
STATE RESIDENCY

REVISED 12/17/18 – CHANGE NO. 11-18

I. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

To receive Medicaid in North Carolina, an applicant must be a North Carolina resident and meet financial and non-financial requirements. This section outlines the specific requirements and how state residence is verified.

An applicant must live in North Carolina and meet all other eligibility requirements in order to receive NC Medicaid benefits. In order to meet NC Medicaid residency requirements, an individual must:

A. Be physically present in NC and have the intent to reside here, or

Intent to reside does not mean:

1. An intent to stay permanently or indefinitely in the state,
2. Nor does it require an intent to reside at a fixed address.

B. Have entered the state with a job commitment, or

C. Be seeking employment in NC

II. POLICY PRINCIPLES

A. Residency must be verified for all Medicaid applicants.

B. Residency shall not be verified at recertification, unless there is a reason to believe a change in residency may have occurred.

C. Review existing records and electronic sources and attempt to verify residency before asking the applicant to provide two documents.

D. There is no minimum requirement for the length of time an applicant must be physically present in NC.

E. The residency test for non-citizens is the same as for citizens and is not dependent on their immigration status.

- F. Applicants who state they do not have two of the documents listed in D below, may sign the [DMA-5153, North Carolina Residency Applicant Declaration](#). Other evidence that verifies residence must also be considered.**

III. EXCEPTIONS TO THE RESIDENCY DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT

In the following circumstances, no statement of intent or additional proof is necessary:

- A. An applicant who is incapable of stating intent to reside in NC is a resident of the state where physically located.**
- B. An applicant who is institutionalized and capable of stating intent to reside in NC, is a resident of NC if he/she lives in an institution in NC, and states intent to reside in NC.**
- C. An individual who is incarcerated by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Prisons, is deemed to have the intent to reside in North Carolina.**
- D. For an applicant who claims to be a resident of NC, but is temporarily absent in another state, NC residency must be verified before he can be considered temporarily absent for Medicaid purposes.**

IV. RESIDENCY VERIFICATION

- A. If the applicant requests assistance in obtaining documents needed for residency verification, it is the responsibility of the local agency to assist.**
- B. Review the electronic online verification system or the existing local agency records to verify residency *before* asking the applicant to provide documents.**
- C. To verify residency, if online verification is not possible, the applicant may provide documentation that verifies their physical or mailing address. Ask the applicant to provide two of the documents listed below:**
 - 1. A valid North Carolina drivers' license or other identification card issued by the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles.
 - 2. A current lease, rent, mortgage payment receipt, or current utility bill in the name of the applicant, showing a North Carolina address.
 - 3. A current North Carolina motor vehicle registration in the applicant's name and showing the applicant's North Carolina address.
 - 4. A document verifying that the applicant is employed in North Carolina or has a job commitment.

5. One or more documents proving that the applicant's prior home residence (in another State) has ended, such as closing of a bank account, termination of employment, or sale of a home.
6. The tax records of the applicant, showing a current North Carolina address.
7. A document showing that the applicant has registered with a public or private employment service in North Carolina.
8. A document showing that the applicant has enrolled their children in a public or private school or a child care facility located in North Carolina.
9. A document or other verification showing that the applicant is receiving public assistance (such as Food and Nutrition Services, Work First and Energy Assistance) or other services which require proof of residence in North Carolina.
10. Records from a North Carolina health department or other health care provider which shows the applicant's North Carolina address.
11. A written [DMA-5152, North Carolina Residency Declaration](#), [Work First DSS-5276, North Carolina Residency Applicant Statement](#) or [DSS-5275 North Carolina Residency Declaration](#), from an individual who has a social, family, or economic relationship with the applicant, and who has personal knowledge of the applicant's intent to live in North Carolina or that the applicant is present in North Carolina in order to seek employment or with a job commitment.
12. A current North Carolina voter registration card.
13. A document from the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, U.S. Military or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, verifying the applicant's residence in North Carolina, or that either the applicant is present in North Carolina to seek employment or has a job commitment.
14. Official North Carolina school records, signed by school officials, or diplomas issued by North Carolina schools (including secondary schools, colleges, universities, community colleges), verifying the applicant's residence in North Carolina, or that either the applicant is present in North Carolina to seek employment or with a job commitment.

D. For a child, accept verification of where the child physically lives or the residence of the parent or caretaker if they live together.

E. For any of these documents, also accept documentation of the address of the spouse or the parent/caregiver if they live together.

F. The local agency may deny eligibility if there is substantial evidence showing that the documentation is false. If reasonably necessary, the local agency can require additional documentation and be available to verify residency.

V. Individual Moving to NC was Previously Eligible in Another State

A. If an applicant was receiving Medicaid in another state prior to moving to NC, the local agency is responsible for contacting the prior state to:

1. Notify the state of the applicant's move to NC, and
2. Request that eligibility in the other state be terminated so that eligibility for NC Medicaid can be determined, and
3. Obtain any information on resources such as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, promissory notes, former homesite, etc., that will aid in determining eligibility in NC, and
4. If the applicant has outstanding medical bills in NC in the same month applicant received Medicaid in the other state, verify whether the other state's Medicaid program will cover bill(s) incurred in NC.
 - Some Medicaid programs in other states are similar to NC. They only cover out-of-state services if it is an emergency or the service was prior approved.

B. If the applicant has a bill in NC that will NOT be covered by the other state, authorize Medicaid in NC if eligible for that month.

C. If the other state will pay the NC claims:

1. Contact the medical provider(s) and verify whether he is enrolled or is willing to enroll with the other state.
2. If providers are not willing to enroll and file claims with the other state, authorize NC Medicaid, if eligible.
3. If providers are willing to enroll and bill the other state, there is no need for NC coverage for that month(s).

- D. Follow-up with the out-of-state agency at least every 2 weeks until a response is received if written verification was requested.**
- E. Document in NC Fast.**
- F. If out-of-state Medicaid coverage terminates other than the last day of the month, authorize NC Medicaid the first of the month in which the out-of-state Medicaid terminates.**