



# **House Committee on Border and International Affairs**

**Health and Human Services Commission  
October 5, 2006**

- **Eligible individuals include\*:**
  - **U.S. Citizens**
  - **Certain legally-admitted alien residents**
  
- **Federally Mandated Verification Requirements:**
  - **States must verify alien status for individuals who are not U.S. citizens and**
  - **States must verify citizenship and identity for individuals who claim U.S. citizenship**

*\*Federal law mandates states to provide Medicaid reimbursement for otherwise eligible non-citizens who require emergency medical services meeting certain criteria.*

## Citizenship Verification

- **The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requires that applicants for Medicaid must provide documentary evidence to establish both citizenship and identity. (Effective July 1, 2006)**
  - **Acceptable verification is prescribed in the law and through Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance**
  - **Current recipients are grandfathered until their next review and then must provide proof**
  - **New requirement is delaying eligibility determination, and increasing workload**

# Citizenship and Identity - Medicaid

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HHSC utilizes all available data sources to verify citizenship\*:

- Current SSI recipients and individuals entitled to or enrolled in Medicare
- Births paid for by the Texas Medicaid program
- Texas Birth Certificate registry

*\*Under federal requirements may also need to also verify identity*

For those individuals required to provide documentation, the following documents can be accepted to verify **both citizenship and identity** for the Medicaid program:

- U.S. passport
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship

If another document is used to verify citizenship, must also provide proof of identity

# Food Stamps Eligibility

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- **Eligible individuals include:**
  - **U.S. Citizens**
  - **Certain legally-admitted alien residents**
  
- **Federally Mandated Verification Requirements:**
  - **States must verify citizenship if it is questionable**
  - **States must verify alien status for individuals who are not U.S. citizens**
  
- **State Mandated Verification Requirements:**
  - **Verification of alien status is required for all persons claiming legal alien status**

# TANF Eligibility

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- **Eligible individuals include:**
  - **U.S. Citizens**
  - **Certain legally-admitted alien residents**
  
- **Federally Mandated Verification Requirements:**
  - **States must verify alien status for individuals who are not U.S. citizens**
  
- **State Mandated Verification Requirements:**
  - **Verification of citizenship is required for all persons claiming U.S. citizenship**
  - **Verification of alien status is required for all persons claiming legal alien status**

# Children's Health Insurance Program

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- **Eligible children include:**
  - **U.S. Citizens**
  - **Certain legally-admitted alien residents**
  
- **State Mandated Verification Requirements:**
  - **Non-citizens must provide verification of immigration/alien status**

## **Verification of Alien Status: Medicaid, TANF, Food Stamps and CHIP**

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**For individuals who meet eligibility requirements and must prove legal alien status, documents are verified by HHSC using:**

- **Federal Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) web-based application**
- **A manual verification through BCIS is available if information is unable to be verified through the SAVE system**

### **Examples of Alien Status Documents**

- **I-94: Arrival Departure Record**
- **I-688-B: Employment Authorization Card**
- **I-766: Employment Authorization Document**
- **I-551: “Green Card”**
- **I-151 (only issued prior to 1978)**
- **Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services Asylum office letter**
- **Order from an immigration judge**
- **Derivative T Visa – Victim of severe trafficking and family members**
- **Original certification letter from Office of Refugee Resettlement**