

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

**Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Refugee Medical Assistance  
(LAC 50:XXXI)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 50:XXXI in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:962 and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

Effective July 1, 2025, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing shortens the period that assistance is granted through the refugee medical assistance (RMA) program from one year to four months. This action also outlines the conditions for the termination of RMA services. This action is being done to comply with a notice from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement. Office of Refugee Resettlement has determined that it must shorten the RMA eligibility period to four months to avoid a significant budget shortfall.

**Title 50**

**PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Part XXXI. Refugee Medical Assistance**

**Chapter 1. Refugee Medical Assistance Program**

**§101. General Provisions**

A. Repealed.

B. The Refugee Medical Assistance Program (RMA) provides medical assistance to individuals who meet the eligibility requirements and conditions set forth in 45 CFR part 400 subpart G.

C. Refugee medical assistance is available to all individuals with the immigration status of refugee or asylee.

D. All recipients who receive refugee cash assistance through the Office of Refugee Resettlement, and who are not eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP program, shall be certified for RMA.

1. Receipt or application for refugee cash assistance is not a requirement of the RMA program.

E. A refugee who has been certified in a regular Medicaid program and loses that coverage because of increased earnings from employment, and is within the eligibility time period, shall be transferred to RMA.

F. Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Public Law 82-414, 8 U.S. Code 1522(e)(5).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 35:1112 (June 2009), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 51:

**§103. Eligibility Requirements**

A. Individuals may qualify for the RMA program if they meet the following requirements:

1. has an immigration status recognized by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) through policy or federal notice that qualifies for resettlement assistance;

2. has income and resources that do not exceed the guidelines set forth in 42 CFR 435.831, as reflected in the State approved Title XIX Medicaid plan;

3. is not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP;

4. provides the name of the resettlement agency that resettled them, if applicable;

a. Repealed.

5. not enrolled as a full-time student in a higher education program, except where such enrollment is approved by the State or its designee.

B. An individual does not need to apply for or receive refugee cash assistance (RCA) in order to qualify for the RMA.

1. Repealed.

C. All recipients of RCA who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP are eligible for RMA.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Public Law 82-414, 8 U.S. Code 1522(e)(5).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 35:1112 (June 2009), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 51:

**§107. Eligibility Period**

A. Repealed.

B. The RMA eligibility period shall be determined in accordance with 45 CFR 400.211.

1. Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Public Law 82-414, 8 U.S. Code 1522(e)(5).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 35:1113 (June 2009), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 51:

**§108. Termination of Services**

A. RMA benefits shall terminate upon the earliest of the following:

1. the individual's eligibility period expires;
2. the individual enrolls in Medicaid or SCHIP;

3. termination of ORR eligible immigration status;

or

4. relocation from the state of Louisiana.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Public Law 82-414, 8 U.S. Code 1522(e)(5).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 51:

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.

Kimberly Sullivan, JD, Bureau of Health Services Financing, is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this Emergency Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Bruce D. Greenstein

Secretary