



## FACT SHEET

**SUBJECT:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement

**DATE:** August, 2013

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### Refugees and the Affordable Care Act

#### REFUGEES

Refugees are people who were persecuted in their countries because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. Refugees are admitted to the U.S. for protection and have a pathway to citizenship.

Refugees who are admitted to the United States **meet the immigration status eligibility requirements** for immediate access to Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the health coverage options under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Many other immigrant groups in the U.S. have to wait five years before they are eligible for public benefits like Medicaid. Knowing the difference can help you with your ACA outreach and enrollment activities.

#### LIST OF ELIGIBLE GROUPS

Six other groups are eligible for the same benefits and services available to refugees. These are:

1. Asylees
2. Cuban and Haitian Entrants
3. Amerasians
4. Special Immigrant Visa Holders from Iraq or Afghanistan
5. Lawful Permanent Residents (who have held one of these statuses in the past)
6. Certified victims of human trafficking

Like other Americans, the groups listed above can apply for health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace at [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov). The Marketplace helps people find health coverage that fits their budget and meets their needs. With one application, a person can see all the options and enroll.

The Health Insurance Marketplace can verify immigration status for all of the groups mentioned above, except certain victims of human trafficking. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in HHS issues certain victims of human trafficking certification or eligibility letters to confirm their eligibility for public benefits.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about refugees, visit the ORR website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr>. For more information about immigration documents that may be required or used, depending on the individual situation, visit the Marketplace at <https://www.healthcare.gov/immigration-status-and-the-marketplace/>.