



POLICY MEMO

Title: Reduction to Refugee Medical Assistance Eligibility Period	Topic: Eligibility Policy
Audience: Eligibility Sites	Sub-Topic: Refugee Medical Assistance
Supersedes Number: N/A	Division: Eligibility Division
Effective Date: May 5, 2025	Office: Medicaid Operations Office and Office of New Americans
Expiration Date: May 5, 2028	Program Area: Eligibility
Key Words: Refugee, Medical Assistance, RMA, Eligibility Period	
Legal Authority: Office of Refugee Resettlement, ORR DCL 25-13, 90 FR 13370	
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Policy Memo Number: HCPF PM 25-004	
Issue Date: July 15, 2025	
Approved By: Ralph Choate	

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Purpose and Audience:

This policy memo explains the Department’s reduction of the eligibility period for Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) and is intended for County Department of Human/Social Services eligibility staff, supervisors, as well as Medical Assistance Sites and Enrollment Assistant Program (EAP) sites.

Background:

The federal 1980 Refugee Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(e)(1)) authorizes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide RMA to ORR-eligible populations. Additionally, 45 CFR 400.211(a) allows the ORR Director to determine the eligibility period for these benefits based on available appropriated funds, ORR-eligible population predictions, and reports from the states on receipts of assistance and expenditures. In 2022, ORR increased the RMA eligibility period from 8 months to 12 months. In March 2025, ORR published a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL 25-13) and published a Notice of Change of Eligibility (90 FR 13370), announcing the ORR Director’s decision to shorten the RMA eligibility period from 12 months to 4 months, citing a projected significant budget shortfall. For participants who become eligible

for ORR benefits on or after May 5, 2025 (45 days from the announcement), ORR has shortened the RMA eligibility period from 12 months to 4 months. Individuals who became eligible for ORR benefits on or before May 4, 2025, would remain eligible for up to 12 months of RMA coverage.

The Colorado Office of New Americans with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing are updating the Colorado Code of Regulations and the Colorado Benefit Management System (CBMS) to comply with this new federal guidance.

CBMS Changes

On August 10, 2025, CBMS will be updated with Project CPPM-11443 - Reduction of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Eligibility Period. This project updates the RMA eligibility period from 12 months to 4 months for members with an Entry Date of May 5, 2025, or later.

Active RMA members with an Entry Date of May 5, 2025, or later, who were approved for RMA prior to the implementation of this project, will have their eligibility period reduced to 4 months at the time of implementation. The last day of coverage will be the last day of the fourth (4th) month. Additionally, eligibility will be assessed at the end of the 4 months through the hierarchy for any other coverage option as is customary. These members will receive a notice at the end of their 4-month RMA eligibility period that their coverage has ended.

For members with an entry date before May 5, 2025, the current functionality allows a 12-month RMA period to remain in place.

Eligibility

As of May 5, 2025, no additional changes to eligibility will be implemented affecting RMA. The current RMA eligibility requirements rule, 9 CCR 2503-3.340, is in the process of being revised and relocated by the Office of New Americans. The rule citation, in the meantime, will remain without the new requirements to the eligibility period until such revision and relocation is completed.

Training

As of August 10, 2025, there is no new training to be provided for this project. Existing training will be updated accordingly.

Attachment(s):

None

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