



Medical Assistance for Immigrants Will Change Starting October 1, 2026

Many people will still be eligible for Medical Assistance in October. Take action now to show that you are eligible!

1. **If you have a green card, make sure the County Assistance Office (CAO) has a copy of it.** They might not know you have it and cut off your benefits in October 2026.
2. **Make sure the CAO knows the ages of kids and about any pregnancies in your family.** The rules are not changing for kids under 21 and adults who are either pregnant or 12 months post-partum. Those who are eligible for Medical Assistance now will remain eligible in October 2026.
3. **Look out for letters from the CAO** asking about your immigration status. The CAO will start mailing these letters in June 2026. If you receive MA for yourself and you have an eligible immigration status, you will need to respond to these letters to keep your Medical Assistance in October 2026.

****REMEMBER****

If you do not receive MA for yourself or if you receive MA to treat and emergency medical condition only, the CAO should never ask you about your immigration status, and you never have to tell them anything about your immigration status.

4. **Appeal Medical Assistance cut off notices right away.** When the CAO makes a mistake, an appeal is almost always the best way to get it fixed.
5. **Get help from an advocate if you need it.** The rules about immigrant eligibility for MA are confusing, and the CAO makes mistakes often. An advocate might be able to help. You can come to Community Legal Services for help if you live in Philadelphia. Outside Philadelphia, find your local legal aid program: <https://palegalaid.net/find-legal-help>.

NEED LEGAL HELP? Go to CLS intake for public benefits.

- Leave a voicemail for us (215-227-2400) on Mon and Wed, 9:00am-12:00pm
- Walk into our office (1410 W Erie Ave) on Tues and Thurs, 9:00am-12:00pm

**Some immigrants will not be eligible in October.
Prepare now in case you lose Medical Assistance in October!**

Use Your MA if You Have It

Some immigrants who are eligible for MA before October 1, 2026 will be ineligible for MA after October 1, 2026. If you have MA now, here are some things you can do to protect yourself in case you lose MA in October.

1. **Get medical care before October 1, 2026.** The more you can use your MA before October 1, 2026, the better.
2. **Refill prescriptions** before October 1, 2026.
3. **Get medical equipment** (things like walkers, canes, supplies for diabetes and other conditions) before October 1, 2026.
4. **Find free/low-cost health clinics you can use if you lose MA.**
Search this link or scan the QR code on your phone:
www.phila.gov/documents/list-of-federally-qualified-health-centers/.



As these rules change, we will learn more and will update our website: clsphila.org.

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