

# COVID-19: Resources for Undocumented Immigrants in Rhode Island

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## WHERE CAN I GET HEALTH CARE?

If you feel ill, it is safe and smart to get the care you need. These places provide health care regardless of your immigration status:

**Community Health Centers**- call 401-274-1771 ([rihca.org](http://rihca.org)) to find a health center near you (adults and children)

**Rhode Island Free Clinic** - call 401-274-6374 (adults only)

**Clinica Esperanza- Hope Clinic** - call 401-347-9093 (adults only)



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### Testing:



If you think you need to be tested, call your doctor.

If you do not have a doctor, call a **community health center** for an evaluation.

Community health centers will help you, regardless of your immigration status.



**Note:** there is no cost for testing

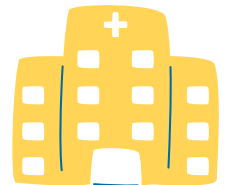
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### Hospitalization:

If you need to be hospitalized, you will be able to access Emergency Medicaid and Charity Care programs at hospitals.

**Emergency Medicaid** provides medical coverage for emergency situations. The hospital will help you apply for Emergency Medicaid to cover costs.

**Charity Care** programs at hospitals may cover all or part of your bill if you are unable to pay. Ask the business office of the hospital for an application.



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### Health Insurance:

Pregnant women, regardless of immigration status, are eligible for **Medicaid**. You can apply for Medicaid at anytime. Call 1-855-840-4774 or apply online at [healthsourceri.com](http://healthsourceri.com)

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### Know Your Rights:



**Remember:** you have the right to an interpreter when applying for and seeking health insurance and care, at no cost, and regardless of your immigration status.



**Remember:** anyone, regardless of immigration status, can seek health care at hospitals, emergency rooms, and health centers. If you are undocumented, you do not need to share your immigration status with hospital or health center workers. If you don't have health insurance, you can say, "**I am not eligible for health insurance and do not want to apply**".

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## WHERE CAN I FIND FOOD ASSISTANCE?

**Food Pantries:** the RI Community Food Bank has a list of food pantries around the state. Food pantries are open to everyone, regardless of immigration status. View the list of food pantries here: [rifoodbank.org/find-food/](http://rifoodbank.org/find-food/)



**SNAP (food stamps):** although undocumented people are not eligible for SNAP, if you live with children or other household members who may be eligible (e.g. citizens), you can apply for these household members. DHS staff are not allowed to report information to Immigration. Apply: [healthyrhode.ri.gov](http://healthyrhode.ri.gov) or call 1-855-697-4347



**Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):** Provides vouchers to purchase foods to pregnant and post-partum women and children under age five who meet certain income guidelines, regardless of immigration status. For information and where to apply: [health.ri.gov/wic](http://health.ri.gov/wic)

**'Grab and Go' Meals** for school children: Anyone aged 18 or under who shows up at a 'Grab and Go' site gets a free meal. There are no ID or residency requirements. All children, regardless of status, can receive a free meal. View the latest 'Grab and Go' sites here: [health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/about/foodsites/](http://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/about/foodsites/)

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## IS THERE INCOME AVAILABLE TO ME?

### Families with children:

RI Works: If you are a parent (or caretaker relative) of children under age 18, you can apply for your citizen children. All information is kept confidential.

To apply: [healthyrhode.ri.gov](http://healthyrhode.ri.gov) or call 1-855-697-4347



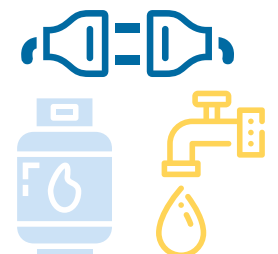
### COVID-19 One-time Cash Payment:

The federal government is making one-time cash payments of \$1,200 for adults/\$500 for children. To qualify for this payment, the adult and child must have a valid social security number. People who file taxes using an ITIN are not eligible. For married couples who file jointly, both spouses must have a social security number.

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## CAN MY UTILITIES GET SHUT OFF?

**Not now.** The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission adopted an emergency order on March 16, covering all electric, natural gas, water, and sewer utilities through April 16, 2020. [This order prevents your utilities from being shut off if you're unable to pay your utilities bills.](#) This protection applies to everyone in RI, regardless of immigration status, and may be extended past April 16.



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## CAN I BE EVICTED FROM MY HOUSING?



**Not now.** Rhode Island courts have stopped hearing eviction cases until at least April 17th. This means you cannot legally be evicted from your housing at this time. If your landlord is telling you to move out, or you have other rental concerns, call the Center for Justice at 401-491-1101 for help.

For more, see: [Homes RI fact sheet](#)

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## A NOTE ABOUT USCIS OFFICES AND EMBASSIES CLOSING

**USCIS:** has cancelled all in-person services (ie. adjustment interviews, naturalization ceremonies, biometric appointments) until at least May 3, 2020 to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Scheduled appointments will be rescheduled when USCIS reopens.

Those who had an appointment scheduled after March 18th, 2020 or who filed an application to extend employment authorization, will have their application processed using previously submitted biometrics.

See updates and more info: [www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19](http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19)

**Embassies/Consulates:** Department of State (DOS) has cancelled all immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments at embassies and consulates worldwide. Currently, this means that individuals cannot pursue visa processing at any embassy or consulate abroad.

See more: [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/suspension-of-routine-visa-services.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/suspension-of-routine-visa-services.html)

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## A NOTE ABOUT PUBLIC CHARGE

New public charge rules have caused many immigrants to fear seeking and applying for health care and other forms of assistance.

**Important:** use of assistances/benefits listed above on this document and public benefits used by your family members will not be considered in a public charge determination.

In addition, USCIS has released a [statement](#) declaring that testing, treatment, and preventative care related to COVID-19 will not negatively affect any immigrant in a future public charge determination.

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## NEED MORE RESOURCES?

For more information on COVID-19, go to:  
The Economic Progress Institute- [www.economicprogressri.org/covid-19](http://www.economicprogressri.org/covid-19)

Department of Health COVID19 hotline: 401-222-8022

For Mental Health Services: 401-414-5465