



Policy Directive: 2024-05-01

Title: CHIP COFA Migrant

Date: May 23, 2024

From: Erin Kelley, Senior Manager

Program(s) impacted: Family Medical Programs

The purpose of this document is to provide updated guidance regarding CHIP eligibility for COFA migrants, defined below. This direction is retroactively effective March 9, 2024, with the congressional enactment date.

[PM2021-04-01](#) implemented congressional changes for the Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrant group, which refers to citizens of the Freely Associated States or the Pacific Island sovereign states of Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The law enacted at that time classified these members as Qualifying Non-Citizens, which made them eligible for public benefits, including Medicaid, exempt from the 5-year bar for Legal Permanent Residents. At that time, the new policy only applied to Medicaid programs and not to those children who would have qualified for CHIP.

Congress has amended the previous legislation, effective March 9, 2024, and COFA children may now be approved for CHIP coverage if they meet all other program requirements. All other information relating to COFA migrant eligibility in the [PM2021-04-01](#) will now apply to CHIP as well.

NOTE: If VLP results show an eligible status, exempt from the 5-year bar, and KEES is attempting to deny coverage due to the 5-year bar requirement, staff will need to consult the KEES User Manual or KEES Helpdesk for a solution.

For questions or concerns related to this document, please contact the KDHE Medical Policy Staff at KDHE.MedicaidEligibilityPolicy@ks.gov.

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Questions regarding any KEES issues are directed to the KEES Help Desk at KEES.HelpDesk@ks.gov.