

**Q. I came from another country. Can I get health care in Tennessee?**

A. Maybe. Many low-income, legal immigrants or their family members may be able to get TennCare. TennCare is health insurance. The government runs TennCare. **TennCare and Medicaid are the same thing.** You have to meet some rules to get TennCare.

**Q. What are some of the rules?**

- A. Some children and adults who are here legally **must wait 5 years** to get TennCare. Other immigrants can apply for TennCare right away. Some people who can apply right away are:
- Immigrants who served in the U.S. military and their families
  - Refugees and asylees
  - Some Afghani and Iraqi aliens
  - Victims of human trafficking
  - Battered immigrants and children

Most of the time, refugees and asylees and some others can **only get 7 years of TennCare**. Sometimes they can get more than 7 years. They must change their immigration status before the 7 years ends to keep getting TennCare. Not every refugee or asylee can change their status.

**Q. Who can get TennCare?**

- A. People who usually get TennCare are:
- Children and families with only one parent who don't have much money
  - Children with high medical bills
  - Some people with serious disabilities
  - Some elderly people.

Others may be able to get TennCare. Apply if you think your family or children might be able to get TennCare!

**Hospital Care**

**Q. Can immigrants get emergency health care?**

A. Yes. Hospitals must give emergency care to everyone. Hospitals **CAN'T** report people to ICE (the immigration police).

**Q. What if I don't have health insurance?**

A. Ask for **Emergency Medicaid** (also called Emergency TennCare) at the hospital if you are getting emergency care. You do **not** need to have papers to get Emergency Medicaid/TennCare. Apply for Emergency Medicaid **on the day you get to the hospital.**



**Were you the victim of a crime that was reported to the police?** Did you get physical or mental health care because of it? Then the state may help you pay for the health care. This is called **Victim's Compensation**. It is for people with or without papers. Want to learn more? On the internet go to <http://treasury.tn.gov/injury/PDFs/CIC-Brochure.pdf>.

Are you going to ask for Victim's Compensation? **Then save all of the bills you get.** The state will pay your medical bills for your care if you get Victim's Compensation.

**Q. What can I do if I get a hospital bill?**

- A. You may get a bill for emergency care if you don't have insurance. Ask the hospital if they:
- will write off the bill.
  - have a program to help you pay the bill.
  - will let you pay a little bit each month.

**Pregnant Immigrants**

**Q. I don't have papers. What kind of care can I get during my pregnancy?**



A. You may be able to get CoverKids. It may pay for **pregnancy care and labor and delivery costs**. Some pregnant women without papers can get **Emergency Medicaid** (also called Emergency TennCare). This will only pay for **labor and delivery** at the hospital. But the baby could get TennCare.

**Q. How do I apply for CoverKids?**

A. Call **1-866-620-8864 for free**. Or on the internet go to: <http://www.coverkids.com/>

**Children of Immigrants**

**Q. What are the rules about children and TennCare?**

A. Children who are **legal** residents or citizens can apply for TennCare. It doesn't matter if their parents are legal or not.

**Q. How do I apply for TennCare for me or my child?**

A. Apply on the internet at: <http://tiny.cc/Apply254>. Need the address of your DHS office? Call the Family Assistance Service Center at Center at **1-866-311 4287**. Or go to <http://tiny.cc/TNDHS> on the internet.



## Applying for TennCare and Food Stamps

### Q. Is it safe to apply for TennCare?

A. Yes. Apply for TennCare if you think your family is eligible. DHS cannot tell ICE (the immigration authorities) that you applied for TennCare.

### Q. Is it safe to apply for Food Stamps (also called SNAP) or Families First?

A. The application for TennCare also asks if you want Food Stamps (SNAP) or Families First. Food Stamps (SNAP) and Families First **can** tell ICE (the immigration police) about undocumented immigrants. **Only people with papers can receive Food Stamps or Families First.**

### Q. I don't have papers. Can I get Food Stamps (SNAP) for my children who have papers?

A. The application asks who is in the household. Write down **everyone** who is in the household. Put a check mark in the box next to the people who are applying for Food Stamps. What if some of the people **DON'T** have a Social Security Number?

You **DON'T** have to give a Social Security Number if they are **NOT** applying for help.

Date Filed: _____		County: _____	
Assigned Worker: _____		Case Number: _____	
Welcome to Tennessee's Department of Human Services Application for F:			
Enter the name of the person applying for benefits for himself/herself and/or others in the home.			
Name (Last, First, Middle)		Home/Work/Other Phone	
_____		_____	
Home Phone ( )		Work Phone ( )	
_____		_____	
Other Phone ( )		Other Phone ( )	
_____		_____	
Enter all household members and check (X) each program they are applying for.			
Name		Applying for TennCare	Applying for Food Stamps
José Ortiz		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guadalupe Romero		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Penelope Ortiz Romero		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Ortiz Romero		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esteban Ortiz Romero		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Q. I want to apply for TennCare only for my children who have papers. What information do I have to give?

A. You **DON'T** have to give your immigration status or Social Security Number (SSN). Only the family members who want TennCare have to do that. Leave a blank on the application where it asks for **your** Social Security Number.

### Q: I don't have papers. What if the DHS worker asks me for my immigration status or Social Security Number?

A. Say "I am not applying for myself. I am applying for my child." You must give proof of family income when you apply for TennCare. But you **DON'T** need to give a Social Security Number. **DON'T** give a false Social Security Number. **Never lie** on the application or other papers.



## Questions immigrants and their families ask about health care



Thank you to the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlandns for helping make this booklet easier to read.



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