

Medical Assistance for Refugees, Asylees and Immigrants

KanCare (Kansas Medicaid)

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Division of Health Care Finance (DHCF) offers medical assistance to help cover health care costs through various **KanCare** programs for individuals and families who qualify.

Who is Eligible for KanCare?

Only individuals who meet certain rules may get medical assistance through KanCare. Some rules apply to all KanCare medical assistance programs. Other rules apply just to certain KanCare programs.

KanCare Covered Groups Requirement

Only members of certain groups of people may get medical assistance through KanCare. **This rule applies to all KanCare programs.** If people do not fall into one of these groups, they do not qualify.

The groups are listed below:

- Children up to age 19; including those who are in foster care or who get adoption support payments
- Pregnant Women
- Persons who are blind or disabled by Social Security rules
- Persons age 65 or older
- Persons receiving inpatient treatment for tuberculosis
- Low income families with children
- Persons screened and diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the
- Early Detection Works program

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KanCare Residency, Citizenship and Immigration Requirements

The following basic residency, citizenship and immigration status requirements apply to all KanCare programs. Verification of citizenship and identity is required for some individuals. See the [Citizenship and Identity Requirements Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

Kansas Residency

You must live in Kansas.

KanCare Citizenship and Immigrant Status

You must be a U.S. citizen or immigrant with a certain status. Some immigrants must wait 5 years before they can get coverage.

KanCare Eligible Non-Citizens

To be considered eligible any of the KanCare medical assistance programs, non-U.S. citizens must hold (1) legal residency in the U.S. for 5 years or more or (2) hold a certain immigration status.

Which immigrant statuses do not require 5 years legal residency? Those individuals with a status listed below (Eligible Non-Citizens, Code: 2043).

1. **Refugees** admitted under 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (Code: 2043.01)
2. **Asylees** granted asylum under 208 of the INA (Code: 2043.02)
3. Aliens whose deportation has been withheld under Section 243 (h) of the INA (Code: 2043.03)
4. **Cuban or Haitian entrants** as defined in section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; (Code: 2043.04)
5. Non-citizens who are certified **victims of severe forms of trafficking**, and some family members, who are admitted to the U.S. as refugees under section 207 of the INA. (Code: 2043.11; See KEESM 2144)

Additional documentation such as I-94, Travel Documents, Employment Authorization Card (EAD) and Green Card may also be required in these cases. *(It is a good idea to send all of these documents **with** your KanCare/Medicaid application.)*

Other Rules

In addition to the rules of being in a covered group and meeting residency, citizenship or immigration status requirements, each KanCare medical assistance program has its own set of rules. Most programs also have income or asset levels.

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All applicants must also meet any rules particular to the program for which they are applying. See the [KanCare Program Fact Sheets](#) to learn more about the different KanCare programs available and their eligibility requirements.

How to Apply for KanCare

- To apply on-line, go to: <http://www.applyforkancare.ks.gov/>
- To download and print an application, go to the following website and scroll to the bottom of the page: www.kancare.ks.gov/consumers/apply-for-kancare
- Call the KanCare Clearinghouse at 1-800-792-4884 to request an application. Interpreter services are available.
- If the applicant has one of the immigration statuses listed above and is under 5 years in the U.S., they can call *Catholic Charities of Northeastern Kansas - Refugee and Immigration Services*, Kansas City, KS office: 913-621-1504 to request an application and guidance.

Ineligible Non-U.S. Citizens

- **SOBRA:** For non-U.S. citizens who do not meet immigration status requirements for medical assistance under KanCare.
- **Refugee Medical Assistance Program:** For non-U.S. citizens who meet residency and immigration status requirements, but do not belong in one of the covered groups as required for medical assistance under KanCare.

SOBRA

This plan is for persons who do not meet U.S. citizenship or immigration status rules to receive medical assistance under KanCare. It covers life-threatening emergency care costs and birth/delivery services. Persons must still meet income and asset rules to qualify.

Refugee Medical Assistance Program (RMA)

Individuals who meet the residency and immigration status requirements, but are not eligible for KanCare because they do not meet the covered group requirement (**see KanCare Covered Groups Requirement above**) may still be eligible for medical assistance through the **Refugee Medical Assistance program (RMA)**.

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It is important to note that the KDHE-DHCF, which determines KanCare eligibility decisions, does not determine medical eligibility decisions for the Refugee Medical Assistance program (RMA). Instead, the **KS Office of Refugees (KSOR)**, is responsible for such determinations (KSOR Office: 316-351-5495).

Who is Eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)?

To be considered eligible for RMA, individuals must meet the following requirements:

- Individuals must be within 8 months of arriving in the U.S./receiving eligible immigrant status
- Individuals must be 19 years of age or older.
- An individual's income must be below 200% Federal Poverty Level (\$24,120 gross annual for 1 person) at time of application. Spouse's income will also be counted.
- Families with minor children (under 19 years of age) must have a Medicaid denial letter.
- Individuals currently enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare or other state or private medical assistance programs are not eligible for RMA.
- To be considered eligible for RMA, individuals must **also** hold one of the following immigration statuses listed below.
 1. **Refugees** admitted under 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.
 2. **Asylees** granted asylum under 208 of the INA.
 3. Aliens whose deportation has been withheld under Section 243 (h) of the INA.
 4. **Cuban or Haitian entrants** as defined in section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980.
 5. Non-citizens who are certified **victims of severe forms of trafficking**, and some family members, who are admitted to the U.S. as refugees under section 207 of the INA.

How to Apply for Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) or Learn More

1. **In the Kansas City area:** Contact ***Catholic Charities*** at 913-621-1504 (2220 Central Ave Kansas City, KS 66102) and ask for RMA caseworker. Interpreter services are available. Catholic Charities is the refugee resettlement site and service provider for the Kansas City area.
2. **In the Wichita area:** Contact ***International Rescue Committee (IRC)*** at (316) 351-5495 (1530 South Oliver, Suite 270, Wichita, Kansas 67218) and ask for RMA caseworker. Interpreter services are available. The IRC is the refugee resettlement site and service provider for the Wichita area.

KS Office for Refugees (KSOR):

KSOR is where RMA applications are submitted, processed and where eligibility is determined (like the Clearinghouse for RMA); Phone: (316) 201-1804. Interpreter services are available. **Note:** KSOR does administration only; no client contact.

Options Other than KanCare Or RMA:

1. See the KanCare Ombudsman's "[Medical Assistance for People who are Uninsured](#)" to help you to find health care options for the uninsured and underinsured. It provides clinic and program information regarding medical, pharmacy, vision and dental services throughout Kansas.

At most clinics, low-income patients without health insurance are charged on a "sliding fee" scale based on their annual income. Free clinics and programs usually only accept low-income uninsured individuals and provide care for a nominal donation if the patient can afford it.

2. See the **Health Insurance Marketplace** at: <http://www.kamuonline.org/health-insurance-marketplace/>. The **Marketplace** (also referred to as the "Exchange" is a service that helps people shop for and enroll in affordable health insurance.

Cover Kansas Navigators are trained, unbiased and located within trusted organizations in many communities. **Health Navigators** can assist with the online application and help you compare plans to find the best fit for you. Navigator assistance is not required to participate in the Marketplace; however, they are available to answer questions year-round. To find a Navigator or other certified assister in Kansas, visit www.coverks.org or call 2-1-1.