

MinnesotaCare Immigrant Inclusion Act

Fact Sheet

Everyone deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare.

Across race, income, and zip code every person deserves access to healthcare, no exception. For too long, Minnesota law has excluded undocumented immigrants from accessing Minnesota Health Care Programs.

- According to 2019 estimates, 81,000 undocumented immigrants live in Minnesota--they are our neighbors, families, co-workers, and caretakers who need healthcare like everyone else.
- Under current law, undocumented immigrants are only eligible for Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) which covers limited emergency room related care. EMA does not cover preventative care or chronic conditions, even when the long-term effect would be hospitalization or death.
- Healthcare exclusions contribute to extreme inequities. Latinx Minnesotans have died of COVID-19 at twice the age-adjusted rate of white Minnesotans and their age-adjusted ICU-admittance rate for COVID-19 is nearly four times higher.

MinnesotaCare Immigrant Inclusion Proposals

Three proposals introduced in 2023 would allow undocumented immigrants who are otherwise eligible to enroll in MinnesotaCare and pay the same affordable premiums based on their income as other Minnesota residents.

1. The Minnesota Inclusion Act (HF1095, SF896) removes the ban on MinnesotaCare eligibility for undocumented immigrants.
2. The MinnesotaCare Public Option (HF96, SF49) section 4 contains the same MinnesotaCare Inclusion provision.
3. Governor Walz' budget proposal extends MinnesotaCare coverage to undocumented children.

Health equity requires action

Our health and wellbeing is interconnected. Minnesota has explicit health equity goals, yet state law excludes undocumented immigrants, many of whom are people of color and essential workers, from accessing Minnesota Health Care Programs. MinnesotaCare Immigrant Inclusion proposals take critical action to ensure our state public health insurance program leaves nobody out. Eleven other states cover all undocumented youth with state funds. Five states and the District of Columbia removed restrictions to cover some or all age groups of undocumented adults. Minnesota's immigrant inclusion proposals have strong support from community, faith, labor, healthcare, and racial justice organizations.