



Expansion of Timeline for Medical and Cash Assistance for Refugees

[Linked here is a blog post from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement \(ORR\)](#) letting community members know about the recent expansion of the timeline for Medical and Cash Assistance for refugees and all other populations eligible for ORR services. Following are a few key points:

- On 31 March 2022, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) announced the expansion of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) from eight months to twelve months;
- Refugees and asylees with dates of gaining ORR benefits-eligible status before 1 October 2021 are eligible for eight months of Medical and Cash Assistance;
- **To be eligible for this expansion of Medical and Cash Assistance, refugees' and asylees' dates of gaining ORR benefits-eligible status must occur on or after 1 October 2021;**
- With this expansion of Medical and Cash Assistance, refugees and asylees who meet the criteria above will receive four additional months of assistance on top of the original eight months.

What to do when Refugee Medical Assistance ends:

- **When eligibility for Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) expires after eight or twelve months, that loss of coverage will open up a 60-day window for individuals and families losing coverage to enroll into qualified health plans through the federal health insurance Marketplace;**
- **If refugees or asylees lost RMA coverage over 60 days ago, recent health policy changes may make them eligible to enroll now;**
- The [Prosper Health Coverage program](#) at federally-funded, nonprofit Marketplace Navigator organization Foundation Communities can help anyone in Texas fill out the complex application accurately, choose an affordable plan, set up a primary care doctor, make appointments for preventive care, and use qualified health plans to best benefit them from year to year;
 - Marketplace coverage is more affordable than ever due to recent increases in monthly financial assistance;
- Community members can make **free in-person or over-the-phone appointments** and community partners can make free in-person or over-the-phone appointments for clients and patients by calling **512-381-4520** or using the appointment scheduler at [ProsperHealthCoverage.org](#);
 - Most of our staff are Spanish/English bilingual, and we have interpreters for all other languages.
- For clinics, community organizations, businesses, offices, and other groups who want to help community members get coverage, please email Foundation Communities' Prosper Health Coverage Senior Program Coordinator Lynn Cowles at Lynn.Cowles@foundcom.org to develop ways to partner with our local central Texas Marketplace application assister program.