



COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES  
OF PHILADELPHIA

## **If I am an immigrant in Pennsylvania, will the government help me pay for medical care?**

Medical Assistance, also known as Medicaid, is a government program which provides health insurance to poor and disabled people, or pregnant women and children. Medicaid usually pays for medicine, doctor's visits, and hospital stays. You can apply for it at a local welfare office.

### **YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID!!!!**

UNLESS you are here temporarily (like on student visa or a visitors visa) or are undocumented, your immigration status is not a bar to getting Medicaid. However, some legal permanent residents may be required to wait five years before qualifying for some types of Medical Assistance.

Even undocumented immigrants and people with temporary status who have "emergency medical conditions" can get Medicaid, but it is usually for a short time only.

An "emergency medical condition" could be something that makes you go to the emergency room, or it could be another kind of problem that needs medical attention immediately. The law says an emergency medical condition exists when:

- the patient's health may be in serious jeopardy
- there may be serious impairment to bodily function and or body organ
- a pregnant woman needs labor and delivery services.

**If you have had difficulty getting Medical Assistance because of your immigration status, and you have an urgent medical problem, please come to:**

**Community Legal Services  
1410 West Erie Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA, 19140**

**on Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 AM – 12 PM.**

**If you do not speak English, we will provide a free interpreter for you.**