

RItE Care Coverage *for* Immigrant Children and Families

Questions & Answers *for* Helper Organizations

October 2010

1. What is RItE Care?

RItE Care is a health insurance program for children, their parents and pregnant women.

RItE Care is available at no cost or at low-cost (up to \$92 per month), depending on a family's income.

Families choose one of two health plans: UnitedHealthcare of New England or Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island.

2. Who can be covered under RItE Care?

Children under 19 years old (do not need to be living with parents)

Parents/caretaker relatives living with children

Pregnant women

Everyone who needs RItE Care coverage must meet:

Family income guidelines; and

Eligible immigrant status or U.S. citizenship requirements; and

Rhode Island residency requirement (plan to live in Rhode Island indefinitely).

3. What are the family income guidelines for RItE Care?

Both working and unemployed families can qualify for RItE Care.

	Children and/or Pregnant Women may qualify for RItE Care...	Parents may qualify for RItE Care along with children and pregnant women...
If a Family Size is...	And a Family's Monthly Income Is...	And a Family's Monthly Income Is...
1*	\$2,256 or less	N/A
2**	\$3,035 or less	\$2,125 or less
3	\$3,815 or less	\$2,670 or less
4	\$4,594 or less	\$3,216 or less
5	\$5,373 or less	\$3,761 or less

Notes: Income limits are 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for children and pregnant women and 175% FPL for parents. Some deductions can be applied to gross earned income in determining eligibility. Families are encouraged to apply even if their income is somewhat higher than the listed limits. Income limits may increase slightly each year based on federal guidelines.

*For young person who is not living with parents.

**Pregnant women count as a family of two.

4. Are immigrants able to enroll in RItE Care?

Yes, some immigrants can qualify for RItE Care, if they meet the income guidelines above and are Rhode Island residents. In general, immigrants must have legal status to qualify and must show copies of immigration documents when they apply. The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) checks these immigration documents with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Immigrant Status	Children	Parents	Pregnant Women
Lawful permanent resident (LPR) [Green card]	Eligible	Not eligible until in LPR status for five years (unless entered U.S. before 8/22/96)	Eligible
Refugee	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Asylee	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)	Eligible	Not eligible	Eligible
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)	Eligible	Not eligible	Eligible
Granted withholding of deportation/removal	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Undocumented/No legal status	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible

Source: *Medical Assistance Eligibility for Non-Citizens*, Poverty Institute, May 2010. More detailed information on other status categories and documentation for each category is available in the source document at www.povertyinstitute.org.

5. Can pregnant women who are immigrants get coverage through RIte Care?

Yes. All women who meet income guidelines and are Rhode Island residents are eligible while they are pregnant, including women who do not have legal immigrant status. Women who hold student visas and women who have tourist visas and whose I-94 (arrival/departure record) has not expired are not considered Rhode Island residents and are not eligible.

6. Are babies born to women who are immigrants eligible for RIte Care?

Babies born in the United States are citizens. If the baby's parents are Rhode Island residents and the family's income meets RIte Care guidelines, the baby is eligible for RIte Care, even if the parent is not an eligible immigrant.

7. Are immigrant women who just gave birth eligible for RIte Care?

All women who are covered by RIte Care while they are pregnant will continue to have coverage for 60 days after giving birth. After 60 days, the new mother's eligibility for RIte Care depends on her family income, residency and her immigration status. RIte Care income guidelines for parents are lower than they are for pregnant women and children. Not all immigrant women who qualify while they are pregnant will have a qualifying immigrant status once the baby is born. (See the chart on the first page to compare the income guidelines and immigration requirements for parents with those for pregnant women.)

All new mothers who are not eligible for RIte Care after the 60 day post-partum period are eligible for Extended Family Planning (EFP). EFP benefits cover medical services relating to family planning only and do not include other health care benefits. EFP is available for women with incomes less than 250% FPL (less than \$3,815 per month for a family of 3, for example) for up to 24 months after RIte Care eligibility ends (with renewal required at the 12th month of coverage).

8. If a child is a U.S. citizen but their parent is undocumented, can the child enroll in RIte Care?

Yes, citizen children are eligible for RIte Care as long as family income is within the guidelines and the child is a Rhode Island resident. If the application is only for the child, the parent does not need to provide information about his/her immigration status. If the parent has income, he/she must show proof with pay stubs or statements from employers.

9. Will getting RIte Care coverage have any negative consequences for immigrants with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)?

No. RIte Care coverage is not considered as part of the "public charge" determination when an immigrant is applying to become a lawful permanent resident. RIte Care coverage is not considered when a lawful permanent resident seeks to become a U.S. citizen.

10. Where can families go for more information about RIte Care?

Meet with a Family Resource Counselor Find one by calling (401) 274-1771 (Ext. 217)

- Family Resource Counselors (FRCs) help families apply for RIte Care confidentially and for free. FRCs answer questions about the application, help families fill out the forms and send all paperwork to the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS is the state agency that runs RIte Care. DHS decides who is eligible according to state and federal rules.
- FRCs are located at Community Health Centers, hospitals and some community-based organizations. Some FRCs offer evening appointments and some speak languages such as Spanish, Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole, Haitian Creole, Khmer and others.
- Call the Rhode Island Health Center Association at 401-274-1771 (Ext. 217) or click on www.rihca.org to get contact information for FRCs. Anyone can leave a message at Ext. 217 for a confidential return phone call.

Call the DHS RIte Care InfoLine at (401) 462-5300 or Click on DHS website at www.dhs.ri.gov

- The DHS RIte Care Info Line (401-462-5300) has interpreters available at no cost and does not require personal information for general questions. The InfoLine is open between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.



Rhode Island KIDS COUNT



Note: The information in this publication is based on federal and state rules. It is presented as general information and should not be considered legal advice or eligibility determination.