



The Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

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Virginia Medicaid Announces New Coverage for Pregnant Virginians

FAMIS Coverage will offer comprehensive benefits to immigrants

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) announced a new coverage option for pregnant Virginians. The new option mirrors the FAMIS MOMS benefit plan, providing comprehensive coverage for pregnant individuals who are otherwise eligible but do not meet immigration status rules.

Starting on July 1, 2021, pregnant individuals do not need to meet immigration status rules, provide immigration documents or have a Social Security number to be eligible. Individuals are required to meet income rules, live in Virginia and be uninsured to be eligible.

These Virginians—including those who are undocumented or DACA recipients (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DREAMers)—will be eligible for the FAMIS MOMS benefit package during their pregnancy, which includes coverage through 60 days postpartum.

Compared to citizens, undocumented immigrants are almost five times as likely to be uninsured, and options for affordable health care are limited. “This new coverage is an important step toward closing the coverage gap for undocumented Virginians during a critical

time in their lives and their families' lives—during pregnancy and the birth of a baby,” said Ellen Montz, DMAS Chief Deputy and Chief Health Economist.

“Virginia Medicaid has always been committed to addressing health disparities in Virginia, and this new coverage option reinforces our mission,” said Sarah Hatton, DMAS Deputy for Administration. “We have been working with our community partners over the past several months to strengthen outreach efforts and ensure eligible Virginians are aware of this significant increase in access to care. Getting individuals enrolled in coverage early in their pregnancy is key to them getting the care they need.”

This new coverage will bring Virginia closer to meeting Governor Ralph Northam’s goal of eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality by 2025. “We are excited about this opportunity to promote health equity for our members and improve maternal and infant health,” said Cheryl Roberts, DMAS Deputy Director for Programs and Operations. “We know these comprehensive services, such as regular prenatal checkups, dental benefits, behavioral health treatment and postpartum care, are all vital to a healthy pregnancy.”

Individuals can apply for Medicaid online at [CommonHelp](#). Application assisters are available at no cost to help with the process. Visitors to the [CoverVA](#) and the Spanish-language [CubreVirginia](#) websites can find listings of application assisters in their communities. Those who prefer to speak to someone by phone can call the Cover Virginia Call Center at 1-855-242-8282. Translation and interpretation services are available in all languages.

Additional information about the policy change and other resources for immigrants are available on the [CoverVA](#) and [CubreVirginia](#) websites.

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