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503.01 Refugee Assistance Program

(Eff. 12/01/14)

The Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) is a MAGI eligibility category that offers Medicaid coverage to refugees.

A refugee is an individual who is outside his/her native country and is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Refugees include, but are not limited to, Iraqis, Afghans, Cuban-Haitian Entrants, and Amerasian immigrants.

Asylees meet the definition of “refugee” for eligibility purposes. Asylees are individuals who travel to the United States, and then apply for and receive a grant of asylum. These individuals do not enter the United States as refugees. They may enter as students, tourists, business people, or without papers. Once they are in the United States, or at a land border or port of entry, asylees are eligible for services once the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has granted asylum.

503.01.01 Eligibility Criteria

(Eff. 12/01/14)

Before eligibility for the Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) can be established the applicant must be considered for full coverage Medicaid eligibility. If the refugee does not qualify for any other Medicaid program, they may be eligible under RAP.

503.01.01A Categorical Criteria

(Eff. 12/01/14)

To be eligible for RAP a person must prove, by providing documentation issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that he or she was:

* Admitted as a refugee under Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationalities Act (INA);
* Paroled into the U.S. as a refugee or asylee under Section 212 (d)(5) of the INA;
* Granted conditional entry under Section 203 (a)(7) of the INA;
* Admitted as an Amerasian Immigrant from Vietnam through the orderly departure program, under Section 584 of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, incorporated in the FY88 Continuing Resolution P.L. 100-212;
* A Cuban-Haitian entrant who was admitted as a public interest parolee under Section 212 (d)(5) of the INA; or
* An Iraq or Afghanistan entrant who has been granted Special Immigrant status under Section 101 (a)(27) of the INA.

There is no requirement for an applicant applying for RAP to have a qualifying child in order to meet categorical eligibility and receive RAP coverage.

503.01.01B Non-Financial Criteria

(Eff. 12/01/14)

To be eligible for RAP an individual must:

* Be a refugee as outlined in MPPM 204.10.01;
* Be a South Carolina resident;
* Provide a Social Security Number or proof that one was applied for;
* Not be incarcerated as an inmate; and
* Not be eligible for any other full coverage Medicaid program.

The refugee may be eligible for RAP benefits through the eighth month from the date of entry into the United States. The eligibility worker will start the eight-month count with the date of entry month as the first month. Once the refugee has been in the United States for eight months, based on the date of entry on the I-94, I-151, or I-551 card, RAP benefits must be terminated on the last day of the eighth month.

After eight months, the refugee must qualify under another coverage group to be eligible for full benefits. If the refugee qualifies, the individual can receive full Medicaid benefits for up to seven years. After seven years, the individual must meet the 40 work quarters/five year criteria for full benefits; otherwise, they can only qualify for emergency services.

In contrast to refugees, asylees are eligible for Medicaid coverage the day asylum is granted. Asylees are eligible for RAP benefits through the eighth month from the date their asylum is granted.

503.01.01C Financial Criteria

(Eff. 12/01/14)

Applicants must meet 62% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) to be eligible for the RAP eligibility category. Financial eligibility is determined by using MAGI methodology. For more information about MAGI methodology, refer to MPPM 203.03.

Compare the net countable income to the PCR Need Standard for the budget group size. To qualify for PCR the budget group must have net countable income less than or equal to the PCR Need Standard.

503.02 Case Processing Procedures

(Eff. 12/01/14)

A completed and signed Medicaid application form is required. The preferred application to use for the Refugee Assistance Program is the Healthy Connection Application, DHHS Form 3400.

If the family is applying for another Medicaid program, such as Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD), it is possible for the refugee to receive benefits under RAP through the eighth month from the date of entry while the ABD application is pending.

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| **Manual Eligibility of RAP Case** |
| Manual Eligibility is used to ensure Medicaid coverage is available to RAP beneficiaries. Use the following steps in ACCESS to apply Manual Eligibility to RAP cases:   * First, complete the MAGI Workbook to determine the individual’s household composition and financial eligibility. * Second, open ACCESS, and click on the Application Case Tab. * Click on the Evidence Tab. * Click on the Evidence link on the Side Panel. * Click on the New Evidence link. The New Evidence list will open. * Select All from the Category drop-down menu. * Reorganize the list display by clicking on the word Type at the top of the left-hand column. The list now displays in alphabetical order by evidence type. * Move the scroll bar to the right of the list until Manual Eligibility is displayed. * Click on the List Action Menu button to the right of this evidence type, and select Add. * The Manual Eligibility evidence dialogue box opens. Fill in the following information:   + Received Date: Enter the date of application.   + Name Participant: Select the name from the drop-down menu. (Refer back to the MAGI Workbook for participant names that meet the RAP criteria.)   + Payment Category: Select REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE – 70 from the drop-down menu.   + Qualifying Category: Select 70 from the drop-down menu.   + Benefits Code: Select F (Full) from the drop-down menu.   + Start Date: Enter the date of application.   + End Date: Enter the End Date. Remember that RAP coverage lasts eight months from the date of entry. A work task must be set in OnBase for follow-up RAP periods.   + Additional Information: Do not add or change any information to this section. * Click the Save button. * Repeat steps for each additional eligible applicant. * After the evidence dialogue box closes, click the Refresh button on the Evidence Dashboard. The Manual Eligibility evidence type will now be displayed under the Participant Data category. * For more information, refer to the *Processing a Refugee Application in ACCESS* Job Aid. |

503.03 Budgeting

(Eff. 12/01/14)

Once the income of all budget group members has been reported and verified, the eligibility worker calculates the countable monthly income by using the MAGI Workbook to determine financial eligibility for the budget group. The budget group's monthly gross income is compared to 62% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). If the monthly earned income is less than or equal to the limit, then eligibility for RAP coverage is approved.

Refugee resettlement checks and third-party payments are not counted as income.

503.03.01 Retroactive Coverage

(Eff. 12/01/14)

If the applicant meets all the RAP eligibility requirements in each of the retroactive months, the RAP applicant may be eligible for retroactive benefits in the three months preceding the application month. Eligibility for each retroactive month must be determined separately.

503.03.02 Changes in Income

(Eff. 12/01/14)

Eligibility for RAP is based on the applicant’s income on the date of application. If a refugee is determined eligible and later receives earnings from employment, the refugee will continue to receive benefits through the eighth month from the date of entry into the United States regardless of income earned. The month of entry is considered the first month.

Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrants will receive benefits through the eighth month from their date of U.S. entry as “special immigrants” or from the date of their conversion to special immigrant status.

503.04 RAP Eligibility Determination Flow Chart

(Eff. 12/01/14)

(1.) The Healthy Connections Application, DHHS FM 3400, is completed and signed by the applicant.

(2.) The eligibility worker determines that the applicant is not eligible under any other Medicaid program.

(4.) The eligibility worker verifies the refugee’s alien status and date of arrival, copies both sides of the USCIS (U.S. of Citizenship and Immigration Services) documentation, such as an I-94, and verifies the documentation is accurate through SAVE.

If SAVE has not been updated with the refugee’s alien status, the worker can use the letter from Lutheran Family Services as verification that the documentation is accurate. In this case, the worker should also send Form G-845s, SAVE Documentation Verification Request, and copies of the USCIS documentation, such as an I-94.

(3.) The eligibility worker determines RAP eligibility for refugees not eligible under any other Medicaid program or for refugees who will be in pending status for another Medicaid program.

(5.) If found eligible for RAP, the refugee may receive benefits through the eighth month from the month of arrival.

(6.) The eligibility worker completes the determination in ACCESS, using the case processing procedures found in MPPM 204.10.04.

(7.) Complete the closure process by completing the procedure found in MPPM 204.10.04.

503.05 RAP Budgeting Examples

(Rev. 05/01/15)

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| **RAP Budgeting Examples** |
| **Example #1:** Nashi Omri Garane came to Columbia, SC from the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya on February 2, 2014, and applied for assistance on February 9, 2014. He has verification that an application has been made for a Social Security Number, and SAVE has verified he is a refugee. His sponsor is providing shelter assistance only. He is not married, does not have a dependent child, and is not disabled. He does not plan to file taxes or be claimed as a tax dependent. He has no earned or unearned income. He meets all other RAP criteria.  Therefore, Mr. Garane is eligible for RAP. His RAP eligibility will begin in February 2014, and will continue until September 31, 2014. |
| **Example #2:** The same circumstances from Example #1 apply; however, Mr. Garane started working at Green Pickle Deli on March 12, and has an earned income of $165 per week. He has no unearned income. Because Mr. Garane started work on March 12, which is after the application date, his earned income is excluded.  Therefore, Mr. Garane remains eligible for RAP. |
| **Example #3:** Nashi Omri Garane, his wife Nancy, and their daughter Yasmena came to Columbia, SC from the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya on February 2, 2014, and applied for assistance on February 9, 2014. They have verification that an application has been made for a Social Security Number, and SAVE has verified they are refugees. Their sponsor is providing shelter assistance only. Mr. Garane started working on February 8 and earns $165 per week. No one in the family plans to file taxes or be claimed as a tax dependent. The family has no unearned income, and meets all other criteria.  $165 = Applicant’s Income  $165 x 52 = $8,580 Annual Income  $8,580 ÷ 12 = $715 Monthly Income  The family is eligible for PCR. |