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**STATE REFUGEE OFFICE MANUAL**  
**REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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**CHAPTER II – REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**CHANGE #2-2023**

**August 10, 2023**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Refugees who resettle in the United States have often been living in poor conditions, many in refugee camps, with inadequate or no health care. Since restoration of good health is a key factor in becoming self-sufficient, refugees may apply for medical assistance at the local Departments of Social Services (DSS).

**Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)** is health care coverage established for refugees who do not meet qualifications for any other health care program. Refugees must **FIRST** be evaluated for all Medicaid program for any of the mainstream Medicaid programs {Family and Children's Medicaid (MAF) i.e. Medicaid Pregnant Women (MPW), Aged, Blind, and Disabled (Adult) Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (NC CHIP)} and determined ineligible PRIOR to being placed on RMA.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) is not a Medicaid Program.

**Note:** If the refugee is an adult who is pregnant, has minor children, or is between the ages of 19 and 20, that adult or adult and minor children are eligible for a Medicaid program. Refer to the Family and Children's Medicaid Manual and the Adult Medicaid Manual for more information regarding the Medicaid programs that would be most appropriate for these individuals.

RMA provides health care to refugees who are adults without minor children. RMA is a short-term transitional program available for the first twelve months a refugee resides in the United States. In determining eligibility for RMA, the county DSS must comply with the policies and procedures described in this chapter of the North Carolina Refugee Assistance Manual. In providing RMA to refugees, the agency must provide at least the same services in the same manner and to the same extent as provided under the North Carolina Medicaid program.

**NOTE:** References will be made, throughout this chapter, to the appropriate section of the NC Medicaid Manual for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (Adult) whenever the RMA program has policies and procedures in common. Exceptions or special rules for RMA will be noted.

**NOTE:** Throughout this Chapter, the term "refugee" will refer to all populations/groups listed below, who are ORR-eligible with a qualified status, exempt from the 5-year ban time frames and potentially eligible for RMA. See Chapter I., Section III. for detailed definitions and acceptable documentations.

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Certain Amerasians (from Vietnam)
- Victims of Human Trafficking
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan

**NOTE:** SIV holders and potentially transition to Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) status within the first ninety (90) days, after date of entry into the United States.

- Afghan Special Immigrant Parole (SI/SQ)

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- Afghan individuals with Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Residence (CPR)
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP)
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP)
- Non-Ukrainian Individuals displaced from Ukraine

**NOTE:** Current, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) status holders may have held one of the above statuses prior to adjusting to LPR status.

## II. ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Refugees can apply for the same benefits and service programs that are available to U.S. citizens. The case manager must first determine whether a refugee individual is eligible for any of the mainstream Medicaid programs:

- Family and Children’s Medicaid (MAF)
- Medicaid Pregnant Women (MPW)
- Aged, Blind, and Disabled (Adult) Medicaid (MAABD, MAA, MAB, MAD)
- Children’s Health Insurance Program (NC CHIP)

If found ineligible, then they must be evaluated for RMA eligibility according to the criteria below.

**NOTE:** If the applicant is found **ONLY** eligible for an NC Medicaid Program other than those listed above, such as the Family Planning Program (FPP), Use the product exclusion evidence for the family evidence from the case and an ineligible decision should occur and/or deny case for already receiving, an application will show disposed. Key an RMA application and approve. This claimant (as stated in NC FAST system) can apply for Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). Single or Couples with no MINOR children that have income at or below the 200% poverty level may receive assistance for Refugee Medical Assistance.

**NOTE:** See Chapter I. Section II. to determine refugees, have acceptable documentation and are eligible for RMA.

### A. ORR-Eligible Immigration Status

Verification Individuals must have the proper immigration documentation reflecting refugee status. Qualified groups, potentially eligible for RMA are Refugees, Asylees, Cuban and Haitian Entrants, Certain Amerasians (from Vietnam), Victims of Human Trafficking, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan, Afghan Special Immigrant Parole (SI/SQ), Afghan individuals with Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Residence (CPR), Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP), Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP) and Non-Ukrainian Individuals displaced from Ukraine. See Chapter I. Section II. for detailed definitions and acceptable documentations.

### A. Eligibility Timeframe of Coverage

An individual can apply for RMA at the local DSS where the applicant resides within the first twelve (12) months of arrival.

1. Definition(s)

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- **Date of Entry** also known as Date of Arrival. Date a non-citizen arrived in the US, usually notated on the USCIS document. For Refugee Program eligibility for asylees, substitute the date asylum was granted for the actual date of entry.
- **Date of Eligibility** also known as Date Alien Status Granted, on Alien Evidence Tab of the NC FAST, Date ORR-Eligible population benefits or services start.

**EXAMPLE:** Afghan Humanitarian Parolee passport stamp or I-94 is 9/15/2021 but the date an Afghan parolee departs an Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW) Safe Haven Military base in Fort Wayne, TX and arrives in Raleigh, NC to the community on 12/1/2021.

**NOTE:** In NC FAST on the Income Support Application, Alien Evidence the “Date Alien Status Granted” **must** be completed. This date may be different for Afghanistan, excluding SIV’s Holders and Ukrainian populations. If the date is the same as the date of entry, enter the date twice both in the Date of Entry and Date Alien Status Granted fields.

**2. RMA Eligible Period of Coverage**

- a. **Refugee Status:** Benefits are eligible up to twelve (12) months refugee’s (Refugee, Cuban/Haitian Entrants/ Amerasians) date of arrival (date of entry) in the United States on or after October 1, 2021.
- b. **Asylum Status:** Benefits are available for up to twelve (12) months from Asylee seekers from the date asylum is granted in the United States on or after October 1, 2021.
- c. **Victims of Trafficking Status:** Benefits are available for up to twelve (12) months once certification provides Victims of Trafficking with the necessary documentation to be eligible to receive benefits and services on or after October 1, 2021.

**NOTE:** Eligibility determine prior to October 1, 2021, are eligible for 8-months.

	<b>Afghanistan Populations excluding SIV’s Holders</b>	<b>Ukrainian Populations</b>
<b>Authorization</b>	Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriation (ASA) Act, 2022 effective September 31, 2021	Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) effective May 21, 2022
<b>Date of Entry</b>	Afghan humanitarian parolees paroled into the U.S. on or after <b>July 31, 2021, through September 30, 2023</b> or the <b>date you received humanitarian parole, whichever is later,</b>	Ukrainian humanitarian parolees paroled into the U.S. on or after February 24, 2022, through September 30, 2023.
<b>Date of Eligibility</b>	Beginning on October 1, 2021, or the date the parolee	Beginning on May 21, 2022, or the date you received

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	"entered the community" whichever is later.		humanitarian parole, whichever is later,
<b>Eligibility Period (in months)</b>	8	July 31, 2021, through September 30, 2021	All 12-month eligibility
	12	On or after October 1, 2021	

**C. Household Composition**

The local DSS must evaluate each member of the family, individually. If the refugee is an adult who is pregnant, has minor children, or is between the ages of 19 and 20, that adult or adult and minor children are eligible for a Medicaid program. Refer to the Family and Children's Medicaid Manual and the Adult Medicaid Manual for more information regarding the Medicaid programs that would be most appropriate for these individuals. Refer to the North Carolina Family and Children's Medicaid Manual and the Adult Medicaid Manual for more information regarding eligibility for Medicaid programs. A MAGI application must be processed first.

IF	THEN
Single individual (21 – 64)	Eligible for RMA
Married couple without minor children	Eligible for RMA
Single individual with minor/child/children	Ineligible for RMA
Married couple with minor child/children	Ineligible for RMA

**1. Refugee Individual**

A single refugee individual household must consist of one adult, 21 years of age or older, with no minor children.

**NOTE:** An individual, 18 years of age is considered an adult in the RMA program. However, individuals, ages 18, 19, and 20, are eligible for any NC Medicaid program category including MAGI. Parent's income and resources are not considered in the determination of eligibility.

**2. Refugee Couple**

A refugee couple household must consist of a married couple (ages 21 through 64) with no minor children. Couples without minor children and who do not meet qualifications for Medicaid programs are eligible for RMA.

**3. Refugee Family**

A refugee family household with minor children, must first apply for, and if eligible, participate in any NC Medicaid program category including MAGI.

**NOTE:** Children or individuals and couples with dependent minor children found eligible for Medicaid programs under the NC Medicaid State Plan are ineligible for RMA

**4. Refugee 65 Years of Age or Older**

A refugee 65 years of age or older is considered for all Medicaid program categories and must be evaluated for Medical Assistance to the Aged, Blind and

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Disabled (MAABD).

**NOTE:** Refugee individuals 65 years of age or older with refugee immigration status found eligible for Medicaid programs under the NC Medicaid State Plan are ineligible for RMA. MAABD is the program of best benefit in comparison to RMA.

**5. Refugee Pregnant Woman Single**

Refugee Pregnant women (single) found eligible for Medicaid programs for pregnant women under the NC Medicaid State Plan are ineligible for RMA.

**D. Institution of Higher Education**

Refugees who are full-time students in an institution of higher education are not eligible for RMA.

**E. Residency Status**

Proof of residency is not a condition of eligibility; accept applicant's statement of intent to reside in a county in North Carolina. Do not request other verification such as post-marked mail, rental/utility records, etc., as newly arrived refugees are not likely to have these documents.

An individual Eligible in Another State moves to North Carolina:

1. applicant was receiving RMA benefits in another state prior to moving to NC, the local social services is responsible for contacting the prior state.
2. Notify that State the applicant has moved to NC and requesting services in NC.
3. Request eligibility dates from the out of state agency and request benefits be terminated so eligibility can be determined in NC.

**F. DSS-6247 "Notification of Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits"  
Notification from Refugee Resettlement Agencies and/or other Community  
Partners/Agencies who work with-refugee arrival, this excludes the county DSS**

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All refugee applicants who resettle through a Refugee Resettlement Agency (Appendix A) must present a DSS-6247, Notification of Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits form (to the county DSS) when applying for all public benefits. **This is a required form.** If applicants with Refugee, Special Immigrant Visa Holders, and/or Afghanistan populations statuses, do not present form DSS-6247, at the time of application and they were resettled through an Refugee Resettlement Agency then case manager should not move forward. The case manager must request for the Refugee Resettlement Agency to provide a completed DSS-6247 first, at the onset of the application in addition to all other immigration documentations.

**NOTE:** DSS-6247, Notification of Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits, is **NOT a required form** for all other populations e. g. Asylees granted Asylum, Victims of Trafficking (Approved Certification Letter), Cuban Haitian Entrants, and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP). These ORR-eligible populations are individuals who are in the U.S. before their status is granted, they arrived on their own and/or are in the process of establishing one of the required immigration status to remain in the USA. These other refugee populations often will not have established an initial relationship with a Refugee Resettlement Agency.

For example: If a Victims of Trafficking is working with the Salvation Army and the Case Manager at the Salvation Army must make appropriate agency referrals by one, sending this client to the DSS with the DSS-6247, Notification to Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits. The Salvation Army Case Manager may also make additional referrals to one on of the approved NC Refugee Services Providers (Appendix B) in the county in which the applicant lives.

**G. Income Requirements**

The income standard is 200% of the federal poverty level. See Appendix D for additional guidelines on policy income.

Base eligibility for RMA on the applicant's income on the date of application. Request verification based on most recent pay statement at the time of application **ONLY**.

- The State agency may not use the practice of averaging income prospectively over the application processing period in determining income eligibility for refugee medical assistance.
- Count only income from earnings, savings in US bank accounts, and other financial resources acquired while in the United States.
- Do not consider a sponsor's income to be accessible to a refugee.
- The State may not consider in-kind services and shelter provided to an applicant by a sponsor or local resettlement agency in determining eligibility for and receipt of refugee medical assistance.
- Do not consider any cash grant received by the applicant under the Department of State or Department of Justice Reception and Placement Program (R&P).
- Do not average income prospectively over the application processing period in determining income eligibility for RMA.

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- Do not count Match Grant payments as income.

**H. Resources Requirements**

Base eligibility for RMA on the applicant's resources on the date of application. Request verification based on most recent pay statement at the time of application **ONLY**. Do not consider any resources remaining in the applicant's country of origin in determining eligibility.

- Do not consider a sponsor's resources to be accessible to a refugee.
- Do not consider in-kind services and shelter provided to an applicant by a sponsor or local resettlement agency in determining eligibility for RMA.

**III. APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

**A. RMA Interview**

After determining applicant's eligibility, proceed using these interview guidelines. The case manager must:

1. Apply cultural sensitivity in all communications.
2. Apply the NC Confidentiality Rules for public assistance benefits to RMA program.
3. Applicant(s) can have any person(s) of their choice participate in the interview.
4. Applicant(s) does not have to be present for interview. However, the application must be signed by the applicant or authorized representative. Get signed DSS-6236, Informed Consent for Release of Information form.

**NOTE: Telephonic Application Interviews:** When an applicant contacts the local Social/Human Services agency, the case manager must conduct a telephone interview with the applicant and or the applicants authorized representative to complete the NC FAST (Integrated Evidence Gathering) IEG. Case managers must document the telephonic signature in the income support case details. An applicant or authorized representative must speak directly with a case manager to complete a telephonic application. A voicemail message requesting assistance is not an application for medical assistance. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements for Refugee Medical Assistance.

**NOTE: Mail-In/Drop-Off Application Interviews:** Refugee Medical Assistance Application (DSS-6242) can be mailed to individuals who choose to apply for RMA benefits. Within three (3) business days of receipt of the DSS-6242, the case manager must contact the applicant and/or the applicants authorized representative to complete the NC IEG. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements for RMA benefits.

5. Information must be presented in a language the applicant understands and or interpretation services must be provided. Get signed DSS-10001 Language Services Agreement form.
6. Explain RMA in understandable terms, ensuring that refugees understand their rights and responsibilities. Get signed NC FAST 20009, Rights and Responsibilities.

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7. When completing a Face to Face, telephonic or mail-in application the following forms **MUST** be uploaded into NC Fast within three business days from approval: Application Signature Page(In Person) NC Fast 20009, DMA 5094,DSS 10001, DHB 9006, DSS 8227, DSS 6243 and or DSS 8108.
8. Offer the refugee an opportunity to apply for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits on the same day.

**B. RMA Application**

**1. Electronic (NC FAST)**

To apply for RMA, the case manager may complete the North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) IEG. The case manager must document either the telephonic signature (of applicant or authorized representative) or the wet signature and date of the RMA application in the income support case details.

**2. DSS-6242, Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Application (Paper)**

To apply for RMA, the Refugee may complete a paper RMA Application (DSS-6242). The case manager must document either the telephonic signature (of applicant or authorized representative) or the wet signature and date of the RMA application in the income support case details.

**Note:** Applying online for Medical Assistance can be done via e-Pass (electronic pass). RMA applications are NOT available via e-Pass.

**C. RMA Application Processing Requirements**

1. **Submit the Required DSS-6247, Notification of Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits** form for Refugee, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holder and Afghanistan population applicants who resettle through a Refugee Resettlement Agency (Appendix A) must present a DSS-6247, Notification of Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits form when applying for RMA.

**NOTE:** DSS-6247, Notification of Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits, **is NOT a required form** for all other “refugee” populations e. g. Asylees granted Asylum, Victims of Trafficking, Cuban Haitian Entrants, and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP). These ORR-eligible populations are individuals who are in the U.S. before their status is granted and they often will not have an established relationship with a resettlement agency

2. **ORR-Eligible, Qualified Status** – RMA applicant must submit evidence of documentation issued by USCIS, which indicates eligibility status. This “refugee” qualified group exempt from the 5-year ban time frames. Secondary verification is not required. A list of acceptable USCIS documentation most often presented by refugees is in Chapter I, Section II.
  - a. Verify the documentation of immigration status.
  - b. If status is verified by documents, the applicant has a qualified status, and the case manager shall continue determining eligibility based on other requirements. **Do not use Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements**



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**(SAVE) as a form of primary or secondary verification.**

- c. If unable to confirm status from documentation supplied by applicant, **Refer to ORR Fact Sheets (Appendices E – L)**. ‘Refugees’ immigration status will always be verified and valid through appropriate documents. If applicants are unable to provide documentation, then they may not have adequate ‘Refugee’ immigration status.
  - d. If unable to confirm status from documentation supplied by applicant, **approve RMA** if other eligibility requirements are met.
3. **Processing Time Standard – Applications must be processed within thirty (30) calendar days** unless there is applicant delay. The thirty (30) calendar days begin the day after the date of application and ends on the day the check or denial notice is mailed. The date of application is the date the applicant, authorized representative, or someone acting on applicant’s behalf, signs the application.
4. **Requesting Information: A DSS 8146A must be completed when it is determined information is needed for additional information/verification to determine eligibility. Provide the applicant with the DSS -8146A, Notice of Information Need To Determine Eligibility for Work First, Refugee Cash or Medical Assistance, requesting information/Verification needed to make an eligibility determination.**

**D. Not Required for RMA Application Processing**

- 1. **Social Security Number** – Social Security Numbers (SSN) or proof of application for an SSN are not required for RMA applicants.
- 2. **Do not use Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) as a form of primary or secondary verification.**

**E. Refugee Assistance Independent Programs** - A refugee is not required to apply for or receive Refugee Cash Assistance as a condition of eligibility for RMA. However, all recipients of RCA are automatically eligible for RMA. Denial, reduction or termination of RCA has no effect on a refugee’s RMA.

**F.** If the refugee individual/family is determined to be eligible for a Medicaid program in the NC FAST System, authorize Medicaid coverage according to Medicaid program guidelines for that refugee individual/family.

**G.** If the refugee individual/couple is determined to be ineligible in the new MAGI application for a Medicaid program in the NC FAST System, then complete a Medical Assistance application.

**EXCEPTION - Family Planning Medicaid**

The Family Planning Program (FPP) is provided to individuals who are not eligible for or any other Medicaid category. Refugees who are not eligible for any other Medicaid program may be eligible for RMA. **If the potential applicant is deemed eligible by NC FAST for Family and Children’s Medicaid: FPP; then the county staff must evaluate each potential refugee applicant for RMA.**

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**IV. FINALIZED APPLICATION**

**A. Disposition of Application**

Eligible applicants are entitled to receive RMA coverage for up to twelve (12) full months from the date of arrival or date of eligibility (whichever is later) in the United States.

**1. Retroactive Coverage**

Depending on the date of arrival/eligibility, eligibility for RMA may be authorized for the 1, 2, or 3 months preceding the month of application. The client must have met all eligibility requirements in the retroactive period.

**2. Coverage of Refugees Who Do Not Meet State's Financial Eligibility Standards (Medicaid Deductible)**

An RMA applicant whose net countable income exceeds 200% of Federal Poverty Level Income Limit must meet a deductible before being authorized for Medicaid. The deductible is met by incurring medical expenses equal to the amount of the deductible. Compute the deductible for the appropriate period, up to 12 months, using the Medically Needy income limit according to the instructions provided under MA Section 2360.

**3. Documentation** - Document case disposition of application in client's case notes. Maintain and retain operational records in accordance with the standards established by the NC Department of Health and Human Services

**B. Determine Eligibility Period**

Eligible applicants are entitled to receive RMA coverage for up to twelve (12) full months from the date of arrival in the United States. For an Asylee, the date of arrival is the date asylum was granted. To calculate the eligibility period:

**1. Determine start date** – Eligibility begins on the first day of the month application is made.

**2. Determine end date** – Eligibility ends twelve full months after the refugee's date of entry or attaining eligible status, on the last day of that month.

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**C. Notices**

Once the determination of eligibility has been made, the applicant and Refugee Resettlement Agency (RRA), if applicable, both must be notified of the outcome.

1. A DSS-6243, Pro-Forma Notice of Approval, Denial/Withdraw and Changing, to RMA applicant regarding the disposition of the application will be system generated in NC FAST with disposition of the RMA application. The notice is system generated and will automatically generate after the disposition is complete. Case manager must also send copy of DSS-6243 notice to RRA if applicable.

**NOTE:** In the event this NC FAST system generated DSS-6243 form is disable, prints in error, prints incorrect disposition information and/or is not working the case manager MUST generate a DSS-8108, or DSS-8109 Notice of Benefits Approval/Denial, form to manually electronically complete (available on the forms website) and mailed to recipient in its place.

These forms are case manager initiated and must be complete with the disposition of the RMA application. Next, the case manager must upload the DSS-8108, DSS-8109 and DSS-8110 into the documents tab of NC FAST. The case manager must specify RMA option and cite the appropriate RMA policy reference. An approval notice must be sent to the RMA recipient and to the NC Refugee Resettlement Agency (representative).

Follow instructions in DSS-8108, DSS-8109, DSS-8110 to establish the following:

- a. refugee has applied for assistance,
- b. the status and disposition of the application, and
- c. the reason if assistance has been refused, denied or terminated.

**NOTE:** If a refugee applies for other mainstream assistance programs and is determined ineligible, but eligible for RMA, one notice must reflect the mainstream disposition and one letter must reflect the approval disposition.

2. NC FAST 20009, Client Rights and Responsibilities Form must be signed by the applicant and/or the authorized representative.

**V. CHANGES IN SITUATION**

- A. A change in situation is any change an individual refugee experiences that may affect the individual's eligibility for RMA.

***Example of change in situation for RMA recipient with refugee status turns 65 years old during RMA certification period.***

RMA recipient turns 65 years of age, react to change, and evaluate for Medicaid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (MAABD), under the NC Medicaid State Plan. Terminate RMA as recipient is now ineligible for RMA.

***Examples of change in situation for RMA the recipient turns twenty-one (21) during the MAGI certification period. The recipient is eligible for the remaining months in RMA.***

***Example of change in situation for RMA recipient with refugee status becomes pregnant during RMA certification period***

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RMA recipient becomes pregnant react to change. and evaluate for Medicaid programs for pregnant women under the NC Medicaid State Plan. If found eligible for Medicaid programs for pregnant women under the NC Medicaid State Plan are ineligible for RMA.

- B. The refugee and the resettlement agency are responsible for reporting changes. A change in situation must be reported within ten (10) calendar days of when the change is known.
- C. An agency must react to a change in situation the following month after the change but no later than the second month. Changes are effective the month after the month in which the 10-day notice expires unless the recipient waives the 10-day notice.

**NOTE:** RMA applicants/recipients must receive timely notice termination of benefits.

**NOTE:** Attach to the 8110-proposing termination of benefits a blank DSS 5200 Application for Health Coverage & Help Paying Costs

- D. Verify the change according to the verification procedures. Always document the change and verification.
- E. NC FAST will systematically generate a timely DSS-6243 via Pro-Forma, Notice of Stopping or Changing Public Assistance, to notify the household how the change affects their benefits.

**NOTE:** In the event this NC FAST system generated DSS-6243 form is disable, prints in error, prints incorrect disposition information and/or Pro-Forma is not working the case manager **MUST** generate a DSS-8110, Notice of Benefits Changing. Next the form must be generated (via the DSS forms website) and uploaded into NC FAST, on the documents tab regarding the disposition of the RMA application. Lastly, a copy must be mailed to the RMA recipient and the NC Refugee Resettlement Agency.

- F. Due to the short-term of benefits, if a refugee household reports a change of address and it is in another county, **do not transfer the case**. Instead, continue to maintain the **RMA** case in the county of application. The RMA program does not provide recertification or reviews or benefits

**NOTE: DO NOT** terminate RMA if new or additional income is reported and causes the recipient to exceed the income limit. **Eligibility for RMA is based on the applicant's income and resources at the time of application ONLY** i.e., if a refugee has no income at the time of application, count no income. Do not project income for the duration of the RMA certification. Do not count income/resources prior to date of application. A recipient shall continue to receive RMA until the end of the 12-month eligibility period unless there is a change in eligibility (age or pregnancy).

## VI. REVIEW

At the end of the refugee's twelfth month in the U.S. or since date eligibility status was granted, terminate RMA assistance. Evaluate to determine if the individual with refugee status is eligible for any other medical assistance and take the necessary program applications or refer to the appropriate agency. In addition to notifying the refugee of the termination, the notice must indicate the determination of eligibility for other programs. Manually send a written DSS-8110, Notice of Stopping or Changing Public Assistance. Unlike Medicaid, RMA policy does not allow for extension of benefits due to county failure to provide timely notice. See MA Section 2352 for additional instructions.

**NOTE:** Refugee Medical are available to refugees for up to the first twelve months after their date of arrival, or attaining eligible status, in the United States, and only if they are not eligible for other mainstream social services assistance programs.

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**VII. NOTICE AND HEARINGS PROCESS**

- A.** All applicants for and recipients of RMA must be provided an opportunity for hearing to contest adverse determinations. See MA Section 2420.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- The refugee may have a representative as well as a translator/interpreter attend the hearing.
  - The hearing decision must be provided in a language the refugee can understand or have translated/interpreted into such a language.
- B.** A hearing need not be granted when RMA is terminated because the eligibility time period (12 months) imposed by law has been reached.

**VIII. RECIPIENT FRAUD AND ABUSE**

Local DSS must comply with Federal requirements regarding potential fraud and misrepresentation that results in medical assistance overpayments. Because Refugee Assistance is not considered a program of public assistance under N. C. G. S. 108A-24, fraud cases must be prosecuted under N. C. G. S. 14-100, "False Pretense and Cheats." See MA Section 2900 for additional information.

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