

December 20, 2024

Dear Community Partner,

Thank you for your partnership in the development and launch of several recent initiatives that have expanded health coverage to immigrant communities throughout Washington. In Washington state, we remain committed to providing pathways to health coverage for all Washingtonians, regardless of immigration status. In response to concerns we are hearing from affected communities, we wanted to share the following:

- Various health coverage programs for immigrants remain available through Washington Healthplanfinder:
 - [DACA Recipients](#): Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and other people with qualifying immigration statuses can access increased federal savings through [Washington Healthplanfinder](#) as of Nov. 1, 2024. The annual open enrollment period ends Jan. 15, 2025.
 - Note: The Dec. 9 federal court decision blocking DACA recipients in 19 states from accessing health coverage **does not** affect DACA recipients in Washington state.
 - [Immigrants who are undocumented](#): Immigrants who live in Washington can buy health insurance through [Washington Healthplanfinder](#), even if they are an immigrant who is undocumented. They do not need U.S. citizenship, a green card, a Social Security number or other immigration papers.
 - [Washington Apple Health programs](#): Individuals who are not citizens may be eligible for free or low-cost Apple Health coverage through [Washington Healthplanfinder](#), depending on their circumstances. Apple Health is available year-round.
- The safety of individuals and families applying for health coverage is important to us. Federal and state laws continue to protect the privacy of people who apply for health insurance through [Washington Healthplanfinder](#).

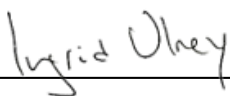
- Information about immigration status will be used only to determine eligibility for coverage and **not for immigration enforcement.**
- Under current law, getting health insurance coverage does not affect immigration status or citizenship applications. Applying for or receiving health insurance, and receiving financial assistance to pay for the insurance, does not make someone a “[public charge.](#)”
- [Free, confidential help](#) from trained, local assisters is available in many languages.
 - They can also reach out to the Washington Healthplanfinder Customer Support Center at [1-855-923-4633](#) (free assistance in over 200 languages).
- The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) do not share information about clients with anyone unless authorized by the client themselves.
 - Learn more about HCA privacy practices:
 - [HCA notice of privacy practices](#)
 - [Health Care Coverage Rights and Responsibilities](#)
 - [Apple Health \(Medicaid\) and the public charge test](#)

We appreciate your continued help spreading the word about currently available health coverage programs that can help people access needed medical care while we await potential future changes.

We are working with national, state and local partners to monitor any federal policy development and will inform you as soon as we can of any federal changes that would affect these currently available programs.

For more resources on immigration and privacy policies and practices in Washington state, please visit: [DSHS Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance.](#)

Sincerely,



Ingrid Ulrey, CEO,
Washington Health Benefit Exchange



Charissa Fotinos, State Medicaid Director and
Behavioral Health Medical Director,
Washington State Health Care Authority



Sarah Peterson, Director, DSHS Office of Refugee and Immigrant
Assistance, Department of Social and Health Services