

# Medicaid Coverage for Labor and Delivery for Immigrant Women

In 2012, the Nebraska Legislature reinstated prenatal coverage for low-income unborn children, regardless of a mother's immigration status. See Nebraska Appleseed's website for more information, in a publication called Medicaid Coverage of Prenatal Care for Unborn Children, Regardless of the Mother's Immigration Status. Immigrant women should consider applying for this coverage when their pregnancy is confirmed.

But, women that do not get prenatal care for their unborn child (for one reason or another) can still get coverage for labor and delivery under emergency Medicaid, if all other eligibility requirements are met. Below you will find general information about Medicaid that will help you navigate the application process for emergency Medicaid.

## Will emergency Medicaid cover the birth of my baby even if I am not lawfully present?

Yes, as long as you meet the other requirements to be eligible, like income level. Immigration status does not matter for emergency Medicaid services, like child birth. But, you still must meet all of the other eligibility requirements to get coverage. To get emergency Medicaid, you must apply for coverage.

## How do I get emergency Medicaid coverage for childbirth?

After your baby is born you must apply for Medicaid coverage. *This should be done immediately after birth.* In some cases the hospital you go to will help you apply, but in any event you must apply, even if it is on your own

You can apply online at <http://accessnebraska.ne.gov/>, or you can go to a local office and fill out a paper application.

## How do I apply for emergency Medicaid coverage for childbirth?

If you do not have legal status, you must show you are applying for emergency Medicaid. To do this, you should ask the hospital where you gave birth for a "discharge summary." *You must send in the discharge summary with your application.*

*You should also write on your application "Application for Emergency Medicaid."*

- If you apply online, you will be asked "Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your household's situation?" Here you should write "I am applying for emergency Medicaid."
- If you use a paper application, you will be asked to state your immigration status. Here you should write "Emergency Medicaid applicant."



Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest  
941 "O" Street, Suite 920 . Lincoln, NE 68508 . 402.438.8853  
402.438.0263 Fax . [info@neappleseed.org](mailto:info@neappleseed.org) . [www.neappleseed.org](http://www.neappleseed.org)

Also, if you have medical bills make sure you say so on the application when you are asked.

### **Once my baby is born, will the baby be able to get Medicaid?**

Yes. Children that are born in the United States are U.S. citizens, even if their parents are not. The immigration status of a parent or caretaker for a child does not matter.

This means a baby will be eligible for Medicaid or Kids Connection if you meet the income/resource requirements.

### **How will the baby get Medicaid coverage?**

If you have your baby at a hospital and get emergency Medicaid coverage for the birth, the child is automatically eligible for Medicaid/Kids Connection for one year. So, this means if you apply for Medicaid to cover the labor and delivery you should not need to do a separate application for the child. *But, to make sure your baby gets covered, you should fill out a separate application for your child.*

### **What should I do if a caseworker says I am not eligible for Medicaid and should not apply?**

You should apply anyway. You should follow the directions above regardless of whether a caseworker told you not to apply.

For more information, please contact Nebraska Appleseed.

Phone: 800 845 3746

Web: [www.neappleseed.org](http://www.neappleseed.org)