



Update for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals applying for Apple Health Expansion

Frequently asked questions

Background

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has published a final rule modifying the definition of “lawfully present” when an individual applies for or enrolls into a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE).

This change went into effect November 1, 2024, and impacts Apple Health Expansion clients known to our systems who have a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Are individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status still eligible for Apple Health Expansion?

As of November 1, DACA recipients are no longer eligible for Apple Health Expansion as they are now eligible for federal subsidies when purchasing a plan through HBE.

What other immigration statuses are eligible for federal subsidies due to this change?

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Valid nonimmigrant visa-holders
- People with a pending application for adjustment of status
- People granted employment authorization
- Family Unity Program beneficiaries
- Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJ) with approved petitions
- Certain asylum applicants under age 14

When will DACA clients see this change reflected in eligibility systems?

The Health Care Authority (HCA) does not anticipate system functionality to support the DACA eligibility changes until the second quarter of 2025.

DACA clients active on Apple Health Expansion could expect to transition to federal subsidies after the system change takes effect.

Does the DACA rule impact federally funded Apple Health (Medicaid) programs?

The DACA rule does not impact eligibility for federally funded Medicaid programs. DACA recipients may still be eligible for other Apple Health state funded programs such as:

- Apple Health for Kids
- Apple Health for Pregnant Individuals
- After-Pregnancy Coverage
- Emergency medical coverage (AEM)

DACA recipients now qualify for qualified health plans (QHP) with tax credits through [Washington Healthplanfinder](#).

Will this change affect the Apple Health Expansion short-term enrollment management policy?

The change does not affect the Apple Health Expansion short-term enrollment management policy. Individuals eligible for federal subsidies remain ineligible for Apple Health Expansion.

Will the Health Care Authority remove current Apple Health Expansion clients who have a DACA status?

HCA does not anticipate system functionality to support this change until the second quarter of 2025. DACA clients active on Apple Health Expansion could expect to transition to federal subsidies after the system change takes effect.

How do clients update their immigration status?

Individuals can update their status through a variety of ways:

- Online: Visit [Washington Healthplanfinder](#) - log in and select "Report a change in income or household" under Quick Links.
- Phone: Call the Washington Healthplanfinder Customer Support Center at 1-855-923-4633.
- Email: askmagi@hca.wa.gov
- Paper: Submit verification of your immigration status to: HCA-MEDS, PO Box 45531, Olympia WA 98504

What outreach will clients affected by this change receive?

HCA is reviewing all available outreach options. Sign up for [email updates to stay informed](#).