



SHOULD I KEEP MY KIDS ENROLLED IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS?

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Programs like Medicaid, CHIP, Marketplace Coverage (“Obamacare”), School Breakfast & Lunch, WIC and SNAP (“food stamps”) help your children lead healthier and stronger lives. You may have questions about whether your child’s use of these health and nutrition programs will affect your immigration status or your application for a green card. This document provides answers to frequently asked questions to help you make good decisions for your family.

If my child receives health or nutrition assistance, will that make it more difficult for me to get a green card?

No. Benefits your children receive will not count against you in your green card application and dropping your children’s benefits will not help your application*. We recommend you continue to enroll your children in benefits programs that they are eligible for. Benefits that you get for your children or other family members are different from benefits that you may receive yourself. Including your name on your child’s application does NOT mean that you have applied for benefits for yourself.

If I apply for benefits for my child, will I have to give information about myself?

Yes, some. The application requires income information for everyone in your family, even if they are not applying for benefits for themselves. However, you will not have to provide a social security number or information about your immigration status if you are only applying for benefits for your children. You can leave these sections blank.

Will I need to repay the government for benefits used by my U.S. Citizen child?

No. If your U.S. Citizen child is eligible for and receiving benefits now, your family will not be responsible for repaying those benefits in the future.

Will information that I put on an application for my child be used for immigration enforcement?

No. Any information you give on the application will be used only to determine your child’s eligibility for the program. This information is not used for immigration enforcement. You should make sure you provide only the information needed and should not provide any false information.

What if I am undocumented? If you are undocumented and applying for your child or another family member, you should not provide any information about your immigration status. Instead you may say or write, “I am not applying for this program for myself.”

I heard that immigrants are no longer allowed to enroll in Medicaid or the ACA marketplace. Is that true?

The President issued an order on health insurance but it does not apply to immigrants already in the U.S. who will not have immigration applications processed abroad. People who are eligible to enroll in subsidized coverage through the healthcare marketplace - like healthcare.gov - should not avoid enrollment based on fear of new policies.

**If you or a family member will have a visa or green card application processed outside of the U.S., different rules may apply. We recommend that you talk with an expert for advice on your case before making any decisions about enrolling in health coverage. For free or low-cost options in your area, visit: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>