

# Emergency Medicaid

Emergency Medical Assistance through Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) is often referred to as Emergency Medicaid. It provides short-term health care coverage for eligible non-citizens who need treatment for a life or limb threatening emergency.

## Who Qualifies?

To be eligible for Emergency Medicaid, applicants must meet the same eligibility requirements as all other Health First Colorado applicants, with the exception of citizenship and/or eligible immigration status. Applicants will also need to have a qualifying life or limb threatening emergency to receive Emergency Medicaid because benefits are limited to treating medical emergencies only. Health First Colorado recognizes that all situations are unique, so if you meet all eligibility requirements, with the exception of citizenship, you should apply.

Some examples of potentially eligible applicants include, but are not limited to:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients
- Undocumented people (people without legal immigration status)
- Non-immigrant visa holders such as tourists and students
- Individuals granted Temporary Protected Status
- Adult legal permanent residents ('Green Card' holders) who have not reached the 5-year bar of lawful presence with the exception of children and pregnant people who qualify for Medicaid with full benefits

We encourage all applicants to apply, even if they are unsure if you have an eligible status.

Eligibility is determined on an individual level, so if a household includes citizens/eligible non-citizens, as well as non-eligible non-citizens, each household member will be individually approved for the appropriate Medical Assistance category.

Please keep in mind that you will need to also provide physical documentation (pay stubs, employer letters) to verify income if you do not have a social security number to verify income electronically.

## Benefits and services available through Emergency Medicaid:

Services required for the treatment of a medical emergency that is considered to be life or limb threatening.

Examples of covered services include but are not limited to:

- Severe symptoms from COVID-19
- Labor and delivery (not including prenatal or post-natal care)
- Dialysis for End-Stage Renal Disease at an inpatient or freestanding dialysis center
- Other life-threatening health emergencies (examples include but are not limited to severe chest pain, heart attack, overdose etc.)

## What Does It Cost?

There are no copays associated with Emergency Medicaid.

## Where Can I Get Emergency Treatment?

Go to your closest Emergency Room, or call 911.

## Frequently asked questions

### How can I apply for Emergency Medicaid?

Applications can be completed at the hospital when you receive treatment, or after being discharged by the usual method by mail, in-person, online via PEAK, or via telephone.

While all applicants for Health First Colorado or Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) will be asked to provide a social security number, you **do not** need a social security number to receive emergency services under Emergency Medicaid.

You can apply for Emergency Medicaid at the hospital at the time of the emergency care or after the fact for care received in the past three months. Pregnant people seeking coverage for future labor and delivery services can apply ahead of time for coverage if you would like to. Pregnant people can also apply while at the hospital or after being discharged.

**UPDATE:** Applicants will no longer need to obtain and submit a written physician statement certifying the presence of an emergency medical condition. The information that the physician will provide on the medical claim behind the scenes will be used to confirm the presence of a medical emergency.

You will need to submit a new application for each time you receive emergency care.

- If the duration of the emergency exceeds one month (i.e. regular dialysis for End-Stage Renal Disease), you will need to re-apply for Emergency Medicaid coverage every month.

You can apply online via PEAK, via phone by calling 1-800-221-3943, in-person, or paper application sent via mail. Information provided on an application is saved in the Colorado Benefits Management System (Colorado's online benefits system), so you re-apply online via PEAK or by phone, you will not have to report every piece of information when they re-apply. Each application for emergency medical services is limited to coverage for the life or limb threatening medical emergency that is certified in the physician's written statement. If a new medical emergency arises, you will need to submit a new application.

If you are applying online via PEAK they have received a benefit in the last 15 months or have a household member who is actively receiving benefits, you must make changes on PEAK's Report My Changes to apply for Emergency Medicaid. If you have questions about this, please contact your county of residence's [Department of Human Services](#) or a [local application assistance site](#).

### Where can I seek treatment for a medical emergency?

If you are very ill or injured, you may call 911, go to an urgent care center or go to an emergency department. Under Federal law, **all hospitals are required** to provide emergency services to all people, regardless of a person's immigration status or nationality, or ability to pay at the moment of service.

### Is the information that I share on my application, including my immigration or citizenship status information, shared with other Federal agencies, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services?

No, the information that all applicants provide on their application is **confidential** and **cannot be shared** with any Federal agency including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

### What is Emergency Medical Assistance (Emergency Medicaid)?

Emergency Medical Assistance through Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) is often referred to as Emergency Medicaid. It provides short-term health care coverage for eligible non-citizens who need treatment for a life or limb threatening emergency.

### Who is Eligible for Emergency Medicaid?

To be eligible for Emergency Medicaid, applicants must meet the same eligibility requirements as all other Health First Colorado applicants, with the exception of citizenship and/or eligible immigration status. Applicants will also need to have a qualifying life or limb threatening emergency to receive Emergency Medicaid because benefits are limited to treating medical emergencies only. Health First Colorado recognizes that all situations are unique, so if you meet all eligibility requirements, with the exception of citizenship, you should apply.

Some examples of potentially eligible applicants include, but are not limited to:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients
- Undocumented people (people without legal immigration status)
- Non-immigrant visa holders such as tourists and students
- Individuals granted Temporary Protected Status
- Adult legal permanent residents ('Green Card' holders) who have not reached the 5-year bar of lawful presence with the exception of children and pregnant people who qualify for Medicaid with full benefits

We encourage all applicants to apply, even if they are unsure if you have an eligible status.

Eligibility is determined on an individual level, so if a household includes citizens/eligible non-citizens, as well as non-eligible non-citizens, each household member will be individually approved for the appropriate Medical Assistance category.

Please keep in mind that you will need to also provide physical documentation (pay stubs, employer letters) to verify income if you do not have a social security number to verify income electronically.

### **What services does Emergency Medicaid cover?**

The term "Emergency Medical Condition" is defined as a medical condition (including emergency labor and delivery) that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain), such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:

- Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to bodily function; or
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Examples of covered services include but are not limited to:

- Severe symptoms from COVID-19
- Labor and delivery (not including prenatal or post-natal care)
- Dialysis for End-Stage Renal Disease at an inpatient or freestanding dialysis center

- Other life-threatening health emergencies (examples include but are not limited to severe chest pain, heart attack, overdose etc.)

Services must be determined as emergency treatment by a physician to be covered. A physician shall make a written statement certifying the presence of an emergency medical condition when services are provided and shall indicate that services were for a medical emergency. Coverage is limited to care and services that are necessary to treat immediate emergency medical conditions. Coverage does not include prenatal care or follow-up care.

Emergency Medicaid will not cover routine physician appointments, prenatal, other routine care, or care that is not certified by the physician as emergency care.

### If I already received Emergency Medicaid once in the past year, do I need to reapply for another emergency?

Yes, you will need to submit a new application for time you receive emergency care. If the duration of the emergency exceeds one month (i.e. regular dialysis for End-Stage Renal Disease), you will need to re-apply for Emergency Medicaid coverage each month.

You can apply online via PEAK, via phone by calling 1-800-221-3943, in-person, or paper application sent via mail. Information provided on an application is saved in the Colorado Benefits Management System (Colorado's online benefits system), so if you re-apply via PEAK or by phone, you will not have to report every piece of information when you re-apply. Each application for emergency medical services is limited to coverage for the life or limb threatening medical emergency that is certified in the physician's written statement. If you experience a new emergency, you will need to submit a new application.

### What services are covered by Emergency Medicaid?

Emergency services include transportation, emergency room and urgent care outpatient services. Laboratory, X-ray and other medical tests may be provided during emergency room visits when ordered by a doctor and are

- Life or limb threatening
- A serious injury
- Emergency Medical Assistance for Labor & Delivery

Emergency Medical Assistance only covers labor and delivery costs for pregnant people and does not cover prenatal care costs. Clients with Emergency Medicaid must arrange payment for prenatal services with their prenatal care provider.

**I still have questions about Emergency Medicaid and/or need help in completing my application. What should I do?**

For in-person help please visit your county of residence's [Department of Human Services](#) or a [local application assistance site](#). They can help you with:

- Applying for Health First Colorado benefits, including Emergency Medical Assistance
- Questions about your benefits and co-payments
- Questions or issues with bills you may be receiving

**Health First Colorado's Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943**

**The Member's Contact Center is open Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 4:30pm (except during staff meetings on Fridays from 2:30pm - 3:30pm and for all State Holidays).**