Impact of H.R.1 / One Big Beautiful Bill Act on Refugees and ORR-eligible Humanitarian Entrants

Sources: Global Refuge, Church World Service, Welcome.US, USAHello, IDHW

Last updated: Oct. 14, 2026

Background:

H.R.1, passed by Congress in July 2025, limits eligibility for refugee and humanitarian populations to access food and medical benefits before becoming lawful permanent residents (LPRs/green card holders).

Impacted populations:

- Humanitarian parolees, including Uniting for Ukraine and the Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans
- Resettled refugees, including individuals sponsored through the Welcome Corps
- Asylees without green cards
- Asylum applicants
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders
- Persons granted deferred action or protection from removal
- Survivors of domestic violence who have filed a self-petition under the Violence Against Women Act
- Victims of trafficking
- Individuals granted withholding of removal
- Battered immigrants
- Conditional immigrants
- Amerasians
- American Indians born abroad

H.R.1 limits benefit eligibility to:

- Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs)
- Cuban/Haitian entrants
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) Citizens
- U.S. Citizens and Nationals
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders who received LPR status upon arrival

Timeline for Eligibility Changes

1. **As of March 2026, phased in:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/food stamps)
2. **Starting Oct. 1, 2026:** Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

3. **Starting Jan. 1, 2027:** Subsidies through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) (Your Health Idaho exchange)
4. **Starting Jan. 27, 2027:** Medicare

Waiting period?

Guidance from the USDA's Food Nutrition Service clarifies that refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, and other humanitarian entrants who become Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) are not subject to the five-year waiting period that many other LPRs face before becoming eligible for federal benefits, including SNAP.

Refugees must apply to adjust to LPR status after 1 year in the U.S. Processing delays are creating long wait times for approval.

Idaho Contact - Eligibility

All eligibility determinations, including those involving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), are handled by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Division of Self-Reliance.

Current guidance from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is that clients on SSI will still be able to receive SSI, if otherwise eligible, but that will not prevent them from losing Medicaid eligibility if their immigration status is among the impacted groups.

SSI/SSDI Medicaid-loss should be directed to Self-Reliance. Disability-related cases may require additional steps and should be escalated through SR's Medical Review Team.

Contacts / Resources:

- Self-Reliance Benefits Team: 877-456-1233
- Email: MyBenefits@dhw.idaho.gov

Update: Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance

For their first 12 months in the U.S., refugee clients are eligible for Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance. The eligibility period was extended to 12 months on Oct. 1

The eligibility period was previously capped at 4 months but extended to 8 months in July 2026 for eligible populations arriving on or after Jan. 1, 2026. The eligibility period was again extended to 12 months on Oct. 1, 2026, for eligible populations arriving on or after Jan. 1, 2026.

Community Resources

Resettlement services, including case management, employment services, and resource navigation, are available to eligible resettled populations for up to 5 years after arriving in the U.S.

Please contact a resettlement agency in Idaho for more information:

- **Agency for New Americans**
  - 3501 W Elder St Ste 104, Boise, ID, 83705
  - 208-338-0033
  - Immigration walk-ins: Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please note that wait times vary on walk-in days. You can also make an appointment on Monday.
- **International Rescue Committee**
  - 7285 W. Franklin Rd. Boise, ID 83709
  - 208-559-6825
  - Come to the office on a Tuesday between 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or Thursday between 1:00-3:00 p.m. for an intake assessment. No appointment is necessary. Individuals will be seen on a first come, first served basis. Wait times will vary each week.
- **USCRI Twin Falls**
  - 208-736-2166
  - 1526 Highland Ave. E., Twin Falls, ID 83301
  - Newly arrived refugees receive a comprehensive set of services including housing placement, cultural orientation, school enrollment, coordination of initial health appointments, referrals to ESL classes, and employment preparation and placement.

Other Idaho resources:

- **FindHelpIdaho.org**
  - Comprehensive list of resources across the state; curated by United Ways of Idaho and updated every 6 months
- **Idaho Office for Refugees** – state refugee office
  - Contact: 208-947-4296 or iorinfo@idahorefugees.org
  - Community Resource Guide
- **English Language Center**

    - Free English classes for adults in Boise. Also provides courses on digital literacy and citizenship prep. Contact ELC (text, call, or WhatsApp) at 208-949-0238.
- **TANTA, Inc.**
    - Contact: info@tantainc.org
    - TANTA is a Boise-based nonprofit that provides support to community members in navigating resources.
    - TANTA is leading a coalition of health providers in Idaho called the Community Health Access Partnership (CHAP) in response to the eligibility changes in HR1. To get connected, please email iorinfo@idahorefugees.org.

Guides & Translations

USAHello provides the following guides, with translations available in the drop-down menu in the top-left corner of the page:

- Immigration Guide to help you stay informed and safe as immigration policies change.
- How to calculate and pay USCIS fees
- Immigrant benefits and refugee services

From the National Immigration Law Center:

- Public Benefits for Immigrants: A Guide for Practitioners

Medicaid Fact Sheets

Work requirements for Medicaid expansion recipients – *Idaho Department of Health and Welfare*

Changes to Medicaid Expansion in 2027 – *Idaho Department of Health and Welfare*

H.R.1 Impact on Idahoans – *Idaho Supports Medicaid*

H.R.1 Health Provisions and Timeline – *Idaho Supports Medicaid*

At a Glance: Medicaid in Idaho – *Idaho Supports Medicaid*

A Summary of Federal Medicaid Work Requirements – *Center for Health Care Strategies*