

# Refugees and the Affordable Care Act

---

## **How to Use This Video to Communicate with Refugees About the Affordable Care Act**

Produced by the Refugee Health Technical Assistance Center (RHTAC) with funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Grant No. 90RB0042).

## Introduction

This guide provides a brief overview of the video “Refugees and the Affordable Care Act” and recommendations for sharing the video, including sample communication messages. This guide is intended for refugee service providers, health care providers, and other public health professionals who work with refugees in the United States.

## Target Audience

The content of the video is appropriate for anyone eligible for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) services and benefits (e.g. refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders, and certain victims of human trafficking and other vulnerable groups). New refugee arrivals and former refugees can equally benefit from the video.

## About the Video

This short online video introduces refugees to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The goal of the video is to educate refugees about the importance of health insurance and primary care, the different types of health coverage available in the U.S., and new health insurance options available through the ACA. The video was developed in collaboration with the refugee community and features refugee narrators, refugee speakers, and health care providers.

The video is available in the following **six** languages:

- Arabic
- English
- Kinyarwanda
- Nepali
- Sgaw Karen
- Somali

Each video has English subtitles. A transcript is available upon request.

**View the Refugees and the Affordable Care Act video at:**

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>

## How to Use This Video

The video can easily be shared with refugees in person or online to help orient refugees to health insurance in the U.S. The video is intended for use by refugees in their homes and communities. Refugee service providers, health care providers, and other public health professionals who work with refugees, including case managers, ESL teachers, counselors, community health workers, or members of ethnic community-based or faith-based organizations will also find the video useful. Below are some options on how to use this video.

### **Option 1: Watch with an individual or small group.**

Watch the video together with a refugee (or group of refugees), then help to answer additional questions that he or she may have about health insurance options in the U.S. Use the video as a teaching tool to begin the conversation about health insurance, then provide more resources or assistance tailored for the specific refugee(s) or state context. For example, you may or may not live in a state with expanded Medicaid, so this provides an opportunity to provide additional information about eligibility and enrollment.

### **Option 2: Share the video online.**

Share the online video directly with refugees, other service providers, or the general public via your existing communication networks. These may include social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter), blogs, eNewsletters, email listservs, or your organization's website. Think about the ways that you are currently working to promote your services to the refugee community. You can share the video and then provide additional information about eligibility and enrollment. See below for sample communication messages for sharing the video.

### **Option 3: Host a community screening.**

Organize a video screening for the community, either at your organization, in a community meeting place, or in someone's home. Show the video and then invite refugees to ask questions about health insurance and how to apply. Have a computer available to go online and visit the [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) website and view the online marketplaces.

## Sample Communication Messages

The video may be shared via several communication channels to directly promote the video to refugees and to raise awareness of the video among service providers. Sample communication messages are included in the following pages.

### Website Announcement

---

Post this message on your organization's website or homepage.

#### *Intended Audience: Refugees*

Stay healthy and happy! Visit the [Health Insurance Marketplace](#) and apply before December 15, 2013 so your health insurance starts on January 1, 2014! Learn more about how the Affordable Care Act can help refugees obtain health insurance [here](#).

#### *Intended Audience: Service Providers*

This new [video](#) developed by the Office of Refugee Resettlement highlights health insurance options for refugees from the Affordable Care Act. The video is available in English, Sgaw Karen, Arabic, Somali, Nepali, and Kinyarwanda.

### Email/eNewsletter Announcement

---

Share this message with refugees and/or other service providers via email or electronic newsletter.

#### *Intended Audience: Refugees and Service Providers*

Starting October 1, 2013, refugees can start applying for health insurance by completing the application that is available at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). Apply before December 15, 2013 for health insurance to start on January 1, 2014. Learn more about how the Affordable Care Act helps refugees by watching this video that features recently resettled refugees in the U.S.:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>

### Blog Post

---

Post this message on your organization's blog or website news section.

#### *Intended Audience: Refugees*

It is important to take care of yourself and your body so you can stay healthy. Your good health means you can spend time with your family, go to work or school, and enjoy a happy life.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a new law in the United States that helps more people get health insurance. Refugees will benefit greatly thanks to this law. Before

the ACA, some refugees had to go without health insurance, making it difficult to see doctors, get medicine, and take care of their health.

The ACA gives people two new options:

1. Beginning in 2014 more people will be eligible for a government-funded health insurance program called Medicaid. Currently Medicaid is for some low income children and adults, like parents, people with disabilities and older people. Thanks to the ACA, in many states, some low income adults without dependent children may be eligible for Medicaid. You qualify for Medicaid based on your monthly income, family size, immigration status and other factors. The rules for Medicaid eligibility may be different depending on the state.

2. Another way to get health insurance is to buy it at a good price through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Some people who have health insurance make regular payments to insurance companies. Those payments are called premiums. Financial assistance may be available to help pay for the insurance.

The Affordable Care Act helps refugees and their families afford health insurance so that they can visit the doctor and get the health care they need to stay healthy.

Watch this informative video about refugees and the Affordable Care Act. The video is available in English, Sgaw Karen, Arabic, Somali, Nepali, and Kinyarwanda: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>.

To learn more, visit the following websites:

[www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)

<http://marketplace.cms.gov>

<http://medicaid.gov/>

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/>

Or call the Health Insurance Marketplace consumer call center at 1-800-318-2596 and ask for an interpreter.

## **Facebook**

---

Share these messages via your organization's Facebook page.

*Intended Audience: Refugees and Service Providers*

- Visiting a doctor and treating a major illness can cost a lot of money. The Affordable Care Act will make it easier for refugees to get health insurance

beyond the first 8 months. Watch this video to learn more about the many benefits refugees will receive thanks to this new law:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>

- What is the Health Insurance Marketplace? It's a new way for refugees to buy health insurance at a good price. Learn more: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- "I feel good having health insurance to protect my family if something does happen and we need health care" – Resettled refugee in the U.S.
- Refugees can find out if they are eligible for Medicaid or if they can get help paying for health coverage through the Marketplace by submitting one application. Learn more: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- Beginning in 2014, you don't have to be a child, parent of a child, pregnant, disabled or older to get Medicaid in many states. Some low income adults between the ages of 19 and 64 years old can get Medicaid even if they don't fit into one of those categories. Watch this video featuring refugees to learn more about the health insurance options from the Affordable Care Act: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>

## Twitter

---

Share these messages via your organization's Twitter feed.

### *Intended Audience: Refugees and Service Providers*

- Health insurance helps you stay healthy. Watch this video on #refugees #ACA <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- #DidYouKnow: Under the #ACA, refugees can get health insurance beyond the 1st 8 months <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- How will the #ACA affect health care for #refugees? More information: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- #TipsforProviders: Help #refugees learn more about applying for health insurance under the #ACA <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- Your good health means you can spend time with family, go to work/school and enjoy a happy life <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- How will the #ACA change how #refugees get health insurance? Watch this video: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- Take a look at this video which highlights the ways #refugees can get health insurance <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>
- Visit the Health Insurance Marketplace and apply before Dec. 15, 2013 for health insurance that starts on Jan. 1, 2014! #ACA #Refugees
- Help #refugees learn more about their health insurance options under the #ACA. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/health>