

# CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 08-21 ALIEN REQUIREMENTS

**DATE: September 10, 2021**

**Manual:** Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid

**Change No:** 08-21

**To:** County Directors of Social Services

## **I. BACKGROUND AND CONTENT OF CHANGE**

The Division of Health Benefits (DHB) has updated MA-2504, Alien Requirements to reflect federal changes to eligibility for Compact of Free Association (COFA) Migrants. The policy update now makes COFA Migrants Qualified Aliens, meaning their eligibility is no longer limited to pregnant women and children under the age of 19; or emergency services for all other COFA Migrants. All COFA Migrants are now eligible for full Medicaid if they meet all other eligibility requirements without having to meet the 5-year ban. The updates to policy also reflect a change to the mailing address for Alliant ASO, the third party who makes determinations for aliens who are only eligible for emergency services. Section D. of this change notice outlines a temporary process change until NC FAST can implement these updates in the system.

## **II. POLICY UPDATE**

The following sections of MA-2504, Alien Requirements have been revised:

### **A. Section III. GLOSSERY OF USCIS TERMS**

**Compact of Free Association (COFA) or Compact Citizens:** Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau have special rights. They are “qualified non-citizens” who are allowed to enter, reside, and work in the U.S. indefinitely. **COFA individuals are not citizens or national of the United States. These individuals are exempt from the 5-year bar. This applies to Medicaid and North Carolina Health Choice.**

**B. Section V. OVERVIEW OF ALIEN ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAID AND CHIP**

<p><b>Compact of Free Association (COFA) or Compact Citizens</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I-94- marked Compact of Free Association (COFA) with FSM-Federated States of Micronesia or CFA with MIS-Marshall Islands</li> <li>• I-766 OR I-688B (Employment Authorization Card) annotated "274a.12(a)(8) or A8</li> <li>• Any verification from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or other authoritative document</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exempt from the 5-year bar.</b></p> <p><b>Evaluate for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full Medicaid</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCHC for children under age 19.</li> </ul> <p>If not eligible for Medicaid or CHIP-the individual may be eligible for Marketplace subsidies</p>
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**C. Section X. COVERAGE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

ALLIANT ASO  
 Attn: NC EMS  
 PO BOX 105031  
 Atlanta, GA 30348  
 Fax: 1-678-527-3543  
 Phone: 1-888-507-5191


**D. Temporary Process Change**

Updates are being made to NC FAST to correctly determine eligibility for COFA migrants. Until these updates are able to be implemented in the system, caseworkers will need to key forced eligibility applications for all COFA Migrants to ensure their eligibility is determined correctly.

### III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy is effective upon receipt and applies to any applications or recertifications in process or taken on or after the date of receipt.

If you have any questions regarding information in this letter, please contact your [Medicaid Operational Support Team Representative](#).

DocuSigned by:  


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Dave Richard  
Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid