

**NUMBER**

24-06-01

**DATE**

September 13, 2024

**OF INTEREST TO**

County Directors

County Financial Supervisors  
and Staff

Social Services Supervisors  
and Staff

Employment Services Providers

Community Partners

**ACTION/DUE DATE**

Please read information and  
prepare for implementation.

**EXPIRATION DATE**

September 13, 2026

## Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Program Timeline Extended to 12 Months

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**TOPIC**

This bulletin summarizes the federal expansion of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) program timeline from 8 months to 12 months.

**PURPOSE**

To inform counties, tribes, and community partners of the expansion of the Refugee Medical Assistance program timeline from 8 months to 12 months.

**CONTACT**

Submit policy questions to HealthQuest.

Contact the TSS Help Desk for all MAXIS related questions.

All others should direct questions to : Resettlement Programs Office  
[dhs.rpo.outreach@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.rpo.outreach@state.mn.us).

**SIGNED**

*Rachele King*

Rachele King

State Refugee Coordinator

Resettlement Programs Office

**TERMINOLOGY NOTICE**

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

# I. Background

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Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) provides short-term medical coverage to people who are eligible for public benefits to the same extent as refugees and who are not otherwise eligible for Medical Assistance (MA).

On March 28, 2022, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which regulates the Refugee Medical Assistance program, permanently extended the Refugee Medical Assistance program timeline from an 8-month to a 12-month program.

People with the following immigration status or classification are eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance if they are ineligible for MA and meet all other eligibility factors:

- Refugee
- Asylum granted
- Certified Victim of Trafficking
- Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holder
- Certain Amerasians from Vietnam
- Cuban or Haitian Entrant
- Certain Afghans with Humanitarian Parole\*
- Certain Ukrainians with Humanitarian Parole\*

People with the above immigration statuses or classifications are eligible for state and federal benefits to the same extent as refugees if they meet all other eligibility factors. Eligibility for Refugee Medical Assistance should only be determined if someone is not eligible for Medical Assistance.

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Legal Authority under 45 C.F.R. § 400.300

Office of Refugee Resettlement Policy Letters 22-02, 22-12, 22-13, 22-20

\* Afghan with Humanitarian Parole - A person from Afghanistan who entered the U.S. with Humanitarian Parole from July 31, 2021 to September 30, 2023, or a spouse or child of a person who entered the U.S. in that time period. Paroled means granted special permission to enter the United States.

\* Ukrainian with Humanitarian Parole – A citizen or national of Ukraine who entered the U.S. with Humanitarian Parole between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2024 or a spouse or child of a person who entered the U.S. in that time period. Paroled means granted special permission to enter the United States.

## A. Permanent Extension to Refugee Medical Assistance Timeline

This change does not impact any Refugee Medical Assistance policies other than the RMA timeline. Continue to follow all other existing Refugee Medical Assistance policies in [Eligibility Policy Manual \(EPM\) section 2.5.7](#) and MAXIS POLI TEMP.

### 1. The new extended RMA timeline:

The RMA timeline is permanently extended from 8 months to 12 months for eligible people, creating a maximum window up to 12-months of potential coverage eligibility.

The 12-month timeline starts on the date of arrival to the United States OR the date an eligible immigration status or classification is granted, and the 12 months run consecutively from this date.

The 12-month RMA timeline applies to people who became eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance on or after October 1, 2023.

### 2. The 12-month RMA timeline applies to:

The policy applies for any individual who became eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance on or after October 1, 2023. This includes:

- Those who have or had Medical Assistance closed due to increased income, which qualifies them for Refugee Medical Assistance coverage through the balance of the RMA 12-month timeline without a separate or subsequent income test.

### 3. The 12-month RMA timeline does not apply to:

This policy does not apply to individuals who became eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance on or before September 30, 2023. These individuals are subject to the 8-month eligibility window.

## B. MAXIS Instructions

MAXIS instructions for RMA eligibility processing can be found here:

- MAXIS POLI TEMP - REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - TE02.07.062

## C. Questions and Answers

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### Questions and Answers for Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA):

#### Q1: Who benefits from the Refugee Medical Assistance eligibility period extension?

A1: People eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance on or after October 1, 2023.

**Example 1:** A 23-year-old adult with refugee status with an entry date of 10/10/2023 was on Medical Assistance and had no income. He became employed in January and is over income for MA. He is eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance, which starts the next available month and continues through September 30, 2024.

**Q2: What does eligibility “...on or after October 1, 2023” mean?**

A2: This refers to the date someone became eligible for RMA benefits, not the date the person initially enrolled in the RMA program. This means that their date of arrival or date they were granted an eligible immigration status or classification falls on or after October 1, 2023.

**Q3: Will people who became eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance benefits prior to October 1, 2023 be eligible for the new extended RMA policy?**

A3: No. People who became eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance benefits on or prior to September 30, 2023, will only be eligible for 8 months of RMA.

**Q4: What are examples of how the 12-month eligibility timeline could apply?**

A4: The 12-month eligibility timeline starts from the individual’s date of arrival or date an eligible immigration status or classification is granted. The month (even if a partial month) of that date is considered the first month in the 12-month eligibility period. The 12 months of eligibility run consecutively from that date, without a break, even if the participant is not on RMA.

**Example 1:** A person with an RMA-eligible status (asylum granted date 10/05/2023), applies for MA on 10/10/2023 and is approved for MA. In February 2024, the person becomes employed and exits MA due to being over income. The person then is approved for RMA without a separate or subsequent income test, beginning March 2024. October 2023 is considered the first month of the RMA eligibility timeline (as the month when an RMA-eligible status was granted) even though she was not active on RMA until March. So, the RMA eligibility timeline starts October 2023 and runs consecutively through September 2024 (12 months). RMA is approved starting March 2024 and remains active through 09/2024 (7 months).

**Example 2:** A person with an RMA-eligible status (Victim of Trafficking with an Eligibility Letter approved and issued on 12/10/2023), applies for MA on 01/10/2024. They start working on 05/10/2024 and become over-income for MA for the month of 06/2024. RMA is approved to start from 06/2024 and run through 11/2024. However, the **RMA eligibility timeline** started on 12/2023 as the first month (when an RMA eligible status was granted) and runs consecutively through to 11/2024 (12 months). The months 12/2023 to 5/2024 are lost months of RMA eligibility since the RMA eligibility timeline didn’t start until 6/2024.

**Q5: What happens to RMA cases that were closed after May 2024 with the 8 Months timeline?**

A5: Eligibility workers can reinstate and extend the cases that were closed - and are eligible for this timeline extension policy - to close at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> month.

**Q6: Will Refugee Medical Assistance policy be updated ?**

A6: Refugee Medical Assistance policy in the Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) Eligibility Policy Manual (EPM) will be updated to reflect this policy change. See [MHCP EPM 2.5.7 - Refugee Medical Assistance](#). MAXIS POLI TEMP section TE02.07.062 will be updated to reflect this change.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory**

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by (651) 431-4630 (voice) or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.