



FAQ

From the “What Immigrants Need to Know During COVID” 4/9/20 webinar

1. Q: How long does it take to get the benefits for SNAP ?

A: You may be able to get Expedited SNAP if:

- Your monthly income, cash and bank accounts are less than your rent or mortgage plus your utility costs, OR
- Your monthly income is less than \$150 and your cash and bank accounts are not more than \$100, OR
- At least one person in your household is a migrant farm worker and your cash and bank accounts are not more than \$100.
- You must have valid identification. We prefer photo identification. We will also take other kinds of identification.

Otherwise, applications are processed within 30 days. If you provide sufficient information when you apply (online or by phone), interviews have been waived during the current emergency.

2. Q: I assisted someone with the SNAP and Medical and received a letter that they had a phone interview on 4/3/20 but then she did not receive a call. Will she be denied both benefits?

A: SNAP interviews have been suspended during the emergency so benefits should be approved. If they are not I recommend calling the IDHS toll free number. Medicaid does not require a phone interview so their Medicaid application should be processed in the usual manner and not denied.

3. Q: What if they received an appointment through mail and it was that same day? And no one called them

A: Post application interviews have been suspended during the emergency. If the interview was to apply, you should contact the IDHS toll free number to apply during that call or reschedule a callback.

4. Q: If my client's husband is an immigrant but his wife is a citizen. Will she receive the stimulus check?

A: If the wife is filing separately, she should receive the payment. If the husband and wife are filing jointly, both of them will need to have listed Social Security numbers on the return to receive the payment. If, on the other hand, the husband listed an ITIN on the joint return, then the couple will not receive a payment. Please see this resource for more information: www.GetYourPaymentIllinois.org or Please see: <https://legalcouncil.org/cares-stimulus-payments/>.

5. Q: Can you create a resource list for undoc folks who need cash assistance but are not fully literate. They prefer to make phone calls rather than look at websites.

A: PIF-Illinois will look into this.

6. Q: If a mother is scheduled to return to work after her maternity leave is up will she be eligible to apply for another leave due to covid?

A: Maternity leave and any paid leave programs set up through recent federal laws are different programs. If a woman has taken maternity leave and at the end of that leave meets the eligibility criteria for another type of leave, paid or unpaid, she will be able to take both.

7. Q: What are the options for undocumented workers talking about unemployment?

A: Undocumented workers are not eligible for unemployment.

8. Q: Two questions: 1. For SNAP- how does SNAP become a "ding" when applying for a green card if they do not qualify? I am still a little confused about that.

A: You are right. Very few immigrant statuses will make you eligible for SNAP and also make you subject to the public charge test (either when you are applying for a green card or a visa extension.) However, many people are concerned that their child or spouse's use of SNAP (or other benefits) will keep them from adjusting. This is not true. Use of benefits by eligible family members will not count as benefits used by the green card or visa applicant.

Q: 2. how do undocumented individuals get a Real ID if they do not have a SS number/card?

Thank you

A: You can find out about getting a real ID in Illinois at

https://realid.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/ex83.pdf. Implementation of Real ID has been delayed from October 2020 to October 2021

9. Q: Is there any rental assistance available for southwest suburbans residents?

A: Contact the Suburban Cook County Homeless Prevention Call Center for assistance with rent, mortgage, and utility assistance at (877) 426-6515. More information is available here:

<http://www.suburbancook.org/>

10. Q: Will SSI recipients receive the coronavirus stimulus payment?

A: SSI recipients will automatically receive the \$1,200 payment by the method they use to receive their monthly benefits. However, if they have dependents and want to claim \$500 for each of them, they must go to the IRS website and fill out a form. Right now, IRS is saying that this form must be filled out by April 22 or else the individual will not be able to get that money until 2021, but people are trying to delay that deadline. Please see this resource for more information: www.GetYourPaymentIllinois.org.

11. Q: This will be overwhelming for many of our undocumented clients. Is there an abbreviated list of resources with phone numbers for tried and true help for folks who need cash assistance?

A: Please have them contact the Immigrant Family Resource Program (IFRP): <https://www.icirr.org/ifrp>. The statewide IFRP network is trained to help community members in their primary language to answer questions about public benefits. Information is also available through ICIRR's Family Support Hotline, 855-HELP-MY-FAMILY (855-435-7693).

12. Q: If a SSN holder and ITIN holder file jointly, and have children together. Would the person that has the SSN receive the rebate or not?

A: The entire household would not receive the payment.

13. Q: If an immigrant has already accessed Emergency Medicaid in the past, can they qualify for it again during COVID?

A: Absolutely. There aren't caps on Emergency Medicaid. If you meet the eligibility criteria (income, Illinois residence, and you have an emergency Medical condition) then you aren't limited in time of use.

14. Q: People with work permits and SSN will be able to ask for unemployment?

A: Yes, anyone who is authorized to work both while they were working and while they are collecting unemployment (including people with DACA and TPS) should be able to apply for unemployment insurance.

15. Q: Are there details about Mayor Lightfoot's EO to provide financial relief for undocumented individuals?

A: [The Executive Order](#) appears to provide information on longstanding programs and does not indicate new income support programs for undocumented immigrants.

16. Q: For persons receiving SSI and not filing taxes, how will they receive their recovery rebate? How do they apply to get it on their monthly payment?

A: The payment will be automatically provided in the same way they receive their monthly benefits.

17. Q: For individuals not getting SNAP, when will the short application be provided?

A: I am not sure what is meant by the "short application." People with extremely low incomes can get expedited eligibility for SNAP; here are the rules for that:

You may be able to get Expedited SNAP if:

- Your monthly income, cash and bank accounts are less than your rent or mortgage plus your utility costs, OR
- Your monthly income is less than \$150 and your cash and bank accounts are not more than \$100, OR
- At least one person in your household is a migrant farm worker and your cash and bank accounts are not more than \$100.
- You must have valid identification. We prefer photo identification. We will also take other kinds of identification.

18. Q: If at least one parent has a SSN and USC children, can they get the rebate?

A: Parents filing joint returns both need to have used a Social Security number in order to get the payment. A parent who files on her own (not jointly) using a Social Security number should be able to receive the payment if the other parent filed separately.

19. Q: I meant asylees who have not yet applied for their green cards, can they get financial support for COVID-19 (based on income level)? (An asylee would have a SSN).

A: Asylees who filed a tax return for 2019 or 2018 using their SSN should be able to get the tax rebate. Asylees should also qualify for unemployment insurance and for other federally-funded benefits like SNAP, Medicaid, and TANF.

20. Q: What if someone was terminated/inactivated from medicaid and reapplied last month? I've got a 12 year old PEDS patient with HIV in this situation.

A: If someone, an adult or child, has a Medicaid application pending and needs coverage immediately, you can reach out to HFS.ACA@illinois.gov and request that application processing be expedited. If the application has been pending more than 54 days and there is no emergency (or you are still waiting for a response from the website above) follow these instructions to get temporary Medicaid (coverage is full Medicaid except long term care services) [Temporary Medical Assistance](#).

21. Q: How can we find resources specific to the County in which our clients live and they need assistance (i.e. DuPage County)?

A: To the best of our knowledge at this time, there are no special COVID-19 financial assistance programs set up directly to consumers. However, DuPage serving non-profit organizations may be eligible to apply for COVID-19 Response funds from the DuPage Foundation (<https://dupagefoundation.org/>). Many organizations have adapted and continue to serve clients. Several coalitions in DuPage continue to send out information and alerts as new resources become known. This includes the DuPage Federation, DuPage Health Coalition, the DuPage Homeless Continuum of Care and more. One DuPage resources is the DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform website at <https://www.dupagefederation.org/covid-19-coronavirus-resources>

22. Q: Will Pregnant mom's who delivered before March continue to receive a MC

A: If the individual was on Moms and Babies based on being over-income for Medicaid, then their coverage will continue until the end of the emergency period. If the individual was on Moms and Babies because their immigration status made them ineligible for other Medicaid benefits except Emergency Medicaid, then the federal government does not require maintaining their Moms and Babies coverage through the emergency. We are waiting to understand what Illinois will be doing in these situations.

23. Q: Can you please go over the information for undocumented children being eligible for SNAP

A: Undocumented children are not eligible for SNAP. However, the federal government has recognized that lots of children, including undocumented children, are missing school and therefore missing breakfast and lunch at school. So they created a program to pay for those meals. It's called Pandemic EBT or PEBT and any child can get it as long as they are eligible for free or reduced price meals or everyone in their school is eligible for free or reduced price meals (this is the case in all Chicago Public Schools). Families should be able to apply on the DHS website starting late this week (of 4/20) or early next week. They'll get assistance going back to March and eventually forward until the day school had been scheduled to end. After that, undocumented children are eligible for summer meals through the schools.

24. Q: What are financial assistance for healthcare coverage for undocumented residents outside of Cook County.

A: Individuals throughout the state are eligible for Emergency Medicaid. is not limited to Cook County. They may also be eligible for hospital charity care for services received at non-profit, tax-exempt hospitals depending on their income.

25. Q: Even though certain categories of persons are not subject to the public charge test, are there concerns that DHS, or ICE will be flagged for undocumented persons applying for any of these COVID benefits?

A: Do you mean that the State of Illinois will turn over their information to ICE? Nothing in the Public Charge rule changed the laws that protect the privacy of applicant's information. Illinois

does not disclose this information to immigration authorities. We cannot say that the federal authorities would never request this information from Illinois or whether, ultimately, Illinois might have to bend to that request. But applicants' information is not shared now. Likewise, hospitals and health centers do not report information to immigration authorities.

26. Q: if someone refuses emergency medicaid when they go to the ER can they change their mind and apply after their ER visit?

A: Because the application is actually submitted by the hospital, a person cannot just go to abe.illinois.gov and apply for Emergency Medicaid later. But it might be possible to contact the hospital billing department after a visit and work with them to put in an application.

27. Q: If your resident's card is expired can you apply for unemployment?

A: Yes. Someone with an expired green card is still a lawful permanent resident and therefore still qualifies for unemployment insurance.

28. Q: People receiving RSDI or SSDI, if they didn't file taxes, will they still receive the one-time direct payment? Or do they have to file taxes in order to receive the rebate?

A: Yes - the payments will be deposited in the same way that their monthly benefits are paid.

29. Q: So B1/B2 who is a family member of an IL resident will not receive Emergency Medicaid?

A: *Eligibility for Emergency Medical for Non-Citizens* (also known as Emergency Medicaid) is available to individuals who are otherwise eligible for Medicaid, except for their immigration status. This means that the individual still needs to be a resident of Illinois and still need to have household income of less than 138%FPL (\$17,236 for an individual). These eligible populations include:

- Some people with temporary protected status (TPS) who are in their one year waiting period,
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and
- People with lawful permanent resident (green card) status who have had that status for less than five years, and
- Undocumented adults

Not every immigration status qualifies for *Emergency Medical for Non-Citizens*. For instance, persons who are living in the U.S. temporarily and do not intend to remain here may not be eligible for Emergency Medical for Non-Citizens because they do not meet the state residency requirements.

30. Q: Does testing include the cost of the consultation/visit? For the IL response to uninsured.

A: Anyone who is uninsured or underinsured is encouraged to connect with a primary care provider such as an FQHC or community health center; call first as many are employing telehealth options. Uninsured individuals who need testing or treatment for COVID-19 should submit their application using ABE and then send an email with the application tracking number to HFS.Priority19@illinois.gov. HFS is encouraging counselors to assist individuals in submitting an application even if they are unsure as to whether a COVID-19 involved patient may be eligible for medical coverage. For more information, visit <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/prn200407b.aspx>. Also, Cook County Health (CCH) has an option to contact CCH Financial Counseling to see what options may be available for comprehensive health insurance (Medicaid, Marketplace). Patients ineligible for these types of health insurance may be eligible for CareLink, CCH's financial assistance program for Cook County residents. Since the financial situation of many people have changed over the last several weeks, Medicaid may be

available to many who were previously denied due to being over income. CCH Financial Counseling can be reached at (866) 223-2817 or (312) 864-2224, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 7 pm or Saturdays from 8 am to 4 pm.

31. Q: How a family can change home address if IDHS offices are closed and not able to contact via phone.

A: IDHS always prefers that addresses are changed online if possible. If that is not possible, you can either call the IDHS toll free number or you can call the emergency number for your local office. A list of those numbers is available at:

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123570>

32. Q: Is a mother with a Visitor Visa eligible to apply for WIC?

A: Undocumented mothers are eligible for WIC. Applicants must live in the state in which they apply. Applicants are not required to live in the state or local service area for a certain amount of time in order to meet the WIC residency requirement.

33. Q: if someone lost their medicaid starting april 1st because they weren't able to make their interview appointment etc., is there a way for them to temporarily regain coverage without reapplying?

A: No one's Medicaid should be terminated at this point. If on April 1, the person is indeed inactive in Medicaid, then post the question on HelpHub and we will try to get them reinstated.

34. Q: Sorry if I missed this... If someone lost their part-time job due to COVID can they apply for unemployment?

A: Yes.

35. Q: What is the max amount of wages for medicaid?

A: It depends upon how many people are in their household. But generally the income limit is 138% of the federal poverty level. There is a poverty level calculator here:

https://www.needymeds.org/FPL_Calculator.

36. Q: Just to confirm if someone has COVID19 their income is not counted or used to file a Medicaid application or they can be over income limit but may still qualify?

A: We understand that the Governor is working with hospitals and others to make sure that COVID testing and treatment are covered for all. We don't know all the details yet.

37. Q: Any housing help for NW suburbs?

A: It depends on the county and city, but there is increased homeless prevention funding available through the Emergency Solutions Grants. More information is available here:

<https://housingactionil.org/get-help/resources-homeless/>

38. Q: How would a tenant know if the landlord has a federally backed mortgage?

A: This is a difficult question because this information is not always public information. For federally subsidized buildings or buildings with multifamily loans, this is a great database:

<https://nlihc.org/news/nlihc-releases-searchable-database-and-map-multifamily-and-affordable-housing-properties>. It is not all inclusive, however, and will not include the loans for smaller buildings (i.e. those buildings that have 1-4 units). Advocates are working to get this information to be publicly available, and it will be released into this database when it is available.

39. Q: For the Emergency Paid Sick Leave and FMLA, can workers get these benefits if they've already been let go (retroactively)? I'm thinking about the undocumented workers who don't qualify for UI and now have no income.

A: No - unfortunately these programs are for currently employed workers. Please see: <https://legalcouncil.org/cares-stimulus-payments/>

40. Q: So the EBT benefit is in addition to the max snap amount?

A: Everyone is getting the maximum amount of SNAP for their household size for the months of April and May. Pandemic EBT can be received in addition to that maximum amount.

41. Q: Can we file SNAP on ABE using verbal consent to sign an application on their behalf via phone?

A: A small number of providers contracted by the state can do this for SNAP. For others, they must fill out a paper application and fax it to IDHS central processing in Springfield. In addition, while local offices are closed, an application faxed to one of those offices will be turned into an email and sent to a caseworker working remotely.

42. Q: Where can we get email updates on the status of PUA aside from checking ides website every day? PUA is scheduled to start May 11. However, applicants are being asked to apply for UI now. If denied, that denial will help prove PUA eligibility.

A: Please see Legal Aid Chicago website here: <https://www.legalaidchicago.org/newsroom/in-the-news/covid-19/>. Also see: <https://www.nelp.org/campaign/covid-19-unemployed-and-frontline-workers/>

43. Q: What kind of employers does this sick leave cover?

A: It covers employers with fewer than 500 employees. But may employers below 50 employees are able to qualify for exemptions.

44. Q: Will ITIN taxpayers get a rebate for their citizen children (\$500) even though they don't qualify for \$1,200.

A: No--the payments for children go only to those households where the person(s) filing the returns use Social Security Numbers to do so.

45. Q: Would asylees who have not yet applied for adjustment of status qualify for assistance?

A: Asylees are eligible for federally funded public benefits including SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and SSI.

46. Q: Can workers who are employed off the books claim state/federal COVID unemployment benefits?

A: Being employed off the books will not prevent someone from receiving PUA, a new federal program to provide unemployment benefits for people who do not qualify under the traditional unemployment system. However, to get PUA a person will need some means of documenting income - states will have a lot of flexibility in what counts here, but something is needed. People will also have to prove that they lost their job or got reduced hours due to COVID-19. And people will have to have a qualifying immigration status.

47. Q: Does everyone who receives unemployment get the extra \$600 on top? Or is that extra amount dependent on how much you receive in unemployment?

A: The extra assistance will be given for up to 13 weeks, through July 25. It goes to everyone who qualifies for unemployment, as long as they receive at least \$1 in unemployment in a given week.

48. Q: Does anyone know if those with pending asylum, U Visa applications and valid EADs can get unemployment insurance? or is that still unclear?

A: Anyone with valid work authorization should be able to claim unemployment insurance as long as their work authorization was valid while they were employed and remains valid while they are collecting unemployment.

Additional Resources:

- Latino Policy Forum COVID-19 page:
<https://www.latinopolicyforum.org/blog/coronavirus-resources>
- ICIRR has a webpage dedicated to useful tools and resources for immigrant families:
<https://www.icirr.org/community-resources>
- Legal Council for Health Justice: <https://legalcouncil.org/resources/coronavirus/>
- Shriver Center has a comprehensive webpage of resources:
<https://www.povertylaw.org/article/covid-19-resources-for-individuals-and-families-in-illinois/>
- Legal Aid Chicago link to UI and paid sick leave flyers (Spanish and English):
<https://www.legalaidchicago.org/newsroom/in-the-news/covid-19/>
- Heartland Alliance:
<https://www.heartlandalliance.org/research-and-policy/covid-19-policy-resources/>
- You can find Illinois Department of Human Services information in response to COVID-19 on the IDHS Coronavirus Website: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123118>
- The Illinois Department of Public Health has a statewide COVID-19 hotline and website: call 1-800-889-3931 or visit IDPH.illinois.gov.