



GEORGIANS FOR A
HEALTHY FUTURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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DACA Recipients in Georgia to Lose Marketplace Health Coverage Under New Federal Rules

ATLANTA, GA – Starting August 25, 2025, a provision of the [federal Marketplace Integrity and Affordability final rule](#) will go into effect that strips Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients of their eligibility to enroll in marketplace health coverage. There are about [17,700 DACA recipients in Georgia](#) who will become ineligible to purchase a plan on the exchange and, in some cases, lose their current coverage. Georgia Access is required to disenroll current DACA enrollees by the end of September.

The Final Rule will have significant impacts on Georgia's State-Based Health Insurance Marketplace (SBM). Georgia Access, now the second-largest SBM in the country, enrolled over [1.5 million Georgians](#) in its first year of operation, including about 225,000 new consumers. These numbers reflect the program's importance as a primary access point for health coverage in the state.

Under this policy change, Georgia Access will no longer recognize DACA recipients as "lawfully present," cutting them off from marketplace enrollment. Starting August 25, the state will block new applicants, and on September 30, it will remove current enrollees from their plans. The state will notify affected individuals, many of whom rely on this coverage to afford doctor visits, prescriptions, and other essential care.

"This change will take affordable coverage away from a group of Georgians who have built their lives here and contribute daily to our state," said Whitney Griggs, Director of Health Policy at Georgians for a Healthy Future. "While DACA recipients likely make up a small portion of Georgia Access enrollees, this decision will have an outsized impact on their lives and communities. This change also comes at a time when other federal policy shifts will put hundreds of thousands of Georgians at risk of losing their health coverage, further destabilizing Georgia's health system."

Other August 2025 Georgia Access Changes

While the DACA eligibility change will have the most immediate and severe effect on immigrant communities, other changes taking effect on August 25 include:

- **Shorter Deadlines for Income Verification:** Consumers must now resolve income Data Matching Issues (DMIs) within 90 days, with no extensions.
- **New Verification Requirements for Low-Income Applicants:** Georgia Access will require extra verification steps for applicants whose reported incomes appear below the federal poverty line.

A full summary of these and other marketplace changes is available from the state at georgiaaccess.gov

What Affected Georgians Should Do

DACA recipients who lose coverage after September 30 should explore other options to stay insured, such as Georgia Medicaid*, off-exchange plans, or coverage provided by their school or employer, if applicable.

Georgians for a Healthy Future will continue to monitor changes to Georgia Access and other health coverage programs, keeping the public informed about policies that affect their ability to get and keep affordable care.

*There will be a change to how qualified immigrants are defined for Medicaid/PeachCare eligibility in October 2026

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Georgians for a Healthy Future collaborates with communities and partners to lead policy change that advances health equity for all Georgians. Our vision is of a day in which all Georgians have equitable opportunities to achieve their highest level of health. We do this by delivering actionable health policy information to policymakers and advocates; providing resources to help consumers become strong advocates, and elevating the consumer experience to inform policy change. Read more at healthyfuturega.org

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