e.g. date granted asylum).

### II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The agency must first assess each refugee applicant to see if the individual(s) is eligible for any North Carolina administered Medicaid program. Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) is not a Medicaid Program.

- A. If the refugee is an adult who is pregnant, has minor children, or is between the ages of 19 and 20, that adult or adult and minor children are eligible for a Medicaid program. Refer to the Family and Children's Medicaid Manual and the Adult Medicaid Manual for more information regarding the Medicaid programs that would be most appropriate for these individuals.
- B. If the refugee individual/family is determined to be eligible for a Medicaid program in the NCFAST System, authorize Medicaid coverage according to Medicaid program guidelines for that refugee individual/family.
- C. If the refugee individual/couple is determined to be ineligible for a Medicaid program in the NCFAST System, enroll that individual in Refugee Medical Assistance.

**NOTE 1:** At age 21 an adult refugee is potentially eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance provided the 21-year-old has no minor children, and does not meet qualifications for Medicaid programs. Follow policy and procedures outlined in the Refugee Medical Assistance Program Manual.

**NOTE 2:** There should never be any children or families with children enrolled in RMA. Please assess your RMA caseload to verify that the individuals enrolled are not eligible for a Medicaid Program and are appropriately enrolled in RMA.

### III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

This clarification should be implemented with each application taken or processed.

If you have any questions regarding Medicaid eligibility, please contact the assigned Operational Support Team (OST) Representative for Medicaid. Submit Refugee Medical Assistance policy questions to Clarissa Gunter, Refugee Assistance Program Consultant, at [clarissa.gunter@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:clarissa.gunter@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Locklear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink stamp or background behind it.

David Locklear, Deputy Director  
Economic and Family Services  
Division of Social Services

DL/cg