

## Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors (Age 65 and older)

### What is the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors Program?

Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors is a new medical coverage program for non-citizens age 65 and older who do not have a qualifying immigration status for Medicaid. This program is entirely state-funded and provides access to medical benefits that are similar to the AABD Program (Aid for the Aged, Blind and Disabled).

NOTE: This program will **not** cover nursing facility services (long term care), funeral/burial expenses, and Home & Community Based Waiver Services

### Who is Eligible for Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors?

Illinois residents age 65 or older who are not eligible for Medicare or traditional Medicaid may apply for this program. Household income must be at or below 100% FPL (\$1,063/month single, \$1,437/family of 2). Resources are limited to \$2,000 or less for one person, \$3,000 or less for two people. Applicants must have an immigration or non-citizen status that does not meet the criteria for Medicaid, including:

- Undocumented;
- Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) for less than five years; or
- Another immigration status that is ineligible for traditional Medicaid.

### When does this program begin?

This program begins in December 2020, with backdating to September 1, 2020 for eligible households with medical expenses for the months of September - November 2020. Applicants may request backdating at time of application.

### How does someone apply?

The best way to apply is online at [www.abe.illinois.gov](http://www.abe.illinois.gov). Applications may also be submitted over the phone at 1-800-843-6154 or by mail/fax to a local Illinois Department of Human Services office. Find yours here: <https://tinyurl.com/lh5k4ub>

### What about Public Charge?

This program is entirely state-funded. Enrollment in this program should not count for public charge purposes. For more information about public charge, visit [www.protectingimmigrantfamiliesillinois.org](http://www.protectingimmigrantfamiliesillinois.org) or call the ICIRR Immigrant Family Resource Program at 1-855-437-7669.

Reference: IDHS Policy Memo (10/30/2020),  
*New Health Benefit Coverage for Immigrant Seniors*,  
Available online at <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=128154>