

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 01-2019
EFS_RA_AL-1-2019
Refugee Assistance Program

TO: County Directors of Social Services

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

DATE: March 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Medical Assistance for Refugees

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Receipt

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of this letter is to provide policy clarifications and procedures as previously communicated in 2018 Administrative Letters:

- [EFS RA AL-01-2018](#) - Eligibility for Refugee Medical Assistance Clarification (February 21, 2018), and
- [EFS RA AL-02-2018](#) - Refugee Medical Assistance Exception to the Medicaid Family Planning Service and Supplies Program (May 8, 2018).

Refugees must FIRST be evaluated for all Medicaid program categories including Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) and determined ineligible PRIOR to being placed on Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA).

Medical Assistance cases for Refugees are being processed in error because MAGI is not being evaluated prior to refugee being placed in a Medicaid program.

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).

If a Refugee is applying for cash assistance and medical assistance, at the time of application, a new Medicaid application must be completed before a refugee cash assistance application can be completed.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

All Refugee claimants applying for Medical Assistance, must be found ineligible for Medicaid program categories including MAGI first. Follow the procedures below:

New MAGI Application

1. After claimants are registered, start a "New MAGI Application" from the Head of Household Person page.
2. Refugees will be evaluated for Medical Assistance, including Family Planning.

3. If the claimant is found eligible for Medicaid program categories including MAGI, MAF, MPW, etc., complete the application and activate the case.
4. If the claimant is ONLY eligible for Family Planning, the caseworker must enter a "Product Exclusion." An "ineligible" decision should occur, document the case that the individual is being evaluated for Refugee Medical Assistance and dispose the application.

Once the Refugee claimant is found ineligible for Medicaid through the MAGI Application process, the agency must determine if the individual(s) is eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance. Follow the procedures below:

New Application (Traditional Medicaid)

1. This claimant can apply for additional Medicaid program categories including Medicaid Adult, Age, Blind and Disable (MAABD) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). By clicking on the "New Application" button, a "Medical Assistance" application is started for the claimant.

Note: If the Refugee claimant age 65 or older is found eligible for both MAABD and RMA the caseworker must place the eligible claimant on Medicaid Adult, Age, Blind and Disable (MAABD) under the Medicaid State plan. The claimant would be ineligible for RMA.

2. Refugee Medical Assistance is determined in NC FAST, once case is disposed.
3. When answering questions about citizenship status, worker will receive Refugee Medical Assistance IEG Alerts. Choose "Other" and this will trigger more questions about the Alien Status.
4. For Federal Reporting purposes, all fields must be completed for claimant's citizenship status: Alien Category, Current Alien Status, Alien Registration Number, Date of Entry and Country of Origin. This information will map to the Evidence Dashboard.
5. The caseworker should follow policy regarding necessary verifications when processing the Refugee Medical Assistance application.
6. Notify the claimant of the results. The caseworker must send a notice that the claimant is being approved for RMA. If the claimant was referred by a local resettlement agency, notify that agency of the outcome.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

Effective upon receipt of this letter, apply these changes to all new and pending applications taken on or after the date of this letter. Submit any questions regarding this Refugee Medical Assistance policy on the Policy Question Submission Form and email the form to DSS.Policy.Questions@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 highlight effect.

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services

DL/cg