

Upcoming Missouri Medicaid Changes Effective 10/1/2026

Big Picture: What H.R. 1, Section 71109 Changes

Starting October 1, 2026, a new federal law (called H.R.1 or OBBBA) changes who is eligible for Missouri Medicaid.

Under this new rule, the following groups of people will lose their Medicaid eligibility (or will be unable to enroll):

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Afghan & Ukrainian humanitarian parolees
- Survivors of human trafficking

They are not eligible for Medicaid again until they officially receive their green card (which means they become a legal permanent resident).

Instead, federal funding will generally be limited to:

- U.S. citizens and nationals
- Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders)
- Cuban/Haitian entrants
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants

Everyone else—including the humanitarian protection categories listed on the left—loses eligibility for federally funded Medicaid coverage unless they qualify through a specific exception.

This is the federal policy shift.

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STATUS	CURRENT POLICY	POLICY EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026
Refugees	Qualify for full Medicaid immediately upon arrival in the U.S.	No longer eligible for Medicaid unless they adjust to legal permanent resident (LPR) status (obtain a green card). However, refugees will continue to be exempt from the 5-year wait period after obtaining LPR and will be eligible for Medicaid immediately upon receipt of LPR.
Asylees	Qualify for full Medicaid immediately upon arrival in the U.S.	No longer eligible for Medicaid unless they adjust to legal permanent resident (LPR) status (obtain a green card). However, asylees will continue to be exempt from the 5-year wait period after obtaining LPR and will be eligible for Medicaid immediately upon receipt of LPR.
Humanitarian Parolees (Afghans & Ukrainians)	Treated as refugees and qualify for full Medicaid immediately upon arrival in the U.S.	No longer eligible for Medicaid unless they adjust to legal permanent resident (LPR) status (obtain a green card). However, will continue to be exempt from the 5-year wait period after obtaining LPR and will be eligible for Medicaid immediately upon receipt of LPR.
Survivors of Human Trafficking (VOTs)	Treated as refugees and qualify for full Medicaid immediately upon arrival in the U.S.	No longer eligible for Medicaid unless they adjust to legal permanent resident (LPR) status (obtain a green card). However, will continue to be exempt from the 5-year wait period after obtaining LPR and will be eligible for Medicaid immediately upon receipt of LPR.
Special Immigrant Visa Holders (SIVs)	Typically arrive in the U.S. with LPR status and qualify for full Medicaid immediately upon arrival.	No change as long as the SIV has LPR.
Cuban/Haitian Entrants (CHEs)	Qualify for full Medicaid immediately upon receipt of a CHE status.	No change.