



Many of California's Lawfully Present Non-Citizens Will Lose Eligibility for Federal Financial Assistance in 2027

- In 2025, President Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (also called H.R. 1), which removes financial help for people with certain immigration statuses.
- Beginning in 2027, nearly 130,000 lawfully present individuals enrolled in Covered California will lose eligibility for financial assistance because of this change in federal law.
- Compared to citizen enrollees, lawfully present enrollees are younger, lower income, more likely to be self-employed, and more likely to have enrolled with assistance from an agent.
- Nearly 80% of lawfully present enrollees who will lose eligibility for premium assistance in 2027 have incomes under 200% of FPL (\$31,300 for an individual; \$64,300 for a family of four).
- Without financial assistance, lawfully present enrollees from these working families will face average premiums of \$594 per month to maintain coverage.

Beginning in 2027, policy changes as the result of federal legislation (H.R. 1) will terminate eligibility for federal support for many lawfully present immigrants enrolled with health and human service programs, including marketplace financial premium and cost-sharing assistance, Medicaid, Medicare, and food assistance (CalFresh or SNAP). Many of these lawfully present Covered California enrollees are asylees, refugees, victims of serious crimes, or have pending applications for lawful permanent residence. Only non-citizens who are green card holders, Cuban or Haitian entrants, or residents of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, or Palau will remain eligible for financial assistance in 2027.

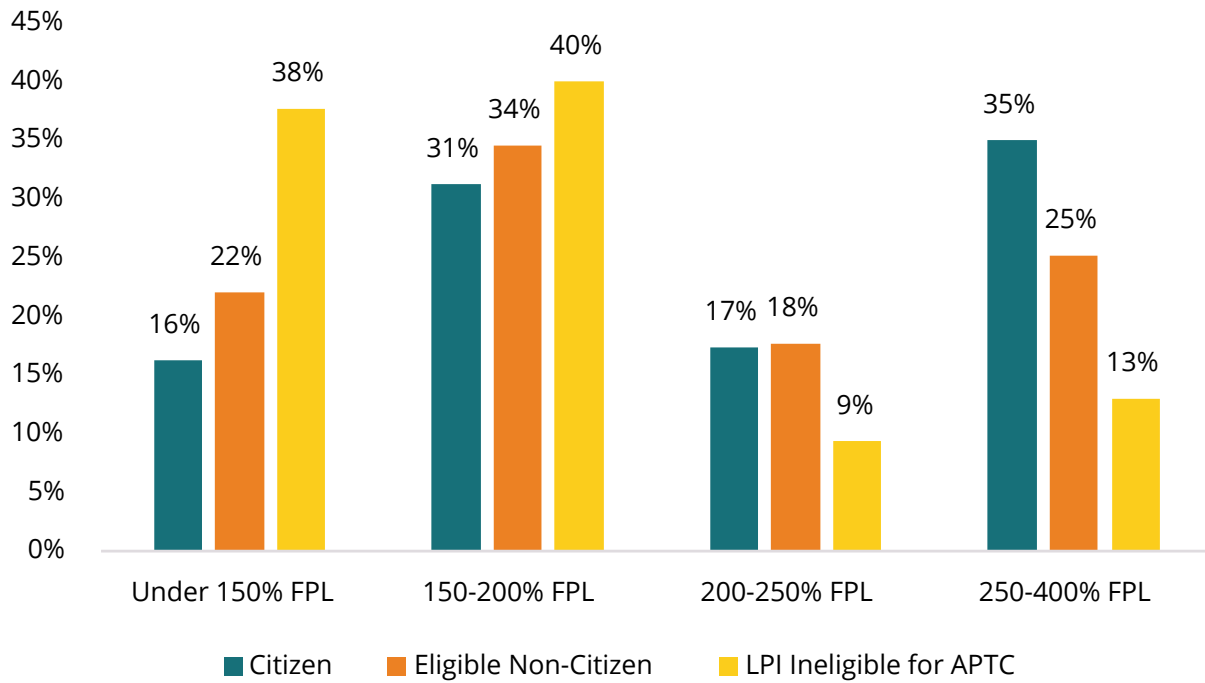
Table 1. Covered California Enrollees by Immigration Status and Subsidy Status, 2026

Immigration Status	Subsidy Receiving		Unsubsidized		Total	
	Enrollees	% of Total	Enrollees	% of Total	Enrollees	% of Total
Citizen	1,135,000	77%	293,000	91%	1,428,000	79%
Non-Citizen Eligible for APTC	211,000	14%	20,000	6%	231,000	13%
Lawfully Present Ineligible for APTC in 2027	130,000	9%	8,800	3%	138,800	8%
Grand Total	1,476,000	100%	321,800	100%	1,797,800	100%

Nearly 130,000 lawfully present immigrants are currently enrolled in subsidized coverage and will face substantial premium costs without the availability of financial assistance. These consumers have lower incomes compared to other enrollees: nearly 80% of lawfully present enrollees who will lose eligibility for APTC in 2027 have incomes under 200% of FPL (\$31,300 for

an individual; \$64,300 for a family of four), compared to 57% of eligible non-citizens and 47% of citizens. Many also report self-employment income: 55% of lawfully present enrollees are self-employed, which is nearly double the rate among citizen enrollees (29%).

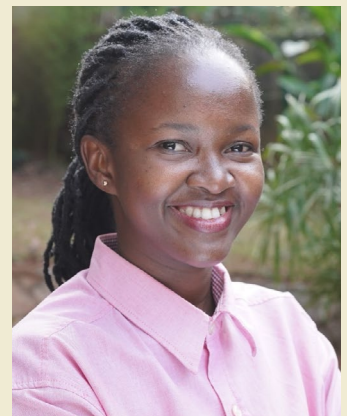
Figure 2. Immigration Categories by FPL Bracket, among Subsidy Receiving Enrollees in 2026



All lawfully present enrollees are currently eligible for the same financial assistance as citizen enrollees, resulting in substantial help paying for coverage. However, because of the income levels of these working families, three-quarters pay less than \$100 per member per month compared to 43% of citizen enrollees. Without financial assistance through federal premium subsidies, soon-to-be ineligible lawfully present enrollees would pay, on average, \$594 per member per month for their current coverage. Additionally, more than 85% will lose eligibility for out-of-pocket savings through federal cost sharing reduction plans in 2027.

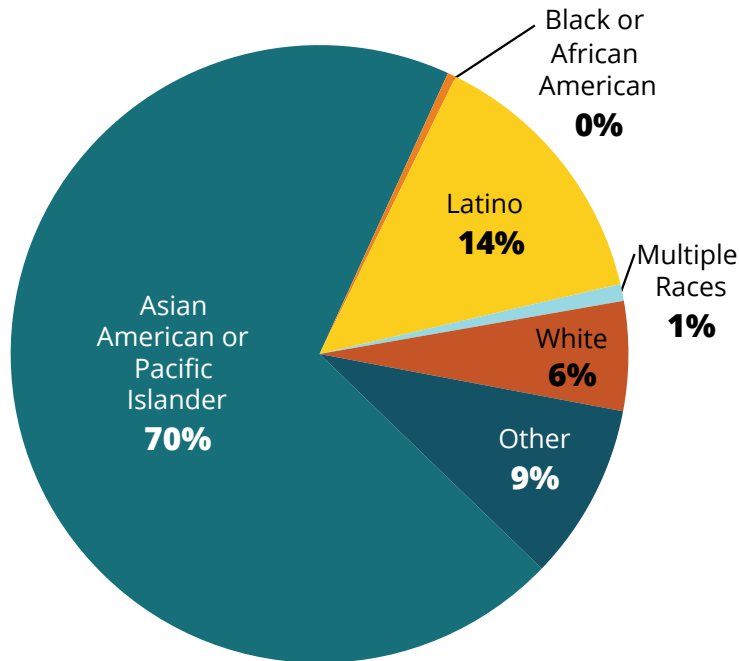
"I'm so grateful because the fact that I've been able to, to be, to see medical personnel for both my mental health needs and physical health needs and not have to pay a lot, that has been very relieving. Like, this surgery that I just had, I was like, oh my God, what's going to happen? How much are they going to charge me? But I went into hospital, everything was done and insurance covered it." -Nulu

Nulu is a resident of the Los Angeles area who came to California with her husband after her WHO-funded projects in Uganda ended. Her husband is self-employed film maker, while Nulu stays at home to care for their toddler. She has a master's degree in public health and is planning on pursuing a second master's degree part-time, with hopes of working in public health research.



Who Are Covered California's Lawfully Present Enrollees?

Figure 3. Race/Ethnicity of Subsidy-Receiving Lawfully Present Enrollees



Covered California's ineligible lawfully present enrollees comprise a diverse set of consumers, with a unique profile compared to citizens and other non-citizens who will remain eligible for APTC in 2027. Asian Americans comprise 70% of lawfully present enrollees losing eligibility for APTC, compared to 49% of eligible non-citizens and 18% of citizens. Nearly 43,000 of ineligible lawfully present enrollees identify as Chinese, while another 33,500 identify as Asian Indian.

Nearly half of all ineligible lawfully present enrollees request communication in a language other than English, compared to 22% of overall enrollment. Nearly three in ten lawfully present enrollees report Mandarin as their preferred spoken language, compared to 6% of overall enrollment, while another 14% prefer Spanish. Language access is a critical dimension of both current enrollment and future transition planning.

Lawfully present enrollees are younger than other enrollees: 40% of lawfully present enrollees are under the age of 35, compared to 36% of citizen enrollees and only 15% of eligible non-citizens.



"Me and my family have a good experience with Covered California - it's affordable, convenient - so I think it's good." -Tao

Tao is a middle-aged consumer from China who is currently residing in the Orange County area. He is a part-time gig worker and mechanical engineering student living with his wife and 19-year-old daughter. He has been insured through Covered California for the past five years after initially relying on short-term emergency coverage upon arriving in the U.S. six years ago. He learned about Covered California through a friend and enrolled with the help of an insurance agent. He emphasized that premiums are critical to his family's ability to afford insurance.

Many Enrollees Face Significant Health Care Needs

For the lawfully present non-citizen population losing APTC eligibility in 2027, the stakes extend beyond premium affordability. Many of these consumers have ongoing health needs that require ongoing access to health coverage to afford treatment management.

Nearly 12,000 ineligible lawfully present enrollees are actively managing care for chronic conditions, including more than 800 with cancer diagnoses. Another 11,000 are managing other conditions, such as diabetes or hypertension. Another 800 individuals enrolled are currently pregnant, managing prenatal care with the Covered California coverage. However, as a group, lawfully present enrollees are younger and healthier than other Covered California enrollees, rely on their coverage for preventive care, prescriptions, and access to specialist visits.¹

Ineligible lawfully present enrollees with active care management face difficult tradeoffs of paying the full cost of premiums in order to maintain coverage. Others rely on insurance for financial security for them and their families. Access to affordable, quality health coverage through the marketplace enables lawfully present Californians to explore self-employment opportunities and continue their education, without worrying about how they will receive or pay for health care. Without financial assistance, many lawfully present enrollees will go uninsured, losing access to affordable, quality health coverage that they rely on currently.

“[If my plan went up to] \$500 monthly,... I would have to... decide if I want to pay rent or to be alive. I couldn’t afford both. So, I’ve been thinking about it many times. It is a very important topic for me. I am diabetic since I was 5 years old, so health insurance has been a concern my whole life. And now it is getting scarier... ” -Maria

Maria is a resident of Northern California who immigrated from Latin America three years ago with the goal of finishing her education. She is working full-time in the behavioral health field doing art therapy with children with Autism and is working towards a Bachelor’s degree. Her goal is to attain a Masters to work in art therapy.

Endnotes

¹ Covered California. 2025. “Data and Research.” In Executive Director’s Report, 9–14. Presented at the Covered California Board Meeting, Sacramento, CA, June 3, 2025. <https://board.coveredca.com/meetings/2025/June%203,%202025/ED%20Report%20-%20June%202025%20-%20Final.pdf>