

EMERALD ISLE IMMIGRATION CENTER

www.eiic.org

Bronx Office
4275 Katonah Avenue, Woodlawn, NY 10470
Tel: 718-324-3039 – Fax: 718-324-7741

Queens Office
59-26 Woodside Ave, Woodside, NY 11377
Tel: 718-478-5502 – Fax: 718-446-3727

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EIIC'S NEW IMMIGRANTS NEWS

Monthly Newsletter



EIIC
Health Care
Assistance Service
Please call the
718-478-5502 ext. 209



EIIC provides confidential and personal consultations on your Health Care coverage under the Affordable Care Act

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Immigration Consequences of Public Charge and Receipt of Public Benefits

A public charge is a term used to describe a person who relies on public benefits for their income. Examples of a “public charge” are “Temporary Assistance for Needy Families” (TANF), “Supplemental Security Income” (SSI), or “state general assistance.” Based on your status, it is good to know what is considered a public charge and how this will affect your eligibility to gain Lawful Permanent Resident Status or your US Citizenship.

Immigrants applying to become Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR):

An immigrant who is applying to become an LPR will not be considered a public charge for using the following:

- Healthcare benefits such as Medicaid, medical care at public hospitals, clinics, and long-term care settings.
- Food programs such as WIC or food stamps.
- Other programs that do not give cash such as public housing, childcare, or energy assistance.

The United States Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS) may review your case if you rely on cash benefits programs described above, or if you have been put in an institution such as a mental health facility for a long period of time.

Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Cards Holders)

LPRs who already have residence status cannot lose their status if they or their family members use the following:

- Federally funded healthcare, food programs, cash welfare or long term care (there are some exceptions. Please see the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website for more information www.uscis.gov).
- LPR's who already have a green card and use public benefits for which they are eligible cannot be turned down for US Citizenship.

Sponsoring Relatives

Using benefits doesn't prevent U.S. citizen and LPRs from petitioning relatives.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Refugees and people granted asylum can use all public benefits without hurting their chances of gaining a green card.

For more information please go to the National Immigration Law Center website:

<http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/bu/ebupdate995.htm>

Citizenship and Immigrant Eligibility for Health Coverage in New York State And Healthcare for Uninsured Immigrants

The EIIC is committed to helping you understand your health coverage options in New York State. All immigrants are eligible to receive different levels of public health insurance and always have the right to receive emergency medical care at participating facilities.

New York City's Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC)

Under "New York City's Health and Hospitals Corporation" (HHC), all uninsured New Yorkers, including legal and undocumented immigrants, can receive health care. You will not be denied care if you cannot pay. The facility will work with you to help you pay for your medical condition on a "sliding scale" cost. This means the hospital helps you set up a payment plan that you can afford. These facilities can also help patients sign up for free or low-cost public health insurance. Facilities include; federally funded community health centers, public and private hospitals, treatment centers, and long-term health care facilities.

US Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders)

Persons can qualify for Medicaid and/or Family Health Plus, Emergency Child Health Plus, and "Pre-natal care" (PCAP) options with proper documentation.

All of these programs are available regardless of how long you have been in the country.

Each program has their own rules regarding income requirements and resources. Please review the Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access for further details.

Undocumented Immigrants

- All undocumented immigrants will be treated for any emergency medical condition at any HHC facility; public hospital or clinic on a "sliding scale" cost.
- All pregnant women can receive free "Pre-natal Care" (PCAP) at public hospitals or clinics.
- Children under the age of 19 may be eligible for "Child Health Plus Coverage" (CHPlus).
- Hospital and facility health care workers will not report you to the DHS.
- If you do not have a social security number tell a hospital worker that you would like to speak with someone regarding payment options.

PRUCOL

If you are a person "Permanently Residing in the United States under Color of Law" (PRUCOL) and do not have an immigration status, you may also qualify for Medicaid and/or Family Health Plus options with proper documentation.

Under most categories (with the exception of PRUCOL), the Federal Government will share a cost of your medical care with you under "Federal Financial Participation" (FFP).

Important websites:

NYC health insurance link provides information on finding and comparing health insurance options:
www.nyc.gov/hilink

The Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/hia/html/public_insurance/immigrant.shtml

Child Health Plus medical coverage website and information:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/chplus/who_is_eligible.htm

The Financial Clinic Free Tax Preparation Services

The Financial Clinic assists working families and individuals with immediate financial challenges and helping them create paths for long-term goals and financial mobility. The Financial Clinic is offering Free Tax Preparation Services please call the Centers below to make an appointment and mention you are working with the Financial Empowerment Center in Queens.

MoneyUp and Financial Aid U sites

BROOKLYN

Partnership for the Homeless

(**FAFSA Assistance Available**)

100 Pennsylvania Avenue, East New York, Brooklyn

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10-3pm; Saturday 10-5pm

646.552.0584

MANHATTAN

Nazareth Housing (**FAFSA Assistance Available**)

519 East 11th Street & 206 East 4th Street, Lower East Side

Tuesday and Thursday: 10-5pm; Wednesday & Friday 1-8pm; Saturday 9-5pm

646.492.2417

QUEENS

CUNY School of Law (**FAFSA Assistance Available**)

65-21 Main Street, Flushing, Queens

Friday: 2-8pm; Saturday 10-6pm; Thursday 5-8pm

646.543.9829

NYCHA Pomonok

6704 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, Queens

Tuesday & Thursday: 5-8pm;

646.515.2174

NYCHA Baisley

161-28 Mathias Avenue, Jamaica, Queens

Wednesday & Saturday 10-3pm

646.515.2174

ALL CUSTOMERS SHOULD BRING:

Photo ID

Social Security card or copy for filer and filer's dependents

IN ADDITION, CUSTOMERS SHOULD ALSO BRING (if applicable):

Income statements:

- W-2 of wages and salary
- 1099 G -unemployment benefits
- Social Security Award Letter for Social Security Retirement or Disability
- 1099R pension or retirement/annuity distribution
- Records/bank statements that reflect self-employment/cash income
- 1099INT - interest earned on savings or security deposit
- 1098-T for university or higher education expenses
- Receipts for babysitter
- 1098-E for interest on student loans paid
- 1099 C - Cancellation of debt
- Previous year tax return
- VOIDED CHECK or account and routing number for direct deposit



Tax Information Seminar



EIIC attorney, Immigration Counselor and a private accountant will be available to provide **free information and answers to your immigration and tax filing questions**

<p>Wednesday, March 9, 2011 6 PM Queens Office 59-26 Woodside Ave Woodside, NY 11377 Tel: (718) 478-5502 Fax: 718 446 3727</p>	<p>Thursday, March 10, 2011 6 PM Bronx Office 4275 Katonah Avenue Bronx, NY 10470 Tel: (718) 324-3039 Fax: (718) 324-7741</p>
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We thank the following for their contributions:

Karla Rosero Esq., Eoin Delap, Liz Baber and Sarah KostECKi

For announcements, comments and articles, please contact:

Liz Baber at
coordinator@eiic.org



How the Health Reform law works?

Emerald Isle Immigration Center invites the community members to our free workshop on the Health Care Reform

Friday, February 25, 2011
6 PM

A Special Thanks

The Emerald Isle Immigration Center would like to thank the volunteers from the New York Cares Organization and St. John's University for lending a helping hand to our cause.

Thank you.