

BROADCAST DMAS-77

DATE: August 3, 2021

TO: Local directors and Medicaid staff

FROM: Cindy Olson, Director, Eligibility and Enrollment Services, Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

SUBJECT: Correction – Policy Regarding Medicaid Eligibility for COFA Migrants

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The purpose of this broadcast is to alert local departments of social services (LDSS) to a **correction** of the policy regarding Medicaid eligibility for individuals who are considered Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants (also referred to as compact citizens). COFA is a compact between the United States and the three Pacific Island sovereign states of Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau—known as the Freely Associated States.

The following policy is effective immediately:

- Individuals from the Freely Associated States are considered “qualified non-citizens” **upon entry** into the United States, and they meet the alien status requirement for full Medicaid coverage **with no waiting period**, as long as they meet all other Medicaid or FAMIS nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements. These individuals **DO NOT** need to have be Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) to be eligible for full Medicaid coverage.
- CMS is planning to issue further guidance on how states must treat individuals from the Freely Associated States who become Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR). If an agency receives an application from an LPR who is from Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, or Palau, **OR** a member from one of these countries has an immigration status change to LPR, please contact a Regional Medical Assistance Practice Consultant for assistance.
- Children under age 19 years and pregnant women from the Freely Associated States meet the criteria for lawfully residing aliens for eligibility under Medicaid, FAMIS, and FAMIS MOMS.

The policy correction above will be included TN #DMAS-21.

Please contact a Regional Medical Assistance Practice Consultant if you have questions regarding this broadcast.