Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Governor Tony Evers
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TO: **BRP-Funded Agencies**

FROM: Bojana Zorić Martinez, Director
Bureau of Refugee Programs
Division of Family and Economic Security
Department of Children and Families

BRP OPERATIONS MEMO

No: 26-23
DATE: 08/31/2026
Amended: 10/30/2026

RCA ☐ **RMA** ☒ **RMS** ☐ **RHP- any** ☐

RSS-E&E ☐ **RSS-OS** ☐ **SOR- any** ☐

ARSS (AIRLS) ☐ **URSS (UIRLS)** ☐

RSS-ESL, Wis Lit ☐

WFTCP ☐ **RSI- any** ☐ **RYM- any** ☐

SUBJECT: Revision of Policy Manual Chapter 6 (Refugee Medical Assistance)

CROSS REFERENCE: BRP Policy Manual
45 CFR Part 400

EFFECTIVE DATE: AUGUST 31, 2026 AND OCTOBER 30, 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to announce and provide an overview of changes made to Chapter 6 of the BRP Policy Manual. Several additional changes have been made in the amended version of this memo, which are indicated by the yellow highlights and effective on October 30, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The BRP Policy Manual contains guidance in Chapter 6 pertaining to the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) program. The entire chapter has been reviewed and revised for clarity, to correct errors, and to facilitate a more efficient application process. The application process has been changed because federal legislation impacting certain individuals' eligibility for Medical Assistance/BadgerCare+ will result in more frequent use of the RMA program. It is critical for eligible RMA participants to be covered for as much of the twelve-month eligibility period as possible, which requires clear guidance and a streamlined application and enrollment process.

POLICY

The following revisions were made to RMA policy, and are reflected in the current version of the BRP Policy Manual beginning on August 31, 2026:

BRP Policy Manual Section Number	Brief Summary of Revision(s)
6.2 RMA Application Process	Redundant information regarding eligibility was deleted from this section for clarity.
6.2.1 Applying for RMA	Use of the form DCF-F-5998 RMA Application was introduced in this section. The section was significantly revised and reorganized for clarity, including moving certain paragraphs to later eligibility sections where the information is more relevant.
6.4 RMA Nonfinancial Eligibility	The language in this section was revised for clarity.
6.4.1 Immigration Status	Additional information regarding the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) guidance on immigration status verification was included in this section for clarity.
6.4.2 Date of Entry to the U.S.	This subsection was renamed Date of Eligibility. The subsection now defines the term "date of eligibility" and clarifies how to determine the eligible period during which medical expenses may be covered by RMA.
6.4.3 Wisconsin Residency 6.4.5 Not Be Enrolled as full-Time Student in Higher Education 6.4.6 Provide Name of Resettlement Agency	These three subsections were incorporated into the form DCF-F-5998 RMA Application and were therefore eliminated.
6.4.4 Ineligibility for Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus	This subsection number became 6.4.3 due to the elimination of other subsections. A note describing ways to apply for Medicaid/ BadgerCare Plus was added, which links to the Forward Health application landing page.
6.5 RMA Financial Eligibility	A clarifying paragraph was added to the introduction regarding ongoing eligibility.
6.5.2 Disregarded Income	Additional examples of income that must be disregarded were included, and the subsection was revised and reorganized for clarity.
6.5.3 Spend-Down	This language in this subsection was revised for clarity.
6.5.4 Countable Assets	One sentence was deleted for clarity.
6.6.1.1 Introduction	One sentence was deleted for clarity.
6.6.1.2 Information Requiring Eligibility Verification	Rather than referencing the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook broadly to detail eligibility verification requirements, applicable items are now listed in this subsection.
6.6.2 Changes	This subsection was repurposed. Redundant information regarding Changes was deleted,

	and the subsection was given the new heading Certification of RMA Coverage. The information from section 6.6.5 (previously titled Manual Eligibility Determinations and RMA Benefit Issuance) is now found in this new subsection 6.6.2, Certification of RMA Coverage.
6.6.3 Reviews	This subsection number became 6.6.2 due to the elimination of the Changes subsection.
6.6.4 RMA Notices	This subsection number became 6.6.3 due to the elimination of the Changes subsection. Language was revised for clarity.
6.6.5 Manual Eligibility Determinations and RMA Benefit Issuance	As noted above, the information from this subsection was repurposed under the 6.2 heading Certification of RMA Coverage and this subsection was deleted.
6.2.1 Applying for RMA	Language was added to this section to clarify that an RMA application may be submitted via email, indicating Refugee Medical Assistance Application in the subject line, or may be requested and submitted in person at a W-2 agency. An exception to using the RMA application date to establish a coverage window has been added here to account for those who enroll in RMA due to loss of BadgerCare/Medicaid.
6.5 RMA Financial Eligibility	A reference to resources was deleted to align with asset rules.
6.5.1 Rules for Testing Financial Eligibility	Previously, this section referenced the W-2 manual for Federal Poverty Limits and now includes a chart that reflects the program's 200% limit.
6.5.4 Assets	Previously titled "Countable Assets", this section referenced Medicaid policy for asset counting rules and now states that there are no asset limits for RMA, which is intended to mirror BadgerCare Plus asset rules.
6.6.1.3 Verification Processes	Previously titled "Requesting Verification from RMA Participants", this section now imposes time limits on collecting required verification items and clarifies that those items may be found by the worker using available data exchanges.
6.6.2 Certification of RMA Coverage	An exception to using the RMA application date as the coverage start date was added to this section to account for cases for which continuous eligibility applies and RMA application dates should not establish coverage start dates.
6.6.3 Reviews	The two-month review requirement for RMA

	was eliminated due to continuous eligibility and elimination of the issue of potential co-enrollment in Medicaid, which this policy was once intended to mitigate.

REPORTING

N/A

DOCUMENTATION

The form DCF-F-5998 RMA Application (DCF Forms Search) must be completed and uploaded into either WRPD or ECF.

TRAINING

BRP will provide optional technical assistance following the publication of this memo.

AGENCY ACTION

The policies outlined in this memo may be adhered to immediately and must be adhered to beginning on October 1, 2026. Policies in this amendment must be adhered to beginning on October 30, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

CONTACTS

For BRP Policy Questions: DCFRefugee@wisconsin.gov

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